

MANHATTAN BEACH COMMUNITY CHURCH
March 22, 2026

PRELUDE “O Sacred Head Now Wounded” (St. Matthew Passion) J.S Bach
Jean Whitcomb, Organist

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Mike Spitters
Senior Minister

ANNOUNCEMENTS Joanne Ordinario

*HYMN OF PRAISE: 197, “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” (vs. 1-3)

CALL TO WORSHIP Rob Barber

One: In places of sorrow and silence,

All: God calls life forth.

One: At the edges of despair,

All: Christ speaks hope.

One: When grief feels overwhelming,

All: Love refuses to let death have the final word.

One: Come, people of God.

All: Let us worship the One who calls us out of the tombs of fear and into new life.

CENTERING PRAYER Rob Barber

ADULT CHOIR ANTHEM: “Jesus Paid It All” Robert Sterling
John Elg, director; Stephen Pitters, accompanist

TIME WITH CHILDREN Billy Minshall

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and LORD’S PRAYER Joanne Ordinario
Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC: “You Raise Me Up” Josh Groban
Heather Boswell and Stephen Pitters, piano and voice.

SCRIPTURE INTRO Billy Minshall

SCRIPTURE READING John 11:32-44 (pg. 874) Rob Barber

SERMON “Unbinding Life”
Pastor Mike

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Rob Barber



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OFFERTORY “Air for Flute” (St. Matthew Passion) J.S Bach
Jean Whitcomb

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

We give thee but thine own, what e’re the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord from thee.

OFFERING PRAYER Rob Barber

*CLOSING HYMN 621, “Are Ye Able,” Said the Master (vs. 1 and 2)

RESPONSIVE BLESSING Pastor Mike

One: Friends, when Lazarus came out of the tomb, Jesus told the community: “Unbind him, and let him go.” Go now as people of resurrection. Unbind life wherever you find it bound.

All: We will loosen fear with compassion and lift burdens with kindness.

One: Remind the world that love is stronger than death. May the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the companionship of the Spirit go with you today and always.

All: Amen.

POSTLUDE “Here Yet Awhile” (Finale from St. Matthew Passion) J.S Bach

*please rise if you are able

GREETERS: Joanne Ordinario and Melanie Vargas Gonzáles

USHERS: Lance and Karalyn Honea, Larry and Susie Humphrey

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