

St. John United Church of Christ
“In Christ We Live, Celebrate, & Serve”

March 8, 2026

3rd Sunday in Lent (A)

Rev. Karla Frost, Pastor

David R. Ekstrand, Dir. of Music

9:30 Zoom & In-Person Worship

9:30 Sunday School for Children

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Large print bulletins are available from the Ushers.

Bold italic denotes congregation reads or sings.

*Denotes all who are able, please stand.

WE COME TO WORSHIP GOD

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*GREETING ONE ANOTHER WITH A SMILE AND WAVE

*RESPONSE¹ ***“Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights”***

Vs. 1 #250

***Throughout these Lenten days and nights
we turn to walk the inward way,
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,
we live in hope till Easter Day.***

GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY PRESENTATIONS

Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try:

To serve God and my country,

To help people at all times,

And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

PRAYER FOR ALL GIRL SCOUTS OF CHRISTIAN FAITH

***Dear Father in Heaven, we know we are your children, we
want to serve you faithfully, and we want to keep our Girl Scout
Promise. Help us to listen to your voice; help us to be willing
and quick to do your work; help us to be friendly and loving; and
help us to thank you every day for all your gifts to us. Through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

I Love to Tell the Story

*CALL TO WORSHIP WITH RESPONSIVE READING OF OUR
MEMORY PLAQUE

On March 8, 1871 there was a tremendous storm

***Which destroyed St. Johns' Church
and also the Organ.***

In Memory of the loss, St. Johns' Congregation
ordered a Prayerday and a Fast.

From this date and every year until eternity.

[Text referenced: Isaiah 54:7-10.]

For a brief moment I abandoned you,
but with great compassion I will gather you.

***In overflowing wrath for a moment,
I hid my face from you,***

But with everlasting love I will have compassion on you,
says the Lord, your Redeemer.

This is like the days of Noah to me:

Just as I swore that the waters of Noah
would never again go over the earth,

***So I have sworn that I will not be angry with you
and will not rebuke you.***

For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed,
but my steadfast love shall not depart from you,

And my covenant of peace shall not be removed,

Says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION²

***Spring of eternal life, well up within us. Wash away our fears
and sweep aside the hurdles that keep our hearts from
embracing life and from renewing our spirits in your grace. Give
us the confidence to share the good news of your mercy and
compassion with everyone we meet. In the promise of your
grace, we worship and pray. Amen.***

*HYMN

"Search Me, O God"

#385

LENTEN INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Jeremiah 29:11-13

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for
your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then
when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.
When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your
heart.

LENTEN PRAYER OF CONFESSION³

Holy God, you have called us to live in faith and freedom, but we live with tightness in our chest. You have called us to move in a new direction, but we cling to the path we know. You have called us to reach outward in love, but we draw inward for protection. You have called us to live confidently, and in trust, but we live cautiously, and in fear. God, forgive us. Amen.

LENTEN ASSURANCE OF PARDON

John 3:17

Believe the good news! God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 17:1-7

pg. 61

ANTHEM *We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God*

Glockenspiel

GOSPEL LESSON

From John 4:5-42

pg. 89

MEDITATION

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN

"Have Thine Own Way"

#486

PASTORAL PRAYER & UNISON 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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY

Hallelujah

*RESPONSE ***"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"***

Vss. 1 & 4 #261

***When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride***

***Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.***

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION²

Eternal Spirit, Source of healing and wholeness, receive our grateful hearts for your many blessings. Transform the gifts we bring this day into Christ's promise of living water for the world. Wash those who are touched by today's offering in your goodness and grace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN ***"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"*** #601

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *Grace Alone*

¹"Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights" Words: James Germainian (1947-)
Music: William H. Havergal (1793-1870).

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