



We Are Small, We Are Numerous, We Are Deep by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

WORSHIP SERVICE
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 22, 2026
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
614 Griffis Street, Cary, NC 27511
www.carypresbyterian.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP – 10:30 A.M.

Gathering

(* Please stand as you are able.)

Gathering Chime

Prelude

Largo

Vivaldi

Welcome and Announcements

*Introit

Just As I Am, without One Plea (v. 1)

No. 442

*Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou biddest me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

*Call to Worship

The good news of the gospel is:

**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.

***Hymn**

Seeds of God's Garden, Tenderly Planted
Amanda Udis-Kessler; Tune to *Morning Has Broken*

***Seeds of God's garden, tenderly planted,
Hope of creation, buried with care,
Through our beholding slowly unfolding,
Tended in patience, nurtured in prayer.***

***Seeds of God's garden, tiny and fragile,
Hope of creation, cool in the earth,
Easing our sadness, bringers of gladness,
Bearers of goodness showing our worth.***

***Seeds of God's garden, one day to blossom,
Hope of creation, bearing good fruit,
Gently repairing all our despairing,
Faith reaching outward, love at the root.***

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Loving God,
somewhere along the way we picked up the message
that in order to be faithful,
we have to be serious.
We have to pray on our knees without ceasing.
We have to be somber in worship and quiet in our studies.
We have to check our wiggles *and* our questions at the
door.
But then you say the kingdom of God is like a mustard
seed—unruly and untamed.
You turn water into wine—surprising and extravagant.
And all of a sudden, we wonder:
Can we be like that mustard seed?
Can we be faithful and unruly?
Can we be playful and curious?
Can we be messy and still be yours?
We know the answer already.**

The Spirit whispers: *of course, of course, of course.*
 Forgive our doubt.
 Pull us closer into your embrace.
 With faith like a mustard seed, we pray.
 Amen.

Silent Confession

Kyrie *Lord Have Mercy Upon Us* Arr. Johnson

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.
 Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.
 Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

CCLI# 3015474

***Response** *Let Us Return to the Lord*

Come, let us re - turn to the Lord.
 You who are torn, God will heal you; you who are
 crushed, God will bind you up.

***Affirmation of Faith** *The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Time With Our Children

Jennifer Pierce

Responding

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

O Lord Have Mercy
Chancel Choir

Hopson

*O Lord, have mercy; O Christ, have mercy;
O Lord, have mercy, have mercy, Lord.
Lord Jesus think on me, and purge away my sin;
From earth-born passions set me free, and make me pure within.*

*Kyrie eleison. Lord Jesus. think on me, amid the battles strife;
In all my pain and misery be Thou my health and life.*



Original Hymn for “Tell Me Something Good”

by Anna Strickland for *A Sanctified Art*

Title of Hymn

“In a Neat and Tidy Garden”

inspired by Matthew 13:31-32

Author Statement

When my husband walked into my office and read the title of this hymn over my shoulder, he noted, “You must not be talking about our garden!” But truthfully, I was. I have what can graciously be described as a “hands-off” approach to gardening. Every tenacious native plant that plants itself and comes back after scorching summers and deep freezes in the unpredictable Austin climate is a gift—even if others call it a weed.

The parable of the mustard seed is surprising, since mustard can be considered a weed. It grows fast, spreads far, and can be hard to contain. The kingdom of God is like that. We can fight it, trying to keep control of our little plot. Or, we can recognize that we are not in control after all and celebrate the gifts God’s kingdom brings.



First Sunday in Lent

the good news is... so good it catches us by surprise



We Are Small, We Are Numerous, We Are Deep

by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

Inspired by Matthew 13:31-32

11"x14" Acrylic, mustard seed on paper

Loose mustard seeds are nearly impossible to contain. They drift and scatter with the slightest breeze, asserting their own unruly will much like the mustard plants themselves. The mustard plant, dismissed as invasive weeds by some, is cultivated for healing and nourishment by others. Even now, after completing this piece, I am still finding stray seeds in my laundry, my car, my hair.

"They tried to bury us; they didn't know we were seeds," a line attributed to Greek poet Dinos Christianopoulos,⁶ has become a rallying cry for separated families along the Mexican-American border. More than a century earlier, Toussaint Louverture—the formerly enslaved commander of the self-emancipated army of Black cultivators in

Saint-Domingue (colonial Haiti)—voiced a similar belief upon his deportation and imprisonment in France: "You have done no more than cut down the trunk of the tree of Black liberty. . . It will spring back from the roots, for they are numerous and deep."

