



July 26 2026 | 10:00am

The Great Depression

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC | *Popular Songs from 1930s* | Jermaine Woodard, Jr., and Jack Pott, soloists; Susan Carroll, piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS | *Rev. Erica Thompson*

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Every nation has its stories.

All: Stories that shape who we are.

One: This summer, we explore the stories of U.S.

All: And we seek the larger story of God.

One: We come carrying stories of struggle and survival.

All: We remember those who endured hardship, shared what they had, and refused to give up hope.

One: We remember empty tables that became places of generosity.

All: We remember weary hands that kept working, praying, and reaching for tomorrow.

One: Even in seasons of scarcity, God was present.

All: God walked beside those who wondered where the next meal would come from.

One: Even when the future seemed uncertain...

All: God's faithfulness remained steadfast.

One: We gather today with our own stories of uncertainty, gratitude, grief, and hope.

All: We trust the God who has carried generations before us and who carries us still.

One: Come, let us worship the One who turns despair into courage,

All: Who transforms scarcity into abundance, and whose love never fails. Let us worship God!

HYMN SING | *Popular Hymns at AHCC in the 1930s*

***PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

STORIES OF U.S. | *The Great Depression*

OFFERTORY | *Pennies from Heaven*, by John Burke and Arthur Johnson (1936) | Jermaine Woodard, Jr., soloist

A long time ago, a million years BC, the best things in life were absolutely free. But no one appreciated a sky that was always blue, and no one congratulated a moon that was always new. So it was planned that they would vanish now and then, and you must pay before you get them back again. That's what storms were made for, and you shouldn't be afraid for every time it rains it rains pennies from heaven. Don't you know each cloud contains pennies from heaven. You'll find your fortune falling all over town. Be sure that your umbrella is upside down. Trade them for a package of sunshine and flowers if you want the things you love you must have showers. So when you hear it thunder don't run under a tree. There'll be pennies from heaven for you and me.

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE | *Ruth 2:1-12, 17-23*

SERMON | *Stories of U.S.: Gleaning Grace* | Rev. Erica Thompson

GIFT OF MUSIC | *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* by Thomas Dorsey (1932) | Jermaine Woodard, Jr., soloist

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand. I am tired, I am weak, I am worn; Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light: take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near. When my life is almost gone hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall: take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When the darkness appears and the night draws near, and the day is past and gone, at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand: take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home

Refrain

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE | *Moonlight Serenade* by Glenn Miller | Susan Carroll, piano

**Please rise on your feet or in your heart.*