

Third Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2026

Rev. Barbara Dickason, BCC

“The Well Is Deep”

United in Christ’s love, a just world for all

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Singing Prelude

I Love to Tell the Story

Hankey/Fischer

Sing Twice

**I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.**

Welcome and Announcements

We Approach God's Presence

Meditation/Bringing in the Light of Christ

Just As I Am

Elliott/Bradbury

Dr. Richard Balkin, Violinist

Responsive Call to Worship

Into the stream of those who have labored before us,

Spirit, let us flow.

Into the river that rolls down with justice,

Spirit, let us step.

Into the well that is deeper than our divisions,

Spirit, let us draw.

In this moment, in every moment, we come to worship and to ask:

Give us living water, so we will never be thirsty again.

***Hymn**

God of Grace and God of Glory vs. 1,3,5 (p.9)

***Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

Word and Story of God, present from beginning to end and right here with us now,

When You met the Samaritan woman at the well,

Your appearance as a Nazarene meant that

long histories and deep lineages

of animosity and pain and oppression

swirled under your feet.

Deep and ancient divisions trained your two peoples

to see each other only as "enemy."

But in your Divine dance of

testing and trust-building,

openness and truth-telling,

vulnerability and transparency,
something new came into being between you.

In this moment,

**as we seek transformation and new life,
as we practice repentance and turning around,
invite us to enter this dance and see how honesty and humility
can bridge what separates us from each other
and from You.**

Heal us from the ways we deny our kinship and
disregard the dignity and belovedness of each and all of us.

Turn us around, Holy One. Amen

***Words of Grace**

Praise God who forgives us and frees us;
inviting us, as siblings in Christ, to dance...
making our lives liturgies of Spirit and truth. **Amen.**

***Response**

Fill My Cup, Lord

Blanchard

Fill My Cup, Lord

1. Like the wom-an at the well I was seek - ing for things that
could not sat - is - fy; and then I heard my Sav - ior speak - ing: "Draw
from my well that nev - er shall run dry." Fill my cup, Lord, I lift it
up, Lord! Come and quench this thirst - ing of my soul; Bread of Heav - en,
feed me 'til I want no more—fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole!

We Encounter God in the Word

Contemporary Lesson *Between the Listening and the Telling* Mark Yaconelli
(If you wish to follow along, this is printed on the back page of your bulletin.)
God is still speaking. **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem *Gentle Voice* Dengler
Dr. Richard Balkin, Violinist

Gospel Lesson John 4:1-12 *New International Version*

(The following is spoken by the narrator just before the “townsfolk” respond.)

Narrator: So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. And because of his words many more became believers.

Townsfolk (Congregation): “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”

The Word of God. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon “The Well Is Deep” Rev. Barbara Dickason, BCC

