



# The Gathering

a service of worship at the Northfield United Methodist Church

March 15, 2026

4th Sunday in Lent

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

## Gathering

Greetings and Ministry Updates

## Praise

Invoking the Spirit

*Jesus Remember Me*

*Jesus, remember me,  
when you come into your kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me,  
when you come into your kingdom.*

A Call to Worship

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,  
**your faithfulness to the clouds.**  
With you is the fountain of life,  
**in your light, we see light.**

Songs of Praise

- *Wonderful Word of Life*  
UMH 600
- *I Know Whom I Have Believed*  
UMH 714, Vss. 1,2,3

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

**God of light and truth,  
we confess that we have loved our certainty  
more than we have loved what you are  
actually doing.  
We have built our systems and defended our  
answers and sometimes missed you standing right  
outside them.  
We have walked past people and seen questions  
instead of neighbors.  
We have been afraid to say "I don't know"  
and even more afraid to say  
"here is what I have seen."  
Forgive us, and open our eyes again. Amen.**

*Silence for personal confession*

Hear the good news: God is not waiting for us to have it all figured out. The same grace that found a man in his blindness, that found a woman at a well in the heat of the day, that finds us in our uncertainty and our honest not-knowing — that grace is not exhausted.

You are forgiven. You are seen. You are found.  
**Thanks be to God.**

\*Our Response

**Bless the Lord my soul,  
and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord my soul,  
who leads me into life.**

## Listening for God to Speak

The Story of Faith

John 49:1-7, 24-34, 35-41  
*Common English Bible Translation*

**9** As Jesus walked along, he saw a man who was blind from birth. **2** Jesus' disciples asked, "Rabbi, who sinned so that he was born blind, this man or his parents?"

**3** Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents. This happened so that God's mighty works might be displayed in him. **4** While it's daytime, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming when no one can work. **5** While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." **6** After he said this, he spit on the ground, made mud with the saliva, and smeared the mud on the man's eyes. **7** Jesus said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (this word means *sent*). So the man went away and washed. When he returned, he could see.

**24** [The Pharisees] called a second time for the man who had been born blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know this man is a sinner."

**25** The man answered, "I don't know whether he's a sinner. Here's what I do know: I was blind and now I see."

**26** They questioned him: "What did he do to you? How did he heal your eyes?"

<sup>27</sup> He replied, "I already told you, and you didn't listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?"

<sup>28</sup> They insulted him: "You are his disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. <sup>29</sup> We know that God spoke to Moses, but we don't know where this man is from."

<sup>30</sup> The man answered, "This is incredible! You don't know where he is from, yet he healed my eyes! <sup>31</sup> We know that God doesn't listen to sinners. God listens to anyone who is devout and does God's will. <sup>32</sup> No one has ever heard of a healing of the eyes of someone born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this man wasn't from God, he couldn't do this."

<sup>34</sup> They responded, "You were born completely in sin! How is it that you dare to teach us?" Then they expelled him.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard they had expelled the man born blind. Finding him, Jesus said, "Do you believe in the Human One?"<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>36</sup> He answered, "Who is he, sir?<sup>[b]</sup> I want to believe in him."

<sup>37</sup> Jesus said, "You have seen him. In fact, he is the one speaking with you."

<sup>38</sup> The man said, "Lord,<sup>[c]</sup> I believe." And he worshipped Jesus.

<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "I have come into the world to exercise judgment so that those who don't see can see and those who see will become blind."

<sup>40</sup> Some Pharisees who were with him heard what he said and asked, "Surely we aren't blind, are we?"

<sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you wouldn't have any sin, but now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**Open our ears, O Lord.**

The Word Proclaimed                      Rev. Jay Voorhees  
*Say What You've Seen*

\*Hymn of Response

- *Amazing Grace*  
UMH 378, Vss.1,2,3,5

## **The Work of the Church**

Celebrating God's Gifts

- Sharing Our Stories of God's Grace
- 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, forever. Amen.**

Our Choral Benediction

UMH 349

**Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
look full in his wonderful face,  
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
in the light of his glory and grace.**

## **Northfield United Methodist Parish**

152 S Main St, Northfield, VT 05663  
[www.northfieldumparish.org](http://www.northfieldumparish.org)  
Worship at 8:30 a.m.

### **Ministers**

The People of the Northfield  
United Methodist Parish

### **Coordinating Pastor**

Rev. Jay Voorhees  
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