



"The water that I will give will become a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." - John 4:14

Third Sunday in Lent
First United Church of Christ, Northfield
An Open and Affirming, Just Peace,
Immigrant Welcoming Congregation

March 12, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to worship! Are you visiting us today? We invite you to fill out our [Virtual Visitor Card](#).

Prelude

Prelude in F Minor, BWV 534

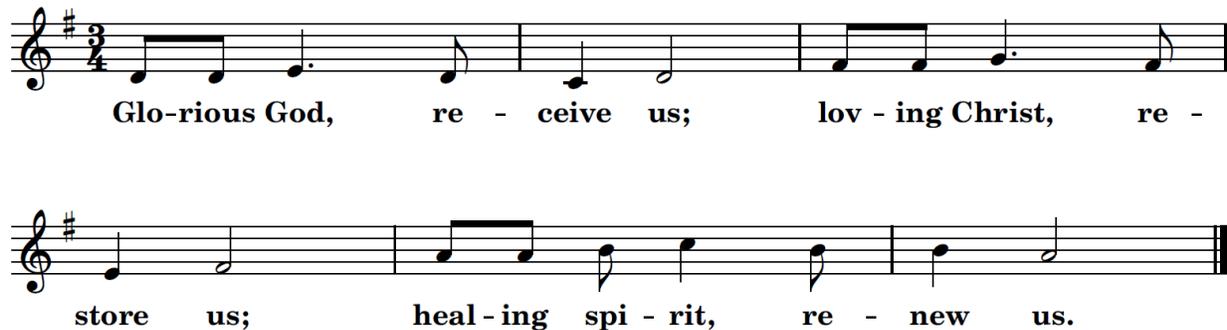
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Music

Glorious God

Alice Parker (1925-)



Glo-rious God, re - ceive us; lov - ing Christ, re -
store us; heal - ing spi - rit, re - new us.

Call to Worship

Sarah Are

One: We gather —

**Many: the seekers, the dreamers, the star wishers,
in hopes of seeing God.**

One: We gather —

**Many: the curious, the hungry, the loving, the lonely,
in hopes of finding peace.**

One: We gather —

**Many: those who are thirsty and those with water to spare,
in hopes of finding justice.**

One: So come to the well, come to the table. Come, let us worship God. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

#400 (Regent Square)

V1: Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone, chosen
of our God and precious,

binding all the Church in one;
Holy Zion's hero forever,
and our confidence alone.

V2: To this temple, where we call you,
come, O God of Hosts, today!
With your constant, loving kindness hear
your people as they pray.
Give your fullest benediction:
grace to follow Christ the Way.

V3: Here renew your servants' vision,
that by faith they may attain
peace and hope, renewed compassion,
strength to comfort those in pain,
Tears and grief transformed to gladness
in your everlasting reign.

Time with Children

**Let the children come unto me, for theirs is the realm of God.
All who believe must become like a child; theirs is the realm of God.**

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we have been on every side of this story. We have been the one who is thirsty and in need of compassion, and we have been the one with a bucket and a deep well. So today we wonder: how have we missed the opportunity to share water with our neighbors? How have we forgotten that we have a bucket and the power to bring change? How have we decided that justice and compassion were not worth the work? Forgive our fragile hearts and remind us that it was you who sat at that well in Samaria in the heat of the day. It was you. It is still you. With hope we pray, amen.

Words of Assurance

Beloved people of God, as hard as it is to imagine: we could lose the bucket, we could hoard the water for ourselves, we could pretend we do not see all who are thirsty, and we would still belong to God. This is the good news:

God's grace is deeper than any well. We are seen, loved, and forgiven. May this realization change and inspire us. Amen.

Anthem

Prayer of Julian of Norwich

Carson Cooman (2003)

God, of your goodness, give yourself to me, for you are enough for me:
only in you do I have everything. Amen.

Scripture

John 4:5-29

Greg and Janet Muth

Sermon

Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

Prayer Hymn

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

#489 (Evan)

Verse 1: I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast.”

Verse 2: I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn, and sad,
And there I found a resting place,
where Jesus made me glad!

Verse 3: I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one,
draw near, and drink, and live.”

Verse 4: I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul
revived, and now I am redeemed.

The Prayers (*All joining worship online are invited to share prayers with the congregation by using the chat function at any point during this time.*)

Prayer Response

Kyrie Eleison

#751

The melody of this chant, now associated with the Russian Orthodox tradition, has been traced to tenth-century Ukraine.

Prayer of Jesus

Norah Gottfried

During Lent, we are using prayers written by First UCC Confirmation students, adapted from the traditional version of the Prayer of Jesus/Lord’s Prayer. You are invited to speak the words most meaningful to you, or pray with this version:

God, almighty and all-knowing, let your believers learn to care for this precious Earth. And let your people learn to care for each other. Let us be fed and nourished by your never ending love. Let our missteps be forgiven, and let us forgive others. Let us lean on your strength when we are weakened. For you are one with us, in the past, present and the unwritten future. Amen.

Sharing Our Gifts

Offertory

O Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem

Herbert Howells
(1892-1983)

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem; they shall prosper that love thee.
Peace be within thy walls and plenteousness within thy palaces. (Psalm 122: 6-7)

Prayer of Thanks

Renewing God, you are the one who fills our spirits. Bless and use the gifts we give, so that all who are thirsty may be refreshed and restored in you. Amen.

