

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1201 JEFFERSON STREET
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN 49441

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fccmuskegon.org

REV. BRUCE MULDER + INTERIM MINISTER ▯

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT — MARCH 8, 2026

WELCOME & COMMUNITY NEWS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

Cantilena, by Josef Rheinberger

GATHERING PRAYER

The grace and peace of Jesus Christ, the steadfast love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all

And also with you

Let us pray

**From Bethlehem to Nazareth, from Jordan to Jericho,
from Bethany to Jerusalem, from then to now,
come, Lord Jesus.**

**To heal the sick, to mend the brokenhearted,
to comfort the disturbed, to disturb the comfortable,
to cleanse the temple, to liberate faith from convention,
come, Lord Jesus.**

**To carry the cross, to lead the way,
to shoulder the sin of the world and take it away,
come, Lord Jesus.**

**Today, to this place, to us,
come, Lord Jesus.**

Amen.

Those who wish may stand

OPENING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

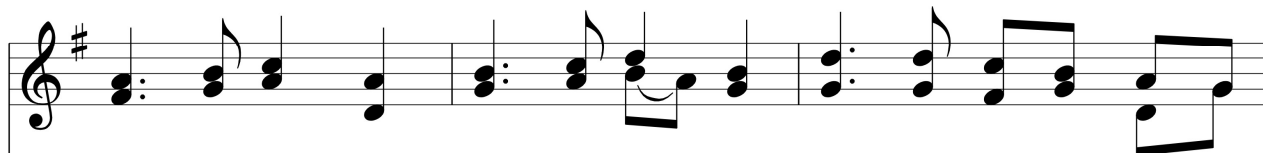
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah



1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this bar - ren land;
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing stream doth flow;
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious fears sub - side;



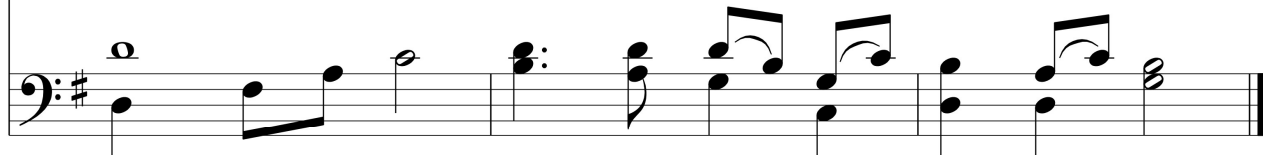
I am weak, but thou art might - y—hold me with thy power - ful hand:
let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my jour - ney through:
bear me through the swell - ing cur - rent, land me safe on Ca - naan's side:



Bread of heav - en, Bread of heav - en, feed me till I want no
Strong De - liv - erer, strong De - liv - erer, be thou still my strength and
Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to



more, (want no more,) feed me till I want no more.
shield, (strength and shield,) be thou still my strength and shield.
thee, (give to thee,) I will ev - er give to thee.



SCRIPTURE READING

John 4:5-42

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,

"Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that Sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So, when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

CHORAL ANTHEM

I've Just Come from the Fountain, by Daniel Kallman

I've just come from the fountain, Lord.

I've just come from the fountain, his name's so sweet

Oh brother, do you love Jesus? Yes, yes, I do love my Jesus.

O brother, do you love Jesus? His name's so sweet.

I've just come from...

Oh sister, do you love Jesus?

Oh sinner, do you love Jesus?

I've just come from the fountain, Lord.

I've just come from the fountain, his name's so sweet.

MESSAGE

Woman And Water and Food. Oh, My!

