

## Sunday, 22 February 2026 – First Sunday in Lent

This morning is the first Sunday of the season of Lent, a period of 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter. The six Sundays in Lent are not counted in the 40 days. To read more about the season of Lent:

<https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/theology-worship/worship/christian-year/season-lent>

### Prelude

The eight “little” preludes and fugues were previously thought to have been composed by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750). Recent research has labeled them as spurious, with some speculation that they may have been composed by Bach’s student, Johann Ludwig Krebs (1713-1780).

### Sermon Hymn

*In a Neat and Tiny Garden* is from our Lenten devotional materials, *Tell Me Something Good*. It is set to the familiar tune ALL THE WAY, originally written for Fanny Crosby’s hymn text *All the Way My Savior Leads Me*.

You may pick up printed copies of the Lenten Devotional, *Tell Me Something Good: Grounding Ourselves in the Good News this Lent*, at the church. Devotionals reflect on the themes we are exploring in worship this Lent, including radical welcome; love of neighbor; and care of the vulnerable through art, scripture, music, readings, journal prompts, and poems. If you’d like an e-reader version:

<http://tiny.cc/elpc-devotional>

### Offertory Anthem

Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962) is one of America’s premiere women composers of choral music. Her research has focused on the African-American spiritual and the art songs of William Grant Still. Her husband, William C. Powell, revoices this SARB version of her *Good News!* that was originally written for SSAA voices. This version was commissioned by “The Spiritual for the New Millenium Project” at Penn State University.

### Recessional Hymn

*Lift Every Voice and Sing* – often called The Black National Anthem – was written as a poem by NAACP leader James Weldon Johnson. It was first performed in public in Johnson's hometown of Jacksonville, Florida as part of a celebration of Abraham Lincoln’s Birthday on February 12, 1900 by 500 schoolchildren at the segregated Stanton School, where James Weldon Johnson was principal. Johnson’s brother, John Rosamond Johnson, later set the poem to music. In 1919, the NAACP adopted and labeled the song as The Negro National Anthem.

### Benediction Response

*Hold On* has been sung at many of the demonstrations in Minneapolis recently and the song has spread across the country. Songwriter Heidi Wilson says:

“It is January 2026, and the people of Minneapolis are inspiring us with what it looks like to really take care of one another in the face of escalating ICE raids and authoritarian violence. They are walking kids to school, delivering food to neighbors, standing on street corners in rapid response. And they are singing. I am humbled and moved that this song is useful to folks right now.”