



*Christians often find themselves in the peculiar position of being followers of the Word Made Flesh who neglect our own flesh, or worse — who treat our bodies with shame and scorn. Here we sit; with our souls tucked away in this marvelous luggage, mostly insensible to the ways in which every spiritual practice begins with the body.*

— Barbara Brown Taylor, American Episcopal priest, author

**Prelude** *On My Heart Imprint Your Image / Bless Now, O God, the Journey*  
(19th cent. Welsh, 18th cent. German hymns, arr. Thomas Keesecker)

## 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)

We may be thirsty, dried out from hurts and anger.  
**And yet, God is still hydrating our spirits with living water.**

We may be wandering, feeling as if we have no direction.  
**And yet God goes ahead guiding us on our journey.**

We may be fearful, wondering what comes next.  
**And yet, God surrounds us with peace.**

We may feel spiritually lost, and anxious.  
**And yet, the Spirit of Strength will never leave our side.**

**\*Hymn** *Jesus, the Spirit Led You* / handout

### Opening Prayer

**God of the Journey, when we wander far into the wilderness, we look for your light to guide us. May the anxieties that fill our minds drift away into the steps of the journey. May we dig within our souls to recognize and loosen the deep trepidation within us. Wherever our journey takes us in this Lenten season, may your holy presence refocus our inner life so our attention is on the divine within, the divine in others and on our connection with all that is sacred in our earth. Amen.**

### Assurance of Grace and Peace

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

## February 22, 2026 First 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 by Delaney Van on Unsplash

Congregational voice parts look like this.

### Service Volunteers

Usher: **Mike VerMerris**  
Greeters: **Jennifer Schwarb, Joyce Wright**  
Offering & Communion: **Tere Krueger, Laurie VanDenBelt, Larry Fuerst**  
Acolyte: **Phil Raywood**  
Reader: **Sue Scott**  
Sound Board: **Nancy Plantinga**  
Video Camera: **Chris Clark**

### On Campus This Week

Monday

**Creation Justice**, Isabel Graham Center, 4:30-6pm

Tuesday

**Qigong w/Kat**, Friendship Hall, 3-4pm

Thursday

**Listening Ear**, Retreat House, 1-3pm

Pat Denner (269) 509-2911,  
Doug Sipsma (269) 998-5112

**Contemplation Hour**, Sanctuary, 5-6pm

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...

#### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

24: **Greg VanPortFleet**  
26: **Bernice Lopata**  
27: **Philip Raywood, Wendy Hamlin**

**\*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** *Matthew 4:1-11*

**Contemporary Reading** *Blessing The Dust* by Jan Richardson

All those days / you felt like dust, / like dirt, / as if all you had  
to do / was turn your face / toward the wind / and be scattered / to  
the four corners / or swept away / by the smallest breath / as  
insubstantial- / did you not know / what the Holy One / can do with  
dust? / This is the day / we freely say / we are scorched. / This is the  
hour / we are marked / by what has made it / through the burning.  
/ This is the moment / we ask for the blessing / that lives within /  
the ancient ashes, / that makes its home / inside the soil of / this  
sacred earth. / So let us be marked / not for sorrow. / And let us be  
marked / not for shame. / Let us be marked / not for false humility /  
or for thinking / we are less / than we are / but for claiming / what  
God can do / within the dust, / within the dirt / within the stuff / of  
which the world / is made / and the stars that blaze / in our bones /  
and the galaxies that spiral / inside the smudge / we bear.

**Reflection** Gotta Serve Somebody  
Rev. Jody Betten

**Offertory Song** *The Wanderer* (Herman Beefink)  
Flute Solo by 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 Bread of Life, the Gift of Heaven. **Amen.**  
The Cup of Love, the Drink of Compassion. **Amen.**

**\*The Jesus Prayer**

(an interpretation of "Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.")

