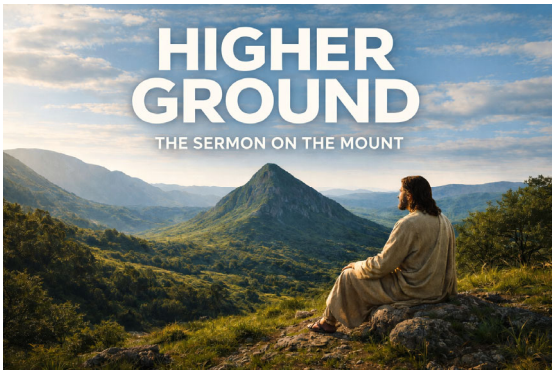


MARDI GRAS SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 15, 2026
11:00 AM

Today we celebrate a New Orleans inspired service before the reflective Lenten season begins. Our musicians will lead us in some of the spirituals and hymns of Delta jazz.

As a courtesy to others, please silence your phone.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

RINGING OF THE BELLS

LIFE OF THE CHURCH — Rev. Timothy T. Boggess

PRELUDE — *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* (The Band) — Spiritual/arr. Phillps

from Psalm 46

CALL TO WORSHIP — Ann Opdycke

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear,
though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

***HYMN** — *Down By the Riverside*

I'm gonna lay down my burdens, down by the riverside,
down by the riverside, down by the riverside.
I'm gonna lay down my burdens, down by the riverside,
I ain't gonna study war no more.

Chorus
I ain't gonna study war no more,
I ain't gonna study war no more,
Ain't gonna study war no more. (Repeat)

I'm gonna lay down my sword and shield, down by the riverside,
down by the riverside, down by the riverside.
I'm gonna lay down my sword and shield, down by the riverside,
I ain't gonna study war no more. (Chorus)

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

***LITANY OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God,
You declare the poor in spirit blessed,
but we cling to self-sufficiency and resist our need for you.
You honor those who mourn,
yet we turn away from the pain of others.
You name the meek as heirs of the earth,
but we grasp for control and assert our own importance.
You bless those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
yet we are too easily satisfied with comfort instead of justice.
You show mercy to the merciful,
but we hold tightly to grudges and withhold forgiveness.
You call the pure in heart blessed,
yet our thoughts and motives are often divided.
You delight in peacemakers,
but we contribute to conflict through our words,
our silence, and our indifference.
You bless those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
yet we shrink back from costly discipleship
and seek the approval of others.
Forgive us, gracious God.
Renew our hearts and reshape our desires
so that we may reflect your kingdom.
Give us the humility to depend on you,
the courage to seek righteousness,
and the grace to live as your faithful people.

(a moment for silent reflection)

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

***SONG OF JOY** *This Little Light of Mine*

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Lyrics adapted from Micah 6:8

ANTHEM *Micah Blues* Kyle Pedersen
(The Chancel Choir and Band with Matt Jarvis, soloist)

Refrain:
Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with our God.
Show mercy, grow compassion;
And live and love, and humbly walk with God.

Let others be the clanging cymbal;
Let others have their boast or brag;
Let others claw and cling to the things their eyes see;
Walk humbly, so humbly with Thee.

Let others know the pull of fortune;
Let others know the thrill of fame;
But as for me, Lord, give me the strength and humility
To walk only, and humbly, with Thee.

Keep on walkin', I will be walkin' with my God.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 5:1-12

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Living Your Blessed Life* Rev. Boggess
Higher Ground: Sermon on the Mount

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Ann Opdycke

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors:
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY *Just a Closer Walk With Thee* Traditional
(The Band)

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

from *The Study of Catechism*, 1998

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Ann Opdycke

What comfort do you receive by trusting in God's providence?
The eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ watches over me each day of my life, blessing and guiding me wherever I may be. God strengthens me when I am faithful, comforts me when discouraged or sorrowful, raises me up if I fall, and brings me at last to eternal life. Entrusting myself wholly to God's care, I receive the grace to be patient in adversity, thankful in the midst of blessing, courageous against injustice, and confident that no evil afflicts me that God will not turn to my good.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 700** *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Rev. Boggess

POSTLUDE *When the Saints Go Marching In* Traditional/arr. Rutter
(The Chancel Choir and Band)

The postlude concludes our worship today. It's the custom of this congregation to sit and enter into this moment with gratitude and celebration.

The Band
Fernando Cruz, saxophone
Isaac Mingus, bass
Mark DeRose, drums
Neil DeFeo, trombone

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