



*If we give ourselves to a daily practice, if we keep taking our vessel to the source even when we feel uninspired or the well seems empty or the journey is boring, if we walk with an openness to what might be waiting for us in the repetition and rhythm of our routines, we may suddenly find ourselves swimming in the grace and love of God that goes deeper than we ever imagined.*

– Jan Richardson, white, female, clergy, artist, poet

**Prelude** *Abide With Me* (with Sonata Pathetique)  
(William H. Monk with Ludvig van Beethoven)

### Lighting of the Candles and Ringing of the Bell

#### Welcome

**Centering Song** *Just Breathe*

Just Breathe, just breathe, each breath is wordless prayer.  
Just breathe, just breathe, God's good is in the air. (repeat after verse)

**Call to Community** (enfleshed.com, adapted)

Let all who yearn for connection, who hunger for justice and thirst for bodily renewal come and be replenished.

**With hope and expectation, we bring all that our soul's desire.**

Let everyone weary from isolation or overwhelmed by life's troubles come and find rest in God's care.

**All those who come seeking community are received in God's gracious embrace.**

May the abundant provision of God be present among us that all may have what they need.

**We come to give, we come to receive, we come to grow in love.**

**\*Hymn** G390 / *Jerusalem, My Destiny* (vs 1-4)

#### Opening Prayer

God Who Knows, all that we experience is held in your care. Nothing is hidden from you - not the burdens we bear in public or the quiet pain felt only in secret. Your love for us welcomes everything that aches. With hearts open to your Spirit, we bring all our hopes and fears to you. Amen.

#### Assurance of Grace and Peace

One: Peace be with you. All: And also with you.

**\*Passing the Peace** *Pour Us Out Like Water*

Pour us out like water on a thirsty world,  
send us out to share the peace that we've found here.  
May we offer up ourselves, humbled now to serve;  
fill us with hope, guide us in faith, send us with love.

**Ancient Reading** *John 4:4-30*

## March 8, 2026 Third Sunday in Lent

We're so glad you've joined us today. Please, feel free to participate as you are comfortable.

*Asterisk (\*) means stand if you wish and are comfortable doing so.*

Photo Zhisheng Deng on Unsplash

Congregational voice parts look like this.

#### Service Volunteers

Usher: Mike VerMerris  
Greeters: Linda Charvat  
Paul Burdick  
Offering & Communion:  
Paul Burdick  
Michael Valdez  
Kirsten Stannis  
Acolyte: Carol Rice  
Reader: Virginia Stuart  
Sound Board:  
Nancy Plantinga  
Video Camera: Chris Clark

#### On Campus This Week

Tuesday

Qigong w/Kat, Friendship Hall, 3-5pm

Church Council Meeting, Isabel Graham Center, 6-8pm

Thursday

Listening Ear, Retreat House, 1-3pm

Pat Denner (269) 509-2911  
Doug Sipsma (269) 998-5112  
Paul Burdick (616) 256-1372  
Michael Valdez (616) 990-1126

Contemplation Hour, Sanctuary, 5-6pm

Social Justice, Isabel Graham Center, 6:30-8pm

Friday

AA Meeting, Friendship Hall, 7:30pm

For more details and more events in the area, scan to read our weekly E-pistle.



#### This Week We Celebrate...

##### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

10: Linda Marth  
12: Annie Hotwagner,  
Bill Stratbucker

##### ANNIVERSARIES

10: Joyce & Kelly Wright

**Contemporary Reading** Patricia Farris, UMC Minister

This story is a model of mutual vulnerability that breaks open possibilities for recognizing our need of one another. Jesus, thirsty in the desert heat. He has no bucket and "the well is deep." This bodily vulnerability is no small thing. Would he have been inclined towards this encounter with the woman if not for his desperation: We don't know.

The woman, arguably fetching weather at the hottest part of the day (noon) because of her social ostracization, is bold enough to both remind Jesus of what separates them - he a Jew and she a Samaritan - and of what connects them - their ancestor Jacob. She is audacious and spars verbally with this strange man.

In their truth-telling, she experiences Jesus as prophet and in turn, she is acclaimed for speaking the word. The two are entangled in a complicated web of otherness, histories, power dynamics - and also, social and physical vulnerabilities.

Sometimes realities of need cut right through the political barriers constructed to keep us from alliances across otherness. The water that quenches thirst is inseparable from water that quenches the soul. They are not two separate realities, but as entangled as the lives and needs of these two humans, despite all the reasons they - and all their interpreters - have to believe otherwise.

Their exchange of "waters" illuminates their mutual dependency. In addition there is exposed the possibility for an unlikely alliance. It is made possible through combinations of mutuality in compassion, and fierce recognition of vulnerability.

