

# Order of Worship

## 4th Sunday of Lent

March 15, 2026

Pastor Jim Powell

*"Who among us has a clear vision of the Kingdom of God?"*

**Prelude**

**Kevin Su Fukagawa**

**Welcome**

**Meribeth**

**Call to Worship**

**Pam**

Leader: The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me;

**People: He has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,**

Leader: To bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;

**People: To proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion;**

Leader: To give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

**All: They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. (Isaiah 61:1-3)**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Dear Lord God, When it comes to your preferred way of living, "I see!"**

**Well, maybe I don't really see, but "I understand!"**

**Well, maybe I don't fully understand, but**

**I've heard all I want to hear!**

**Maybe what I really mean is "My mind is made up; don't confuse me with the facts!"**

**Lord, forgive my inability to clearly see your ability working through me! Amen**

**\*Opening Hymn "Speak O Lord"**

**Verse 1**

Speak O Lord as we come to You  
To receive the food of Your holy word  
Take Your truth plant it deep in us  
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness  
That the light of Christ might be seen today  
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith  
Speak O Lord and fulfill in us  
All Your purposes for Your glory

**Verse 2**

Teach us Lord full obedience  
Holy reverence true humility  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
In the radiance of Your purity  
Cause our faith to rise  
Cause our eyes to see  
Your majestic love and authority  
Words of power that can never fail  
Let their truth prevail over unbelief



# Love God, Serve Others, Embrace Community

## Verse 3

Speak O Lord and renew our minds  
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for  
us

Truths unchanged from the dawn of time  
That will echo down through eternity

And by grace we'll stand on Your promises  
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us  
Speak O Lord till Your church is built  
And the earth is filled with Your glory

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## Ministry Message

### Children's Message

**Pastor Jim**

### Scripture John 9: 1-12; 35-41

1 As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. 4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 6 When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, 7 saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. 8 The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" 9 Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." 10 But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" 11 He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." 12 They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

35 Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" 36 He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." 37 Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." 38 He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. 39 Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." 40 Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" 41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

### Anthem "O Rest In The Lord"

**Sung By: Meribeth Freeman**

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### Sermon "The Blind Leading the Blind?"

**Pastor Jim Powell**



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## Pastoral Prayer

*Moving into a Spirit of Prayer*

## Covenant Prayers for Cal-Pac Churches

**Meribeth**

*First UMC of Arroyo Grande - Pastor Wes Thompson*

*Hindi-Urdu UM Mission - Pastor Lamuel Jacob*

## Community Prayers

### NEW REQUESTS

Prayers for Jan (Nathan's Mom) who has been diagnosed with cancer and is undergoing treatment. Prayers for healing and comfort during treatment and strength for her and her family during this time.

### CONTINUE TO PRAY

Prayers for Oliver(Wendy's grandson) who is recovering from surgery. Prayers for his parents and grandparents as they comfort and care for him.

Prayers for Hailey (Ellen's niece) who suffered a severe seizure, but is now home recovering.

Prayers for Bob Colgon who is in the hospital recovering from a fall.

Prayers for Wendall (Bob & Kathy's BIL) who has multiple-myeloma.

Prayer for Judy A. as she recovers from leg surgery. Prayers for comfort and healing and pain relief.

Prayers for Collette (Patti's niece) who is struggling with inoperable stomach cancer. Surround her and her family with peace and comfort as she travels this difficult journey.

### CANCER TREATMENT

Linda (Robin G.), Barbara (Tanya I), Danny C, Kathleen (Tanya). Jennifer(Dr. Bob R.), Georgia(Forbes), Heather(Marion E), Debbie, Logan(Kathy H), Ruby(Emmie S), Toni, Sylvia(Pam P), Frank (Taty V),

### IN HOSPICE

Prayers for Carla VonZell. She has been put on hospice care after a fall in January and a steady decline. Surround her and her family with peace and comfort during this transition time.

## The Lord's Prayer

*Moving Beyond a Spirit of Prayer*

## Invitation to Give our Blessings back to God

**Offertory "Better Than A Hallelujah"**

**Pastor Jim**

### **Verse 1**

God loves a lullaby  
In a mother's tears in the dead of night  
Better than a hallelujah sometimes  
God loves a drunkard's cry  
The soldier's plea not to let him die  
Better than a hallelujah sometimes

### **Chorus**

We pour out our miseries  
God just hears a melody  
Beautiful the mess we are  
The honest cries of breaking hearts  
Are better than a hallelujah

### **Verse 2**

A woman holding on for life  
A dying man giving up the fight  
Are better than a hallelujah sometimes  
Tears of shame for what's been done  
The silence when the words won't come  
Are better than a hallelujah sometimes

### **Bridge**

Better than a church bell ringing  
Better than a choir singing out  
Singing out

### **Ending**

Better than a hallelujah sometimes  
Better than a hallelujah  
Better than a hallelujah sometimes



# Love God, Serve Others, Embrace Community

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## Doxology “Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow” Hymnal #95

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### Closing Hymn “Jesus Paid It All”

#### Verse 1

And I hear the Savior say  
Thy strength indeed is small  
Child of weakness watch and pray  
Find in Me thine all in all

#### Chorus 1

'Cause Jesus paid it all  
All to Him I owe  
Sin had left a crimson stain  
He washed it white as snow

#### Verse 2

Lord now indeed I find  
Thy pow'r and Thine alone  
Can change the leper's spots  
And melt the heart of stone

#### Chorus 2

'Cause Jesus paid it all  
All to Him I owe  
Sin had left a crimson stain  
He washed it white as snow

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### \*Benediction

**Pastor Jim Powell**

## Ministry and Life of the Church Announcements

### Pastor's Study

#### **Book of Matthew**

**3-17 Women's Study - 10:00 am - in the Wesley Room**

**3-18 Men's Study - 11:00 am - in the Fireside Room**

**3-18 Quilters and Crafters Ministry 10am -12pm - Wesley Room**

### Carol's Study

#### **The Story of Jacob**

#### **8 week Study**

**3-19 Thursday at Carol's home - 1:00pm**

**3-20 Friday at the church - Wesley Room - 10:00am**

**Altar Flowers: St. Matthew's**

**Fellowship Today: RoseAnne Cooley**

**Birthdays: 3-15 Fred Wardell, 3-16 Margie MacArthur, 3-16 Pam McDonald,**

**3-20 Heather Knoedler, 3-21 Randi Berry,**

### Postlude

**Kevin Su Fukagawa**

#### **Thank you**

for leading us in worship

Pastor Jim Powell for the Sermon Message

Kevin Su Fukagawa, Meribeth Freeman, and The St. Matthew's Choir for our music

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