



WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
of Champaign-Urbana

Following Christ. Nurturing Community. Seeking Peace with Justice.

HOLDING IT TOGETHER



Celebration *of* Worship

March 8, 2026

Lent 3

Holding It Together:
Standing Up & Standing Back

*The candles on the communion table dim, one each week,
as Lent unfolds and Jesus' faithfulness brings him closer and closer to the cross.*

Centering chimes

Prelude

*Call to worship

One: Confident, hesitant, maybe just tired.

All: We come to worship.

One: Wanting to follow but not always sure how. Embarrassed by the ways we've fallen short.

All: We come anyway.

One: Seeking, hurting, longing, needing.

All: We come.

One: When hopes are high, and dreams are bright.

When hopes are dashed, and the world is not all right.

All: We come again. We keep coming.

One: Ready or not. Here we are.

All: Come Jesus. Come and meet us.

*Hymn #306 "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

Welcome and Prayer

Hymn #564 "What Wondrous Love Is This" (verses 1-3)

Children's story and children's offering for Sola Gratia Farm

Congregation sings as children come forward (Voices Together #512)

Scripture John 18:10-27

Drama

Confession Poem

Sermon

*Response Hymn #585 "Faith Begins by Letting Go"

Congregational sharing and prayer

*Use a mic or text/email prayers to Pastor Michael. To ensure that you are heard, please
hold the microphone close to your mouth and extend the handle straight out (not down).*

Prayer & Offertory

Ushers will pass the offering plates down the rows.

Introduction of visitors

Work of the church

*Sending Hymn #846 "The Lord Bless You and Keep You"

*Benediction

Congregational response: God is with Us.

**Stand in body or in spirit. Children are invited to wave the worship ribbons during the hymns.*

Note: Because worship is participatory and not a performance, instead of applauding please show appreciation for preludes, offertories and special music in other ways, such as ASL, silent applause, saying "Amen" or thanking musicians later.

We welcome, without exclusion, all who seek God's love and grace . . .

You are welcome here, inclusive of gender, race, country of origin, ethnicity, sexual orientation, sexual identity, socioeconomic status, family status, past imprisonment, education, citizenship status and physical or mental abilities. We encourage you to share in the rituals, fellowship and ministry of this congregation.

Hearing devices (T-coil and over-ear) and large print hymnals are available from the greeters.

Childcare (birth – preschool) is provided in the nursery downstairs.