We Respond to God’s Grace

Congregational Prayers

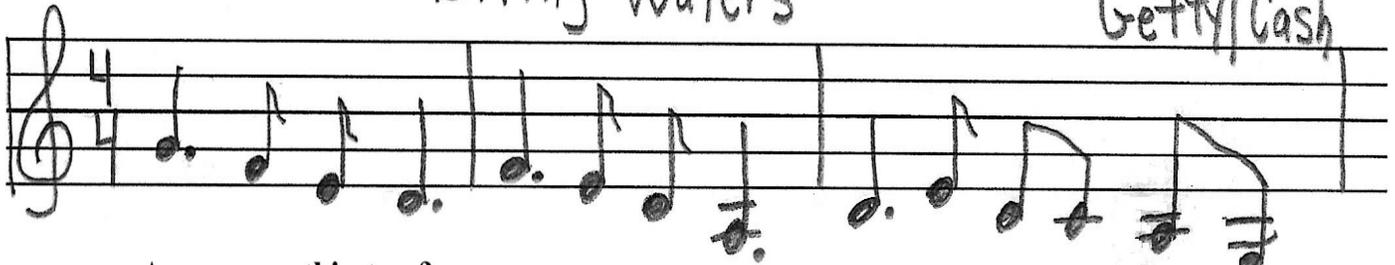
Silent Prayers

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

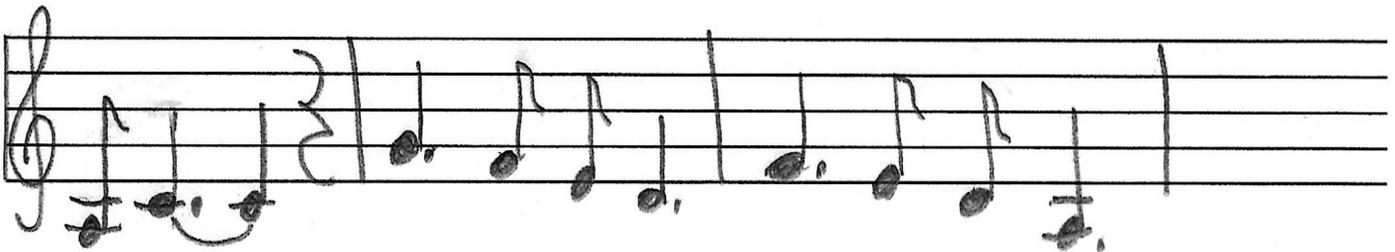
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Living Waters

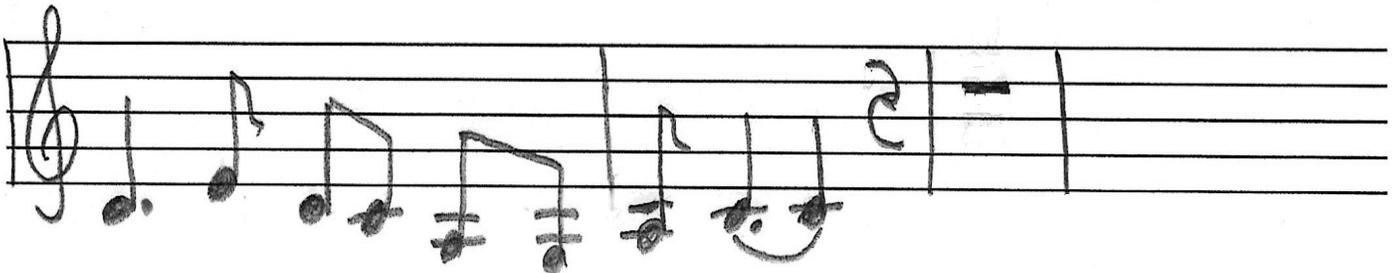
Getty/Cash



Are you thirst-y? Are you emp-ty? Come and drink these liv-ing

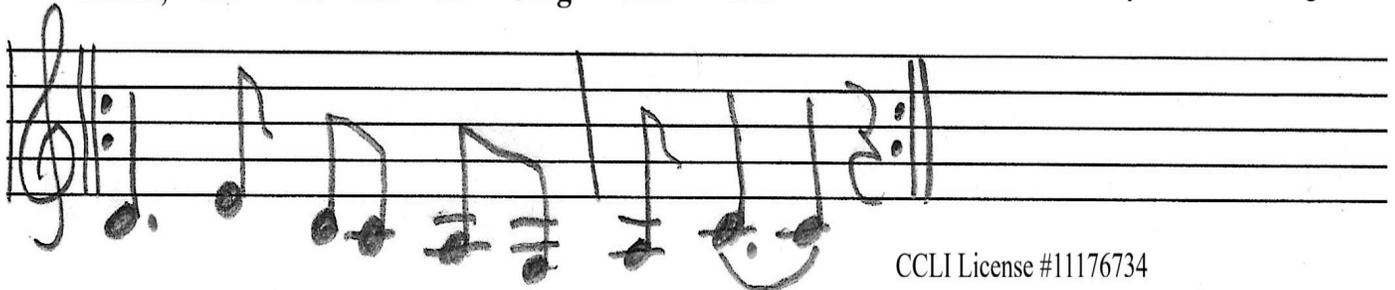


wat-ers. Love, for-give-ness, vast and bound-less,



Christ, He is our liv-ing wat-ers.

