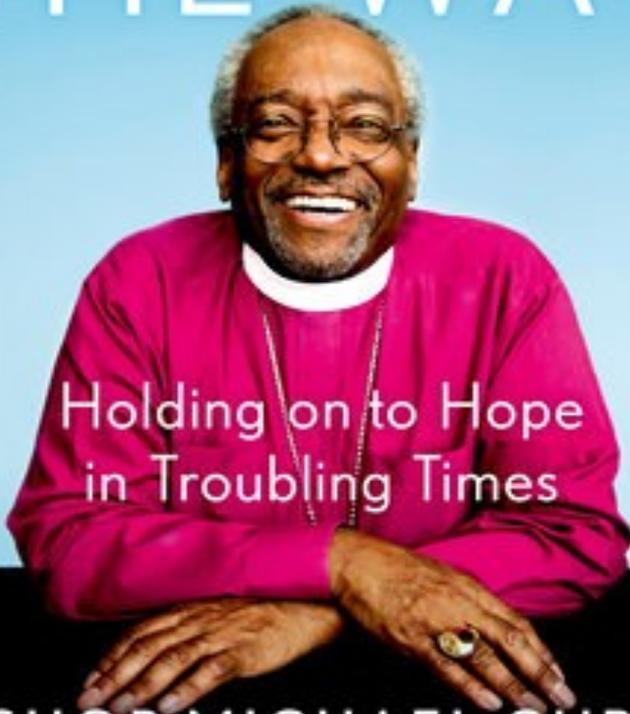


"A profound and essential book."—Jon Meacham,
#1 New York Times bestselling author of *Destiny and Power*

LOVE IS THE WAY



Holding on to Hope
in Troubling Times

BISHOP MICHAEL CURRY

PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

with SARA GRACE

St. John Lutheran Church

2026 Lenten Worship and Luncheon Series

2nd Wednesday of Lent— March 4, 2026



Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church
Mid-Week Lenten Worship March 4, 2026
Based on “Love is the Way” by
Episcopal Bishop Michael Curry

WELCOME

DIALOGUE AND DOXOLOGY

P: Lord, open my lips,

C: and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.

Amen.

ELW Psalm 95

- 1 Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
- 2 Let us come before God’s presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.
- 3 For you, Lord, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.
- 4 In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.
- 5 The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.
- 6 Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord our maker.
- 7 For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God’s
pasture and the sheep of God’s hand.
Oh, that today you would hear God’s voice!
Give glory to God, our light and our life.

ALL: Oh, come, let us worship and praise.

HYMN: O Master, Let Me Walk with You Hymn # 818 4 verses

FIRST READING 1 John 3:11

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 3:4-11

TODAY’S MESSAGE Pastor Shawn O’Brien

FOCUS QUESTION FOR TODAY

“I am just an ordinary person-can love really change things?”

PRAYERS

P: Mighty God of mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn, bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new.

Especially we thank you—

for the sustaining goodness of your creation . . .

for the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing
and forgiveness . . .

for the gifts of relationship with others . . .

for the communion of faith in your church . . .

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: (responsive)

P: Lord in your Mercy,

C: **Hear our Prayer.**

P: Almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome in adversity. In all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: 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 and ever. Amen**

BLESSING (*Anonymous-Love is the Way* pg. 122)

We may never see the end result, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders, ministers not messiahs. We are prophet's of a future not our own. **ALL: Amen.**

HYMN: Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross Hymn # 335 4 verses

DISMISSAL:

P: Go in Peace, love your neighbor! **C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please join us for a time of food and fellowship in the church
basement immediately following this service*



Our Readings for today:

1 John 3:11

¹¹ For this is the message you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

1 Corinthians 3:4-11

⁴ For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not all too human?

⁵ What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷ So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸ The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and each will receive wages according to their own labor. ⁹ For we are God's coworkers, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

¹⁰ According to the grace of God given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Let each builder choose with care how to build on it. ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.