

Welcome/Brief Announcements

Entering into Worship – see insert

***Opening Hymn** TFWS 2158 *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

Joys & Concerns with Pastoral/Lord's Prayer

Tithes & Offerings with Offertory

Meditation on "Adoro te devote"

arr. Gregory Hamilton

Make me believe much more in You, Hope in you, and love You.

(Excerpt from a prayer of Thomas Aquinas)

***The Doxology** (on screen)

Lord of all Good

Offertory Prayer (*in unison*):

All: God of Justice and Mercy, you do not ask for thousands of offerings or rivers of oil, only that we live with love, humility, and a hunger for what is right. Accept these gifts we bring—not as bargaining chips, but as signs of our desire to follow you. Use them and us to pour out kindness where the world is aching, to walk alongside the weary, and to bring your healing presence into troubled places. May our giving be our “yes” to your call, our response to your grace, and our witness to your hope. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

(from Micah 6:1-8)

Children's Time

Choir Anthem

Scripture

Hymn UMH 363

Psalm 15

And Can It Be that I Should Gain

Scripture

Message

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Are You Comfortable?

***Hymn** (on screen)

The Family of God

***Benediction**

A Non-traditional Blessing

(from Sister Ruth Fox, OSB, 1985)

***Postlude**

Psalm XX

Gordon Young

*Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.*

Psalm 20:7

Has God laid something on your heart?

Write it down so you don't forget to take it into your week!

*Tell someone you didn't come in with that you love them
and that you're glad they're here!*

**Meet Jesus ~ Follow Jesus ~ Serve Jesus
Love Boldly ~ Serve Joyfully ~ Lead Courageously**

ANNOUNCEMENTS/IMPORTANT NOTES

Welcome! We're so glad you are here worshiping with us today! Children are *always* welcome to stay and participate in worship. The nursery is open and located in the corner of the fellowship hall. If this is your first time with us, please fill out a Welcome Card and place in the offering plate. We Livestream our services each Sunday. You can find these services on our church Facebook page: www.facebook.com/1stUMCGouv/

- RIP IT**- Free exercise group. Check FB group for updates.
- Bible Studies**- Wednesdays **10am** in Rm 103 (Acts), Thursdays at **7pm**.
- "Promises in the Dark"**- book study **Mondays** at One More Chapter Book Store, **7-8:30 pm**. Please see Don for more information.
- Ash Wednesday; Lent Begins- Feb. 18th**
 - "Ashes for Early Birds" **6:30-9am**, stop by Brown Chapel if you would like to receive Ashes to start your day!
 - Service at **7pm** in Brown Chapel.

Read ahead for next Sunday:
Isaiah 58:1-12

Bishop: Rev. Héctor A. Burgos

District Superintendent: Rev. Yohang Chun

Pastor: Benjamin Lalka pastorbenlalka@gmail.com

Pastor Office hours: Tues.-Fri. 9am-1pm **Day of Rest:** Mondays

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First United Methodist Church of Gouverneur

Guest Speaker: Dr. Don Schuessler

Pastor Benjamin Lalka

Choir Director: Don Schuessler

Organist: Glenda Schuessler

February 1, 2026



Entering into Worship (responsive):

Liturgist: Holy God, We stand before you to confess. We carry sorrow in our hearts for the things we have done and for the things we have left undone. We have not sought to do Your will with our whole hearts. We have not loved ourselves as You love us. We have not lived with gratitude, nor loved others as Christ has loved us. Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Leader: You offered us Your blessings when You announced
"Blessed are the poor in spirit."

All: But we can be rich in greed, and often chase possessions instead of finding contentment in You. We confess that our materialism often blinds us to the suffering behind what we buy.

L: You bless those who mourn.

A: But we choose to close our eyes to the suffering of those exploited by forced labor, long hours, and unlawful wages. Forgive us for our indifference.

L: You bless the meek.

A: But we are a stiff-necked people. We seek to boast of our accomplishments instead of walking humbly in Your ways.

L: You bless those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

A: But we fill ourselves with the trivial. We fail to seek justice where oppression thrives.

L: You bless the merciful.

A: But we can be quick to judge. Make us instruments of mercy and healing.

L: You bless the pure in heart.

A: But our hearts tend to seek selfish gains and pleasures rather than Your wants for us. Cleanse us from our desire for comfort that can cost our neighbor their freedom.

L: You bless the peacemakers.

A: But we treasure our comfort and often avoid reconciliation where we have caused harm. Give us courage to make peace and repair what we have broken.

L: You bless those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake.

A: But we cower from opportunities to challenge those people and systems that wreak havoc in our world. We tend to prefer acceptance rather than truth.

L: You bless those who are insulted or spoken against because they follow You.

A: But we are often slow to show how we belong to You.

L: Open our eyes to see the ways we support systems of oppression. Where we over-consume, teach us contentment. Where we close our eyes to the costs of convenience, give us the courage to see the truth of their toll on our vulnerable neighbors. Free us from our pasts which we cannot change, and open to us futures filled with Your transforming Grace.

A: Amen. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

L: Hear this good news. Blessed are those who confess and turn to God, for they shall be comforted. God, who is rich in mercy, makes us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. Know, in the deepest part of all you are, that in Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. May Almighty God strengthen all of us with the power of the Holy Spirit, that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith.

A: Amen.

(Adapted from "Confessional Prayer" by Rev. Staci Stought)