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Praise the Lord of liv-ing wat-ers.

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We Share God's Love

Mission Moment

Immokalee

Alan Penick/Tammy Richelieu

Invitation to Generosity

(Offering plates are found by each doorway for your use.)

***Song of Gratitude**

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above, ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.**

***Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

**May these offerings become living water, quenching the thirst of all that is taking
root in love and justice. May they water the harvest of liberation for us all and
become offerings toward the slow work of healing and transformation. Amen.**

We Go to Carry the Light

***Hymn**

Rain Down vs. 1,3 (pp. 10-11)

***Blessing and Benediction**

***Sending Blessing**

God Be with You

Dorsey

**God be with you, God be with you,
God be with you till we meet again. (repeat)**

Postlude

Air from Suite No. 3

Bach

Dr. Richard Balkin, Violinist

**Please remain seated in silence for the Postlude as the
Light of Christ is carried into the world.
The worship has ended; our service begins.**

Worship materials are taken from

Ripe for Harvesting: Service Prayers for the Lent 3A, by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema

Supporting Our Service Today

Acolyte: Bella Clapham

Liturgist: Ginnie Behan

Gospel Lesson Participants: Susan Jack, Harold Steindam, Wendy Seeley,
Wally Davis, Walt Jeffreys

Welcome Table: Gayle Davis **Greeter:** Janet Beardsley

Head Usher: Linda Newton **Usher Team:** Jim Daugherty, Kathy Hare,
Steve Hemping, Nancy Knudson, Char Raitt, Dick Schleicher

Technology Team

(Live Streaming, Camera, and Sound Technicians)

Gary Woodrum, Debra Mosely, Maria Groody, David Jack, Linda Newton,
Wally Davis, Patty Fjetland, Scott Mellen, Gary and Sharon Leidheiser

The **Lord's Table** was decorated by Victoria Augustine

The **Sanctuary Flowers** are given by
Barb Quinn: "Thank you to Richard Balkin for sharing your talent with us today";
Pat and Gary Fischer in Loving Memory of Norma Dunlap

The **Church Sign** was changed by Faye Newton and Lisa Sclafani

Sunday Librarian: Ellen Schleicher

Fellowship Time: Immokalee Group

Senior Minister

Rev. Barbara Dickason

Music Staff

Barbara Quinn: *Music Director*

Lynda Weston: *Bella Handbell Director*

Other Staff

Gary Leidheiser: *Custodian*

Barb Quinn: *Office Assistant*

Church office hours: Mon.-Thurs., 9-1

Would you like to donate to VUCC online? Use your Smart Phone to scan the QR code on the right, and it will take you directly to our donations page. It is really easy!



This Week at a Glance

Monday, March 9

12:00 PM SpiritFed!

Noon Bible Study via Zoom (link below)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83576594637?pwd=U2024sKmOPiy3CyMqV4OarYUtofaom.1>

Meeting ID: 835 7659 4637

Passcode: 913882

(The easiest way to connect is to use the link in the Connect.)

6:30 PM Bridge - Parlor

Tues. 03-10

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

10:00 AM Mission Committee—Parlor

1:00 PM VAGC—CR

3:00 PM Care Task Team—Sun. Sch. Rm.

3:00 PM Game Group—Parlor

6:00 PM Girl Scouts

Wed. 03-11

9:00 AM-12:00 Library open

10:00 AM Bible Study - CR

11:00 AM RCSSC—Naar Hall

3:30 PM Youth Bell Ringers

6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thurs. 03-12

10:00 AM AAUW Naar Hall

1:00 PM Worship Comm./CFL—Parlor

4:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal—Sanctuary

6:00 PM Daisies

Fri. 03-13

8:30 AM Men's Weekly Coffee at Panera

9:00AM Knit Wits—Parlor

Sun. 03-15

9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary

9:15 AM Bell Rehearsal—Sanctuary

9:00 AM Library Hour

10:00 AM Worship (in situ and virtual)

After Worship

Fellowship Time—Naar Hall

Library Open

TODAY

See back page of bulletin for information on donating to Immokalee.