From the Com Mother of Indigenous myth to African women braiding okra seeds into their hair as they were forced from their homelands, many of our ancestors understood the power of carrying life in its smallest form. Seed-carrying is an act of faith. These tiny, unassuming specks hold the audacious hope that wherever we go, we already have what we need to take root and flourish in strange and foreign soils. May our faith and our hopes be just as audacious, resilient, and uncontainable as the seeds which hold the fruits of our faith. —Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

Look

Pay attention to the textures in the artwork. Notice everywhere you see mustard seeds.

⁶ Dinos Christianopoulos (1931-2020) wrote the couplet in 1978 (published in his book, *The Body and the Wormwood*) as a defiant statement against the Greek literary establishment, which had ostracized him due to his homosexuality.



2026 – Getting Your Ducks in a Row

The Health and Wholeness Ministry Team is presenting a speaker series. This will be helpful for people of all ages to think about planning for the years ahead. Mark your calendars for the following events all of which will be held in Fellowship Hall.

- **Estate Planning and Asset Protection** – Bill Alexander is an estate planning and elder law attorney who comes with a wealth of knowledge and experience. This presentation will be of interest to adults of all ages. There will be time for questions. **Saturday, February 28, 11:00-1:00.** A simple lunch is included. **Please email Jeanne Bolick at jbolick@att.net if you plan to come. Or use the SignUp Genius in Friday's eLink article.**
- **Staying Put** – Sharon Kirkpatrick is an Aging Life Expert/Geriatric Care Manager. She will talk about what we need to consider if we are planning to stay in our home as we age. This presentation will be helpful for both aging adults and their family members and friends. There will be time for questions. **Saturday, March 21, 11:00-1:00.** A simple lunch is included.
- **How to Choose a Senior Living Community** – Sharon Kirkpatrick will return to help us navigate the confusing world of senior living residences. She will talk about options, costs, and everything one must consider when choosing a senior living community. This session will be helpful for both aging adults and their loved ones. Plenty of time for questions. **Saturday, May 2nd, 11:00-1:00.** A simple lunch is included.

This Week at Cary Presbyterian Church

Website and Online Member Directory: www.carypresbyterian.org

Sunday, February 22 1 st Sunday in Lent	9:15 a.m.	Children's Faith Formation: K-5 th Grade (C. Ed. Wing)
	9:15 a.m.	Middle School Faith Formation (Youth Rooms)
	9:15 a.m.	Pastor's Class: <i>The Screwtape Letters</i> (FH Annex)
	9:15 a.m.	'Tell Me Something Good' Lenten Study (Parlor)
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship Service (In Person & Online)
Monday, February 23	11:30 a.m.	Congregational Meeting
	5:00 p.m.	Youth Dinner (CPC Home)
	11:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting (Parlor)
	6:15 p.m.	GSA Jr. Troop 1951 (Youth Area)
	6:30 p.m.	BSA Troop 232G (Fellowship Hall)
Tuesday, February 24	6:30 p.m.	Buildings & Grounds Team (100)
	6:30 p.m.	Cub Scout Pack 232 Den Meetings (C. Ed. Bldg.)
	7:00 p.m.	BSA Troop 232B (Youth Area)
Wednesday, February 25	7:00 p.m.	Matthew 25 Group Lunch (100)
	11:30 a.m.	Duke MBSR Mindfulness Course (Youth Rooms)
	5:45 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Thursday, February 26	9:00 a.m.	Connections Group (Parlor)
	7:00 p.m.	Health & Wholeness Team (Zoom)
Friday, February 27	12:00 p.m.	CPP Conscious Discipline Parent Mtg. (100)
	7:00 p.m.	Courage, Strength, & Hope / Alateens (Youth)
	7:00 p.m.	Al-Anon / Courage, Strength, & Hope (101/102)
Saturday, February 28	11:00 a.m.	Health & Wholeness Event: Estate Planning and Asset Protection (Fellowship Hall)
Sunday, March 1 2 nd Sunday in Lent	9:15 a.m.	Children's Faith Formation: K-5 th Grade (C. Ed. Wing)
	9:15 a.m.	Middle School Faith Formation (Youth Rooms)
	9:15 a.m.	Pastor's Class: <i>The Screwtape Letters</i> (FH Annex)
	9:15 a.m.	'Tell Me Something Good' Lenten Study (Parlor)
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship Service (In Person & Online)
	5:00 p.m.	HS Youth Dinner (CPC Home)



LENTEN STUDY

Join us in the parlor on **Sunday mornings** for a thoughtful conversation about artwork, reflections, and poetry in the '**Tell Me Something Good**' devotional booklet from **A Sanctified Art**.