Hymn of Sending

As Water to the Thirsty
(see page 7)

(Oasis)

Benediction

One: We go in God's love and grace,
trusting that a glass of water given to
us by a stranger can taste like justice,
that honest conversation has the
power to change us,
**Many: that all God's children have a
voice and something to say, that**

**Jesus loves the outcast, the ignored,
the shamed, and the abandoned.**
One: We trust that we are free to ask
questions,
**Many: to believe in curiosity, to give
people a drink. May we be brave
enough to give people a drink.
Amen.**

Postlude

Prelude in C Major, BWV 545

J.S. Bach

**We're so glad you worshiped here today!
Please join us for coffee and conversation in the Assembly Room after worship.**

Thanks to this week's leaders:

Ushers: Anne Meyer Ruppel, Linda Larson, Cheryl Rempel, Jeffery Latterell

Digital Greeter: Margit Johnson

Cover art: Living Water by Lauren Wright Pittman, Inspired by John 4:5-42, Digital painting

This Week at First UCC:

Sunday, March 12

9:15 a.m. Faith Formation
10:30 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour
11:45 a.m. Lenten Service of
Grieving
6:00 p.m. Evening Gathering
Worship

Tuesday, March 14

10:00 a.m. Women's Group
1:00 p.m. Northfielder's for Justice
in Palestine

Wednesday, March 15

5:30 p.m. WFFF
6:15 p.m. Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 16

10:00 a.m. Care Team Meeting

Saturday, March 18

1:00 p.m. Stan Stevens' Memorial
Service

Sunday, March 19

9:15 a.m. Faith Formation
10:30 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour
6:00 p.m. Evening Gathering
Worship

Lenten Service of Grieving - After Coffee Time Today, March 12

You are all invited to come back into the sanctuary after coffee time for a Lenten Service of Grieving. You will be able to express your grief or lament for the indigenous people who lived here and suffered ethnic cleansing, forced removal, and death.

Sign up for a Visit to the Hočokata Ti Center - March 16

The Women of St. John's are offering a much-awaited visit and tour of the Hočokata Ti Center in Shakopee on March 16 at 2:00 p.m. If you or anyone you know is interested in attending, please RSVP: Mar Valdecantos - [\(507\) 301-8646](tel:5073018646). For more information see The Chronicle.

Memorial Service for Stan Stevens - March 18

The service of thanksgiving of life for Stan Stevens, husband of Jan Stevens, will take place on Saturday, March 18 at 1:00 p.m., followed by a reception in the Assembly Room.

In need of Pie Bakers for March 18

We will be serving pie and ice cream after Stan Stevens' memorial service on March 18. If you would be interested in baking a pie to contribute to his reception, please contact Bobbie Peterson for more information: bobbie514@usfamily.net or (507) 645-6782.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) - March 19 at Service

OGHS' purpose is to provide a ministry of support and recovery for those who are affected by natural disaster, relentless violence, or pervasive poverty around the world and in the US. As members and friends within the UCC, you can assist in making a difference in the lives of others. You are invited to give to OGHS during worship on Sunday, March 19 during worship, or on a succeeding Sunday. For more information please see The Chronicle.

A Note from ISAIAH

ISAIAH reminds us "When we organize and elect leaders who work with and for the people, we can make Minnesota a place for all of us to thrive." Contact your Representative and Senator and urge them to keep serving deserving citizens with legislation such as paid Family and Medical Leave, Child Care Assistance, expanded MNCare, Soil and Water Conservation, Creation Care, and more!

As Water to the Thirsty

As wa - ter to the thirst - y, as beau - ty to the
Like calm in place of clam - or, like peace that fol - lows
Like sleep that fol - lows fe - ver, as gold in - stead of

eyes, As strength that fol - lows weak - ness, as truth in - stead of
pain, Like meet - ing af - ter part - ing, like sun - shine af - ter
grey, As free - dom af - ter bond - age, as sun - rise to the

lies, As song - time and spring - time and sum - mer - time to be, so
rain, Like moon - light and star - light and sun - light on the sea,
day, As home to the trav - eler and all we long to see,

is my God, my liv - ing God, so is my God to me.

Welcome to Worship at First UCC!

We are an Open and Affirming, Just Peace, Immigrant Welcoming Congregation.

Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here!

We especially welcome all who are visiting this morning. Please let us know you're here by sharing your information in a welcome pad.

Worship Information

First UCC worships at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. Worship is also live streamed each week on Zoom and YouTube. Whether you are joining us in person or online, we are glad to have you here!

Giving to the Church

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of First UCC's ministry. You may give online by visiting firstucc.org and clicking on the "Give" button, or you may place your gift in the offering plate, or send in your gifts via mail.

News & Announcements

Keep up to date with all of the latest news and upcoming events! Subscribe to The Chronicle, First UCC's weekly e-newsletter, at firstucc.org, and find First UCC on Facebook and Instagram. Past issues of The Chronicle are available at firstucc.org.

First UCC Leadership & Staff

Ministers: All the people

Moderator: Gary Carlson

Senior Minister: Rev. Cindy Maddox

Associate Minister: Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

Director of Music: Chris Brunelle

Organist: Theo Wee

Spirit Voices Director & Arts Coordinator: Bob Gregory-Bjorklund

Office Manager & Director of Communications: Kate Kvasnak

Finance Manager: Pippa Younger

Sexton: Mark Fischer

Audio Visual Technician: Brynn Artley

Give to the Flower Power Fund!



Thanks to your generous gifts, the Flower Power fund at First UCC is used to purchase plants and flowers to beautify the worship space throughout the year. You can give to the Flower Power fund in honor or in memory of a loved one, either for a specific occasion (such as Easter), or to be used as needed. Cost per plant is \$20.

You may fill out this form, and return with a check to the church office, or place both in the offering plate. Please make out checks to First UCC, and put "Flower Power" in the memo line.

I am giving a gift to the Flower Power fund, designated as follows:

\$_____ to be used for purchases when needed

\$_____ to be used at Easter

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Given By (your name as it should be printed in the bulletin):

Your Name: _____

Your Email: _____