



First Sunday in Lent | February 22, 2026, 9:30 a.m.

* Indicates an invitation to rise in body or spirit.

Welcome

*Call to worship

One: The good news of the gospel is:

All: manna in the desert, water turned into wine, love after loss, forgiveness after pain.

The good news of the gospel is:

release for the captive, hope for the hopeless, mourning turned to dancing, and strangers turned to friends.

So come on in. There's no time to waste! This surprising good news is here for you.

Let us worship this good-news God.

*Opening hymn

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

UMH #92

lyrics on the screen

Prayer for illumination

One: Holy One, it is easy to see the mustard plant and forget to marvel at the seed. It is easy to taste good wine and not appreciate it. It is easy to miss the holy that is in our midst. So as we turn to your text today, we pray, surprise us. Speak to us. Move through us. Draw us closer to your good news. We wait with bated breath. Amen.

Scripture reading John 2:1-11; Matthew 13:31-32 (CEB)

2:1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and 2 Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration. 3 When the wine ran out, Jesus' mother said to him, "They don't have any wine." 4 Jesus replied, "Woman, what does that have to do with me? My time hasn't come yet." 5 His mother told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." 6 Nearby were six stone water jars used for the Jewish cleansing ritual, each able to hold about twenty or thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water," and they filled them to the brim. 8 Then he told them, "Now draw some from them and take it to the headwaiter," and they did. 9 The headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine. He didn't know where it came from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. The headwaiter called the groom 10 and said, "Everyone serves the good wine first. They bring out the second-rate wine only when the guests are drinking freely. You kept the good wine until now." 11 This was the first miraculous sign that Jesus did in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

13:31 He told another parable to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and planted in his field. 32 It's the smallest of all seeds. But when it's grown, it's the largest of all vegetable plants. It becomes a tree so that the birds in the sky come and nest in its branches."

One: This is the Word of God. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Message "The Good News Is... So Good It Catches Us by Surprise."

Holy communion: All are welcome at this open table.

Invitation to the Table; The Great Thanksgiving; Epiclesis; Breaking the Bread; Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Invitation to generosity: Offering baskets are available on the side/back of the sanctuary. Or Mail your check: PO Box 1068, Girdwood, AK 99587, or give online; *scan QR code*→



Offertory prayer: Please join me in offertory prayer

All: Generous God,

When the wine ran out, you made more. When hope seemed small, you grew it.

Receive these gifts we bring. Use them to create joy, belonging, and shelter for all who need good news. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Prayers and Celebration & The Lord's prayer

Concerns: "God in Your mercy" | **Response: "Hear our prayer"**

Joys: "Thanks be to God" | **Response: "Thanks be to God"**

*Closing hymn "To God Be the Glory" UMH #98 *lyrics on the screen*

*Benediction

*Sending forth song "On Eagles Wings" (CCLI Song #3127)

It is the tradition of the Girdwood Chapel UMC to form a circle, hold hands, and sing 'On Eagles Wings.'

Our Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m. during Ski Season (Jan–Apr 2026)

SERVICE NOTES

UMH: *United Methodist Hymnal*, TFWS: *The Faith We Sing*, Girdwood Chapel's CCLI Basic #: 11038417, CCLI Streaming License #: CSPL155734, CEB: *Common English Bible*.

The worship helpers–Greeter: Jody, Tech Helper: Betsy, Liturgist: Clark, Preacher: Pastor Hyunghee

Announcements:

- **Food Pantry:** First Sundays 2-4p.m., 2nd&4th Wednesday 4-6p.m.
- **Lenten Study:** Feb.23–Mar.16 (4weeks) | Mondays | 6:30 p.m. in the Green Room. *Wind in the Wilderness: A Lenten Study From the Prophets* by D. J. del Rosario. Handouts will be provided the week before each session.
- **Worship Time Survey Team:** As part of listening for the heartbeat of Girdwood, we are using a seasonal worship time of 9:30 a.m. during ski season (Jan–Apr 2026). A worship time survey will begin in early or mid-March. If you are interested in helping shape the survey as part of the Worship Time Survey Team, please contact Pastor Hyunghee.
- During Lent, the church traditionally sets aside "Hallelujah" as a spiritual practice of reflection and repentance, so that its return at Easter may be heard with renewed joy.