

# Greenbelt Community Church

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**WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**  
March

**New Members Sunday**  
**Second Sunday in Lent**  
**MARCH 1, 2026**

**Women's History Month  
New Members Sunday  
Second Sunday in Lent  
March 1, 2026**

***Greenbelt Community Church is a community centered around the belief that we are all created in the image of God. We welcome everyone seeking God's presence, in any of the ways that you may identify... by economic class, by race, by national origin, by gender identity/expression, by age, by physical or mental ability... whoever you are and wherever you come from, we welcome you into full participation here. We rejoice that you chose to worship with us, today, as we extend an invitation to live out the extravagant welcome of Christ. Together, we are listening for God's still speaking voice. WELCOME, People of God!***

***A special welcome to our first-time and returning visitors! Please let us know you were here with us, today: New Here? – Greenbelt Community Church; Contact:***

***[office@greenbeltucc.org](mailto:office@greenbeltucc.org)***

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

Pastor Aubra Love

**\*Call to Worship:**

Pastor Aubra Love

**Pastor:** God of amazing compassion, lover of the wayward,

**People:** You bring to birth a pilgrim people and call us to be a blessing

**Pastor:** For ourselves and all the world.

**People:** We pray for grace to take your generous gift and step with courage on this holy path,

**Pastor:** Confident in the radiant life that is your plan for us,

**People:** Made known and given in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**\*Opening Hymn: NCH #394 "In Christ There Is No East or West"**

**\*Passing the Peace**

**Time with Young Disciples**

Pastor Aubra Love

*[Children and youth are invited to come forward for a short conversation with the Pastor. Afterward, the children are dismissed for Sunday School.]*

**Anthem: “How Beautiful” by T. Paris and L. Larson**

The Greenbelt Community Church Choir

**Scripture: Psalm 121:1-8 New Revised Standard Version**

Ron Dobson, Lay Reader

*“I lift up my eyes to the hills-- from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. God will not let your foot be moved; God who keeps you will not slumber. God who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all evil; God will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.”*

**Unison Prayer**

Ron Dobson, Lay Reader

*“God of wilderness and water, your Son was baptized and tempted as we are. Guide us through this season, that we may not avoid struggle, but open ourselves to blessing, through the cleansing depths of repentance and the heaven-rending words of the Spirit.”*  
Amen.

**Scripture: John 3:1-17, The Living Bible**

Pastor Aubra Love

*“After dark one night a Jewish religious leader named Nicodemus, a member of the sect of the Pharisees, came for an interview with Jesus. “Sir,” he said, “we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miracles are proof enough of this.” Jesus replied, “With all the earnestness I possess I tell you this: Unless you are born again, you can never get into the Realm of God.” “Born again!” exclaimed Nicodemus. “What do you mean? How can an old man go back into his mother’s womb and be born again?” Jesus replied, “What I am telling you so earnestly is this: Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, that one cannot enter the Realm of God.*

*Humankind can only reproduce human life, but the Holy Spirit gives new life from heaven; so don’t be surprised at my statement that you must be born again! Just as you can hear the wind but can’t tell where it comes from or where it will go next, so it is with the Spirit. We do not know on whom the Spirit will next bestow this life from heaven.”*  
*“What do you mean?” Nicodemus asked. Jesus replied, “You, a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don’t understand these things? I am telling you what I know and have seen—and yet you won’t believe me. But if you don’t even believe me when I tell you about such things as these that happen here among people, how can you possibly believe if I tell you what is going on in heaven?”*

*For only I, the Messiah, have come to earth and will return to heaven again. And as Moses in the wilderness lifted up the bronze image of a serpent on a pole, even so I must be lifted up upon a pole, so that anyone who believes in me will have eternal life. For God loved the world so much that we have received the gift of God's only Son so that anyone who believes in Jesus shall not perish but have eternal life. God did not send Jesus into the world to condemn the world, but in order to save the world."*

**Homily: "A Wondrous Love and A New Birth"**

Pastor Aubra Love

**\*Pulpit Hymn: Hymn #14 (Yellow Booklet) "Morning Has Broken"**

**RECEPTION OF MEMBERS:**

**Affirmation of Baptism and Baptismal Candidate (See bulletin insert)**

### **The Sacrament of Communion**

*We practice open communion. Anyone who seeks the love of God is welcome at the Table. Jesus offers an Open Table of radical hospitality.*

**A Blessing:**

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**People:** **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**Pastor:** God of the lost and the found, surely it is right for us to give our thanks and praise; for day after day we look for you,

**People:** **And day after day we find you: in the laughter of children, in the sun rising over the horizon, in the flowers of spring.**

**All:** **Our seeking does not go unanswered, and for that we are grateful.**

**The Invitation to the Table:** *"The Lenten Yearning"*

Friends, if we are honest with ourselves and with God, we are all yearning for something. Some of us yearn for a place to belong. Others yearn for permission to be whom they are made to be.

Some of us are yearning for connection, yearning for justice, or yearning for a glimpse of the Divine.

No matter what it is your soul is yearning for, there is good news to be found here.

Friends, this is Christ's table. We are the guests. Jesus is the host. There is a seat here with your name on it. Thanks be to God for a wondrous love like that!

**Words of Institution:**  
**Pastor Aubra Love**

Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, "saying this is my broken body." Jesus then took the cup of redemption, blessed it and identified it as the new covenant. Jesus said, "When you share the bread and cup, it is a proclamation of my death and a remembrance of my sacrifice, as you are joined together in the body and blood of Christ " (1 Cor 10:16).

So do this regularly until Jesus returns.

The table has been set. The feast has been served. Your spiritual place card is right here, with your name on it.

The Lord bids you to come to the Welcome Table, for all things are ready. Everyone is welcome!

**Sharing the Bread and Cup:**

***[Come forward, pew by pew to receive the elements. Receive a piece of bread and a cup. Once you have your bread and cup, return to your seat, and then we'll all eat together.]***

**Prayer After Communion: (Unison)**

God of manna and mustard seeds, we came to this Table yearning, and you have satisfied us with good things. We leave fulfilled—full of hope, full of promise, full of what could be. For we not only found glimpses of you at this Table, but we caught a glimpse of the way things could be: in a meal where all are welcomed, all are fed and all are loved beyond measure.

Is there anything more sacred than that? So, thank you for satisfying our yearning and feeding our spirit. May we always yearn for a closeness with you the way you long after us. With grateful hearts we pray. Amen.

“Adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed  
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**The Lord's Prayer**  
**(in the words that are familiar to you)**

***"Holy God, who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Realm come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Realm, the power and the glory. Forever. Amen."***

## **Prayer Response**

### **Invitation to the Offering**

**Focus Text:** *"The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand."  
Psalm 121:5 NRSV*

*(Opportunities to give for the ministries of this church are available through the offering plates during the worship service; by mailing your gift to the church office, or by signing up for electronic giving at [greenbeltcommunitychurch.org/](http://greenbeltcommunitychurch.org/))*

### **Offertory**

#### **\*Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures here below  
Praise God, for all that love has done.  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. AMEN.

#### **\*Prayer of Dedication**

Ron Dobson, Lay Reader

*"Grant, O God, that the prayers we offer may be your channel for new and abundant life not only hoped for, but worked for, through faithful word and deed." Amen.*

#### **\*Closing Hymn: CHA #557 "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"**

#### **\*Commissioning and Blessing**

Pastor Aubra Love

#### **\*Choral Response**

#### **\*Postlude**