**Reflection** The Value of Water  
Rev. Jody Betten

**Offertory Song** *Living Water / As the Deer* (Getty, Cash / Nystrom)  
Sung by Jeff Spangler and Lauri Donaldson

**The Life of the Church • Tibetan Prayer Bell**  
One: Thanks be to God! **All: Alleluia!**  
One: O God, **All: Hear our prayer.**

**\*Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures high and low.  
Praise God for all the Love has done,  
Creator, Christ and Spirit one! Creator, Christ and Spirit one.**

**Celebration of Holy Communion** *Words of Invitation*

**Communion Song** *God Bless To Us Our Bread*  
**God bless to us our bread, and give bread to all those  
who are hungry, and hunger for justice to those who are fed.  
God bless to us our bread.**

**\*Sharing of the Bread and Cup** (gf option, non-alcoholic juice)

**\*The Jesus Prayer** (In Time of War by Ms. Wendy Lyons - adapted)  
Our Creator, who is in heaven, slow to anger, lover of all people,  
**Hallowed be your Name.**  
Remind us that all nations are as nothing before you but a shadow of time.  
**Your kingdom come on earth.**

Grant to your children throughout the world the gift of prayerful thought and thoughtful prayer; that following Jesus, we may discern what is right and do it. **Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.**

Help us protect and provide for all who are hungry and homeless by the tragedy of war. **Give us this day our daily bread.**

Forgive us for neglecting to seek peace and pursue it, more ready to make war than to negotiate. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

**Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.**  
Let us not seek revenge, but reconciliation; not delight in victory, but in justice; not give ourselves up to pride, but to prayer.

**Lead us not into temptation.**

Be present to all your children ravaged by war; be present to those who are killing and being killed; to the loved ones of those who are killing and being killed. **Deliver us from evil.**

Subdue our selfish desires to possess and dominate, and forbid us arrogance in victory.

**For to you belongs the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**\*Hymn** G393 / Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude** *My Tribute (How Can I Say Thanks)* - Andrae' Crouch

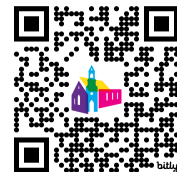
**DUCC Prayer Concerns:**

*Adelle Van Daalen and the family of Jay Van Daalen; Charlene Burdick Paul Burdick's mother); Orië Hawkes; Elinor Hite (Virginia Stuart's sister); Dave Lawson; Christine Kerney; Rev. Marchiene Rienstra Family; Ann and Jim Hopkins; Ruth Fahlstrom (Tom Fahlstrom's daughter); Mikey (friend of Ruth Fahlstrom's); Mary Westenbroek; Eric Cooley (Jo Cooley's brother); Ian Blumer (C. Blumer's nephew); Joy Like A River UCC*

**Weekly Financial Stewardship Report for March 1, 2026**

Attending: 75	Views: 90
Weekly Offerings	\$3,932
Weekly Budget	\$4,615
Weekly to Budget	- \$682
One Great Hour Offering	\$235

If you have any questions, please contact Wayne Titus, Treasurer@douglasucc.org.



Scan, or give from your smartphone by texting any amount to 844-931-2849.

**Thank you!**  
Your gifts sustain our mission.



**douglasucc.org**

# Jerusalem, My Destiny

Refrain

I have fixed my eyes on your hills, Je - ru - sa - lem, my

des - ti - ny! Though I can - not see the end for me, I

can - not turn a - way. We have set our hearts for the

way; this jour - ney is our des - ti - ny. Let

no - one walk a - lone. The jour - ney makes us one. *Last time*

Verses



1. Oth - er spir - its, less - er gods, have court - ed  
2. See, I leave the past be - hind; a new land  
3. In my thirst, you let me drink the wa - ters  
4. All the worlds I have not seen you o - pen  
5. ~~To~~ the tombs I went to mourn the hope I



me with lies. Here a - mong you  
calls to me. Here a - mong you  
of your life. Here a - mong you  
to my view. Here a - mong you  
thought was gone. Here a - mong you



I have found a truth which bids me rise.  
now I find a glimpse of what might be.  
I have met the sav - ior, Je - sus Christ.  
I have found a vi - sion, bright and new.  
I a - woke to un - ex - pect - ed dawn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b.1952  
Tune: Rory Cooney, b.1952  
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# I Heard The Voice Of Jesus Say

Em C D7 G D

1. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come  
 2. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, 'Be -  
 3. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, 'I

4 G Am C Dsus4 D

un - to me and rest;  
 hold I free - ly give  
 am this dark world's light;

6 G C Am7 D G A7 D

Lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down  
 The li - ving wa - ter, thir - sty one,  
 Look un - to me, your morn shall rise,

8 G Am Em

your head up - on my breast'; I  
 stoop down and drink and live'; I  
 and all your day be bright'; I

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'I Heard The Voice Of Jesus Say'. It is written in G major and 4/4 time. The score is divided into four systems, each with a treble and bass staff. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The first system covers measures 1-3, the second covers measures 4-5, the third covers measures 6-7, and the fourth covers measures 8-9. The lyrics are: '1. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come; 2. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, 'Be -; 3. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, 'I un - to me and rest; hold I free - ly give am this dark world's light; Lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down The li - ving wa - ter, thir - sty one, Look un - to me, your morn shall rise, your head up - on my breast'; I stoop down and drink and live'; I and all your day be bright'; I'.

12 Bm Em G Am D G

came to Je - sus as I was, So -  
 came to Je - sus and I drank, Of -  
 looked to Je - sus, and I found, In -

14 C Dsus4 D G

we - ary worn and sad; I  
 of that life - giv - ing stream; My  
 in him my star, my sun; And

17 C Am G A7 D

found in him a rest - ing place, and  
 thirst was quenched my soul re - vived, and  
 in that light of life I'll walk, till

19 G Am Em

he has made me glad.  
 now I live in him.  
 tra - velling days are done.