Coming Events

****11:30 AM, Tuesday, March 17, St. Patrick's Day Soup Luncheon—Naar Hall**

- ****12:00 Noon, Monday, April 6, Women's Luncheon at Burgundy Square Café**

- **Sunday, April 26, Annual Meeting after Worship—Naar Hall**

- March 29, Palm Sunday

- 6:00 PM, April 2, Maundy Thursday meal and service—Naar Hall

- 7:00 PM, April 3, Good Friday service—Sanctuary

- April 5, Easter

“Sonrise” service at 7:00 AM—beside the sanctuary

Worship at 10:00 AM

Remember to bring a few fresh flowers to put on the cross in the atrium on Easter morning.

3:00 PM, Saturday, April 18

Movie—*Mission Joy*—Naar Hall

****Sign up in Naar Hall**

God of Grace and God of Glory

vs. 1,3,5

436

Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that
5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;
Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—
your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,
they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,
we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
in the fight to set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
make our bro - ken spir - its whole, make our bro - ken spir - its whole.
in the quest for lib - er - ty, in the quest for lib - er - ty.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Harry Emerson Fosdick, a prophetic preacher and writer, taught at Union Theological Seminary from 1915 to 1946. This hymn was written for the opening service and dedication of Riverside Church, New York City, which he served for twenty years.

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.
John Hughes, c. 1907
CCLI License # 11176734

Rain Down vs. 1,3

Refrain (Unison)

Chords: F, A7, G/B, A7, Dm, F7, Eb/G, F7/A

Rain down, rain down,

Chords: Bb, F/A, Gm7, C7, Gm7/D, C7/E

rain down your love on your peo - ple.

Chords: F, A7, Dm, F7, Eb/G, F7/A

Rain down, rain down,

Chords: Bb, Am7, Gm7, Gm/C, Am/C, Gm/C, Bb/F, F

rain down your love, God of life.

WORDS and MUSIC: Jaime Cortez (1963-); arr. John Carter (1930-)
 Words and Music © 1992 Jaime Cortez (Admin. OCP Publications)

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F A7 Dm F7 Eb/G F7/A

1 Faith - ful and true is the word of our God.
 2 We who re - vere and find hope in our God
 3 God of cre - a - tion, we long for your truth;

Bb F/A G7 C7 Bb/D C7/E

All of God's works are so wor - thy of trust.
 live in the kind - ness and joy of God's wing.
 you are the wa - ter of life for our thirst.

F A7 Dm F7

God's mer - cy falls on the just and the right;
 God will pro - tect us from dark - ness and death;
 Grant that your love and your peace touch our hearts,

Bb Gm7 Gm/C Am/C Gm/C F C Bb/D C7/E *to Refrain*

full of God's love is the earth.
 God will not leave us to starve.
 all of our hope lies in you.

Contemporary Lesson
Between the Listening and the Telling
Mark Yaconelli

Every act of love brings hope.
Every act of love ushers the new world into the present.
Every act of love bridges alienation, brings comfort to our fears,
makes space for hope.
We need stories to help us recall the things we've all forgotten:
That we are intimately interrelated.
That our home is in one another.
That peace is found within one another.

We live in a world that is alive and generous and in need of care.
Strangely, paradoxically, it is in serving and singing
and telling our stories to one another that we discover
the homecoming we've all been longing for has been here,
among and within us, all along.

Today's anthem, *Gentle Voice*, is a gift to the VUCC Choral Library
from Pat and Gary Fischer
in Loving Memory of Pat's mother,
Norma Dunlap, who was an alto in the choir for many years.

Today is **Immokalee Sunday** with Alan Penick and Tammy Richelieu.
Donation envelopes are in the pews.
Please make checks payable to VUCC with "Immokalee" in the memo line.