

# On the Way to Jerusalem

Stories of Faith for Lent 2025  
Northfield United Methodist Parish



March 23, 2025

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

*We invite you to silence your phones prior to the start of worship.*

## Gathering

Greetings and Ministry Updates

## Praise

Entering Into Praise *I Love You Lord*

**I love You, Lord, and I lift my voice  
To worship You, O my soul, rejoice.  
Take joy, my King, in what you hear,  
May it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear.**

The Call to Worship

We have come this morning...  
**...to praise, to pray, to hear God's Word.**  
May our eyes and ears be open to God's presence.  
**Speak to us, O Lord,  
for your servants are listening**

Songs of Praise

- *How Great is Our God*  
Lyrics on back page
- *Standing on the Promises*  
UMH 374, Vss. 1,2,4

Prayer of Confession and Word of Pardon

*During the season of Lent, we will be focusing on  
confessing our sins before God and one another.*

**Gracious God,  
we can hardly believe that you have given us  
life and salvation as a free gift in Jesus Christ!  
We confess that we continually try to carry  
the burden of sin and salvation on our shoulders,  
rather than trusting your forgiveness  
and seeking new life in your Spirit.  
Help us to place our trust in you,  
and to accept the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

*All offer prayers of confession in silence*

May we give thanks to the Lord for God's goodness,  
for God's steadfast love is never ending.

Glory to God! Amen.

Giving Glory to God (*The Gloria Patri*)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the  
Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and  
ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

## Listening for God to Speak

The Holy Scriptures Luke 15:11-32

<sup>11</sup> Jesus said, "A certain man had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the inheritance.' Then the father divided his estate between them. <sup>13</sup> Soon afterward, the younger son gathered everything together and took a trip to a land far away. There, he wasted his wealth through extravagant living.

<sup>14</sup> "When he had used up his resources, a severe food shortage arose in that country and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> He hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> He longed to eat his fill from what the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have more than enough food, but I'm starving to death! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup> I no longer deserve to be called your son. Take me on as one of your hired hands." ' <sup>20</sup> So he got up and went to his father.

"While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. His father ran to him, hugged him, and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> Then his son said, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his servants, 'Quickly, bring out the best robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet! <sup>23</sup> Fetch the fattened calf and slaughter it. We must celebrate with feasting <sup>24</sup> because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life! He was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> "Now his older son was in the field. Coming in from the field, he approached the house and heard

music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup> The servant replied, ‘Your brother has arrived, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he received his son back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup> Then the older son was furious and didn’t want to enter in, but his father came out and begged him. <sup>29</sup> He answered his father, ‘Look, I’ve served you all these years, and I never disobeyed your instruction. Yet you’ve never given me as much as a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours returned, after gobbling up your estate on prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.’ <sup>31</sup> Then his father said, ‘Son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and be glad because this brother of yours was dead and is alive. He was lost and is found.’”

This is the Word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God**

The Word Proclaimed Rev. Jay Voorhees  
*The Prodigal Father*

Hymn of Response

- *Grace Greater than Our Sin*  
 UMH 365, Vss. 1,2,4

## The Work of the Church

Celebrating God’s Gifts

- Sharing God’s Presence This Week
- Presenting Our Offerings

Giving Thanks for God’s Gifts

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
 Praise Him all creatures here below;  
 Praise Him above ye heavenly host;  
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

Prayers of the Community

- Sharing of Concerns
- The Prayers of the People
- The Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
 hallowed be thy Name;  
 thy kingdom come; thy will be done;  
 on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread.  
 And forgive us our trespasses,  
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
 And lead us not into temptation;  
 but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power  
 and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

\*Our Choral Benediction

UMH 666

*Shalom to you now, shalom my friends.  
 May God’s full mercies bless you my friends.  
 In all your living and through your loving,  
 Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.*

### Northfield United Methodist Parish

152 S Main St, Northfield, VT 05663

www.northfieldumparish.org

Worship at 8:30 a.m.

#### Ministers

The People of the Northfield  
 United Methodist Parish

#### Coordinating Pastor

Rev. Jay Voorhees

(615) 310-6530

revjayv@gmail.com

## How Great is Our God

### Verse 1

The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty;  
 Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.  
 He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,  
 and trembles at His voice, And trembles at His voice.

### Chorus

How great is our God  
 Sing with me  
 How great is our God  
 And all will see how great  
 How great is our God

### Verse 2

And age to age He stands. And time is in His hands;  
 beginning and the End, beginning and the End.  
 The Godhead three in one, Father Spirit Son,  
 The Lion and the Lamb, The Lion and the Lamb.

### Chorus

### Bridge

Name above all names  
 Worthy of all praise  
 My heart will sing  
 How great is our God

CCLI Song # 4348399

Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | Jesse Reeves

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