



An Inclusive Christian Community  
feeding the spiritual and physical hunger of Oakland.

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## The Way Home

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March 15, 2026  
Fourth Sunday in Lent  
CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

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**Prelude**

*A Wilderness Wandering People*

Jim Strathdee  
Adapted by Worship Design Studio  
Dr. George Han, violin

**We are a wilderness wandering people  
on a journey of the soul.  
May we find our destination  
in our longing to be whole.  
Our Holy God is calling to us.  
With Jesus by our side  
May compassion be our compass;  
may the Spirit be our guide,  
on The Way,  
on The Way,  
on The Way.**

**Welcome**

Pastor Sunae

**Opening Prayer** (responsive)

Alex Banash

Leader: Our God who is our Home, be with us on The Way.  
At times we aren't sure about  
the relationship of the road we travel  
and the home we seek.  
Will we ever feel like we have arrived?

**People: We come hoping for the hearth of acceptance  
in the home that Jesus promises.**

**All: And whether we are feeling lost or at home,  
may we know you are always with us. Amen.**

**Opening Song** (organ)

(Please stand if able)

***He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought  
UMH 128 vs 1-3***

**1. He leadeth me; O blessed thought!  
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!  
Whate'er I do, where'er I be  
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.**

He leadeth me, he leadeth me,  
By his own hand he leadeth me;  
His faithful follower I would be,  
For by his hand he leadeth me.

2. Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom,  
Sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,  
By waters still, o'er troubled sea,  
Still 'tis His hand that leadeth me.

He leadeth me, he leadeth me,  
By his own hand he leadeth me;  
His faithful follower I would be,  
For by his hand he leadeth me.

3. Lord, I would place my hand in thine,  
Nor ever murmur nor repine;  
Content, whatever lot I see,  
Since 'tis my God that leadeth me.

He leadeth me, he leadeth me,  
By his own hand he leadeth me;  
His faithful follower I would be,  
For by his hand he leadeth me.

## Children's Moment

Margaret LeWright

## Scripture

*Luke 15:11b-32 (The Message)*

Alex Banash

Then he said, "There was once a man who had two sons. The younger said to his father, 'Father, I want right now what's coming to me.'

"So the father divided the property between them. It wasn't long before the younger son packed his bags and left for a distant country. There, undisciplined and dissipated, he wasted everything he had. After he had gone through all his money, there was a bad famine all through that country and he began to feel it. He signed on with a citizen there who assigned him to his fields to slop the pigs. He was so hungry he would have eaten the corn-cobs in the pig slop, but no one would give him any.

"That brought him to his senses. He said, 'All those farmhands working for my father sit down to three meals a day, and here I am starving to death. I'm going back to my father. I'll say to him, Father, I've sinned against God, I've sinned before you; I don't deserve to be called your son. Take me on as a hired hand.' He got right up and went home to his father.

“When he was still a long way off, his father saw him. His heart pounding, he ran out, embraced him, and kissed him. The son started his speech: ‘Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son ever again.’

“But the father wasn’t listening. He was calling to the servants, ‘Quick. Bring a clean set of clothes and dress him. Put the family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then get a prize-winning heifer and roast it. We’re going to feast! We’re going to have a wonderful time! My son is here—given up for dead and now alive! Given up for lost and now found!’ And they began to have a wonderful time.

“All this time his older son was out in the field. When the day’s work was done he came in. As he approached the house, he heard the music and dancing. Calling over one of the houseboys, he asked what was going on. He told him, ‘Your brother came home. Your father has ordered a feast—barbecued beef!—because he has him home safe and sound.’

“The older brother stomped off in an angry sulk and refused to join in. His father came out and tried to talk to him, but he wouldn’t listen. The son said, ‘Look how many years I’ve stayed here serving you, never giving you one moment of grief, but have you ever thrown a party for me and my friends? Then this son of yours who has thrown away your money on whores shows up and you go all out with a feast!’

“His father said, ‘Son, you don’t understand. You’re with me all the time, and everything that is mine is yours—but this is a wonderful time, and we had to celebrate. This brother of yours was dead, and he’s alive! He was lost, and he’s found!’”

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Response**

**Lonesome Valley**

Traditional Spiritual  
arr. Gilbert M. Martin  
LMUMCChoir

**Sermon**

***The Way Home***

Pastor Sunae

**Prayers & Gratitudes** (organ)

**Jesus, Remember Me**  
**UMH 488**

**Jesus, remember me**  
**when you come into your kingdom.**  
**Jesus, remember me**  
**when you come into your kingdom.**

## **The Lord's Prayer Ecumenical Version (UMH 894)**

*\*Please feel free to use the name of your choice for God that speaks to your soul.*

**Our \*Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## **Passing The Peace Of Christ**

Let us offer one another signs of peace and love.

## **Living As the Church**

## **Offering & Thanksgiving (organ)**

### ***How Shall I Come Before the Lord***

**W&S 3124 vs 1,3**

- 1. How shall I come before the Lord  
and bow myself with heart outpoured?  
And shall I come with offering?  
What shall I give? What shall I bring?**
- 3. Let justice shine in all your ways.  
Let loving kindness rule your days,  
that, as this earthly path you trod,  
you shall walk humbly with your God.**

## **Closing Song (organ)**

(Please stand if able)

### ***O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go***

**UMH 480 vs 1-3**

- 1. O Love that wilt not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
that in thine ocean depths  
its flow may richer, fuller be.**
- 2. O Light that followest all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to thee;  
my heart restores its borrowed ray,  
that in thy sunshine's blaze  
its day may brighter, fairer be.**
- 3. O Joy that seekest me through pain,**

**I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow thru the rain,  
and feel the promise is not vain,  
that morn shall tearless be.**

## **Closing Prayer** (responsive)

Alex Banash

Leader: The Creator God filled you with breath,  
inviting you to this journey called Life.

**All: We will follow on The Way.**

Leader: Jesus, our Guide, showed us what it means  
to make a new way with Love.

**All: We will follow on The Way.**

Leader: The Spirit gives us strength to move forward  
with Courage and Compassion for all we meet.

**All: We will follow on The Way.**

Leader: May this week be filled with  
opportunities to choose to love in ways  
you never thought possible,  
so that Home is anywhere you go.

**All: May it be so. Amen.**

## **Postlude**

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

Albert L. Peace  
arr. Mark Hayes