Those who wish may stand

Those who wish may stand

HYMN OF REFLECTION

Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty



1. "Come to me, all pil - grims thirst - y; Drink the
2. "Come to me, all trav - 'lers wea - ry; Come that
3. "Come to me, be - liev - ers bur - dened; Find re -
4. "Come to me, re - pent - ant sin - ners; Leave be -
5. "Come to me, dis - tressed and need - y; I will
6. "Come to me, a - ban - doned, or - phaned; Lone - ly



wa - ter I will give. If you knew what gift I of - fer,
I may give you rest. Drink the cup of life I of - fer;
fresh - ment in this place. Come, re - ceive the gift I of - fer;
hind your guilt and shame. If you knew di - vine com - pas - sion,
be your trust - ed friend. Seek the gift of life I of - fer;
ways no long - er roam. Come, ac - cept the gift I of - fer;



You would come to me and live."
At this ta - ble be my guest."
Turn to me and seek my face."
You would turn and call my name." Je - sus, ev - er -
Come, your o - pen hands ex - tend."
Come and make in me your home."



flow - ing foun - tain, give us wa - ter from your well.



In the gra - cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

. . . ending with 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 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.**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Chant for Lent, by Steven Van Wye

Choir first, then ALL



We a - dore you, O Christ, and we bless you.



You have re - deemed the world!

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DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father (Creator), Son (Christ), and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Those who wish may stand

CLOSING HYMN

I Love to Tell the Story

Those who wish may stand



I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove.
I love to tell the sto - ry; more won - der - ful it seems



Of Je - sus' ra - diant glo - ry, of Jes - sus' end - less love.
than all the gold - en vi - sions of all our gold - en dreams.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true; it
I love to tell the sto - ry, I tell it now to you be -



sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do.
cause I want to share it, be - cause I know it's true.

I love to tell the sto - ry; and when I am in glo - ry I'll

tell the old, old sto - ry of Jes - sus' end - less love.

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

Psalm XVIII, by Benedetto Marcello

Today's Service

Rev. Bruce Mulder

Dr. Michael Match

John Mattson

The Motet Choir

Roy Portenga

Blake Filius

Interim Pastor

Music Director

Organist

Song Leaders

Liturgist/Prayer

Audio and Video

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Those whose last names begin with the letters E through J please bring cookies or treats during the month of March. Please label ingredients as we have many with allergies.

Child Care is available on the second floor for infants and toddlers.

Picture Directory continues! Members, we would like to take your picture in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour.

Want to learn to knit? Sue Mixer will be teaching an introductory class designed around making prayer shawls for the Member Care Department. 231-327-2976

Shirley Albers will present a program in the Fellowship Hall titled, "History's Hidden Heroines" after worship service.

There is a painting class scheduled for March 18 at 1PM.

Please check on updates and activities at the church on our website: fccmuskegon.org
FREE EVENT - REGISTRATION REQUIRED at www.bit.ly/LGBTQandfaith A panel of local LGBTQ+ community members, moderated by Susan Harrison Wolffis, will share their stories of joy and challenge in faith communities on March 9th, 6pm at The Corner, 280 W. Muskegon Ave. Our own Addie W. will be on the panel. Don't forget to register!

MOBILIZATION PEACE AND TRAINING TEAM (MPT) MPT DE-ESCALATION SKILLS TRAINING Saturday, March 21, 2026 9 AM-5 PM (Gather at 8:30 AM) Sponsored by the Muskegon County Cooperating Churches Peace and Justice Team at FCC. Fliers at Welcome Center \$85 donation.

Muskegon County Cooperating Churches continues its ministry to Muskegon County by partnering with community leaders to end level one violence in our community. Level one violence are issues like food insecurity, housing insecurity, violence, injustice, violation of basic human rights. FCC is an active member of MCCC partnering to help our neighbors in need. Your gift today will be used to help support Peace and Justice ministries of MCCC, such as Training the Trainers.

FCC IS AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING COMMUNITY "We, the people of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, of Muskegon, care for the welfare of our community and welcome everyone, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey. We welcome into our community people of every age, race, nationality, mental and physical ability, economic and social status, faith background, marital standing, family structure, gender identity and expression, and sexual orientation. We also invite you to share in the life, leadership, worship, fellowship, sacraments responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our congregation as we seek to grow together in faith and love." *Adopted by congregational vote 10/17/21*