Don't let surface things delude us, but free us from what holds us  
back from our true purpose. Don't let forgetfulness, the temptation of  
false appearances, the fraud of inner vacillations like a flag tossed in  
the wind, alert us. Break the hold of unripeness, the inner stagnation  
that prevents good fruit. From the evil of injustice, the green fruit  
and the rotten, grant us liberty. Deceived neither by the outer nor the  
inner, free us to walk your path with joy. Keep us from hoarding false  
wealth, and from the inner shame of help not given in time. Don't let  
surface things delude us, but free us from what holds us back. **Amen.**  
(Prayers of the Cosmos, by Neil Douglas Klotz)

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

**\*Benediction**

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

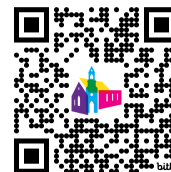
**DUCC Prayer Concerns:**

Adelle Van Daalen and the family of Jay Van Daalen;  
Charlene Burdick (Paul Burdick's mother);  
Orie Hawkes; Elinor Hite (Virginia Stuart's sister);  
Dave Lawson;  
Christine Kerney;  
Dan McGavin and Family of Carol Brown; Rev. Marchiene Rienstra Family;  
Ann and Jim Hopkins;  
Ruth Fahlstrom (Tom Fahlstrom's daughter);  
Mikey (friend of Ruth Fahlstrom's);  
Mary Westenbroek;  
Max Matteson; Eric Cooley (Jo Cooley's brother);  
Ian Blumer (C. Blumer's nephew); Hudsonville UCC

**Weekly Financial Stewardship Report for February 15, 2026**

Attending: 63	Views: 80
Weekly Offerings	\$3,713
Weekly Budget	\$4,615
Weekly to Budget	- \$902

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**

# Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley 39



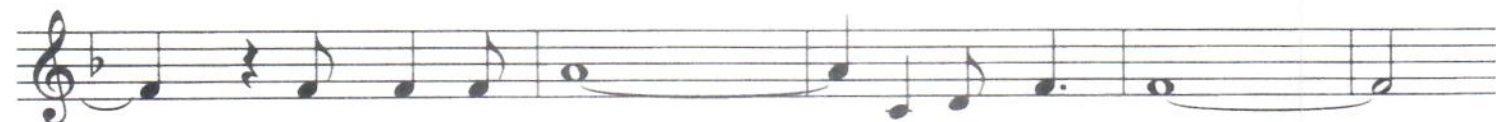
1. Je - sus walked this lone - some val - ley;  
2. We must walk this lone - some val - ley;  
3. You must go and stand your tri - al;



He had to walk it by him - self.  
We have to walk it by our - selves.  
You have to stand it by your - self.



Oh, no - bod - y else could walk it for him;  
Oh, no - bod - y else can walk it for us;  
Oh, no - bod - y else can stand it for you;



He had to walk it by him - self.  
We have to walk it by our - selves.  
You have to stand it by your - self.

Text: American Folk Hymn

Tune: LONESOME VALLEY, 8 8 10 8; American folk hymn; harm. by Richard Proulx, b.1937. © 1975, GIA Publications, Inc.

# Jesus, the Spirit Led You

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Henry T. Smart (LANCASHIRE)

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The music is divided into four systems, each with a measure number (1, 5, 9, 13) at the beginning. The lyrics are printed below the treble clef staff. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes in both hands.

1. Je - sus the Spi - rit led you in - to the wil - der - ness; For  
2. High on the tem - ple to - wer you heard the temp - tor say: "If  
3. You were in most ways, like us, and yet you did not stray. We're

5  
for - ty days the de - vil would put you to the test. You  
you think God has po - wer then sim - ply step this way!" But  
grate ful you walk with us to - day and ev - 'ry day. May

9  
fas - ted! You were fam - ished! And soon the de - vil said, "If  
You re - buked the de - vil, said "No!" and turned a - round. When  
we in each de - ci - sion, be faith - ful, strong, and sure. My

13  
you're God's son, then show it; just turn these stones to bread.  
oth - ers fell for e - vil, You stood on sol - id ground.  
we too have a vis - ion of things that will en - dure.