

**St. Vincent UCC Worship Service
Third Sunday in Lent – March 8, 2026**

Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson
Church Musician – Deb Rick



Musical Interlude

Ringing of the Bell

Pastor's Welcome

Prelude Music

*** Call To Worship:**

Pastor: We have come to worship today to give thanks to God for our lives and the lives of those whom we love and the ability to make our lives better.

People: **This is our journey of faith – and we trust in God to be with us on this journey so that all our hopes and dreams will come true.**

Pastor: Let us, then, rest in his care as we affirm our faith ...

*** Affirmation of Faith:**

With all Christians everywhere, we believe in one God, who made everything. The Father sent his son Jesus to live among us and teach us his ways. He died on the cross but rose again as Lord of all that we might live forever with him.

God sent his Holy Spirit to live inside each of us, that we might grow to become more like Jesus. And so that we can affirm for our own hearts and minds that always and forever, God will love us and be with us in all things – no matter what. Amen.

Now, let us sing together our first hymn.

*** Hymn: # 197, “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”**

Let us Pause for a Time of Prayer

Call to Prayer:

God wants us to share with him everything there is to know about us. He is the living water of our souls and the One who loves us more than we can imagine. With gratitude, let us turn to God and pray together about that ...

Unison Prayer:

O Holy God, we gather together in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Open our hearts and minds and be living water for our souls - so that we can

discern your will for us, our families, and our church. In all things, may we be a blessing to one another and to your mission in this world. Come and be with us in this time of worship, for we long to be more like you in all ways. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance:

God knows all about us and still, he loves us unconditionally. He has sent his son, Jesus to find us wherever we are, heal us, strengthen us, and refresh us with the living water of his holy spirit. Now, let us hear about one encounter Jesus had with a woman near a well in which he was living water to her.

Now, let's sing our response ...

Sung Response: # 772, "Nothing Can Trouble" (Praise Book)

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten - those who seek God shall never go wanting. Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten - God alone fills us.

Scripture Reading: Liturgist: Brenda McFadden

Liturgist: We now turn our hearts and minds to the reading of God's Holy Scripture. Our lesson today comes from the Gospel of John, chapter 4, verses 5-42, where we hear the story of Jesus and the woman at the well.

Let us pray: God of all Blessings, be with us this day and especially during this time of worship – for our hearts and minds are open to hearing the message you want us to hear. May the living water that Jesus brings into our lives fill us up and make us more like him in every way. Amen.

Read Scripture Lesson (found on page 94 of the NT in Pew Bible)

Jesus 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, who was tired out by his long journey, was sitting by that well. It was about noon and Jesus had sent his disciples into the city to buy food.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink". The Samaritan woman was surprised because she knew that Jews, who considered themselves superior to the Samaritans, did not share things in common with them.

So, she said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" 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, who is called the Christ, is coming. 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 anything or questioned him about it.

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?” The people were curious, so they left the city and were on their way to where Jesus waited.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him to eat some of the food they had brought back from the city. But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” And the disciples said to one another, “It's not possible that someone else has already brought him something to eat.”

So, Jesus explained to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Look around us – don't we watch our fields in order to prepare for the time of harvest? It is the same with the work of my Father. See what is right in front of your eyes – these Samaritan fields are ripe for harvesting! How easy it will be for us because these people have been waiting a long time to hear the message we have brought to them this day. That's what it means to say, 'One sows and another reaps'. Someone else has already labored for it and you have entered into that work.”

The Samaritans who came from the city to the Well, already believed in Jesus because of the woman's testimony. And they were so touched by his teaching that they asked him to stay with them so that they could hear more; and he stayed there for two days.

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.”

Liturgist: Here ends the reading of God's Holy Scripture. May God bless us with understanding and may we show our understanding in the way we live our lives. Amen.

Now, let's sing our hymn, # 207, “Just As I Am“

Hymn: # 207, “Just As I Am”

Message: “Meeting Jesus at the Well”

Sung Response: # 2152, “Change My Heart O God”

Change my heart, O God – make it ever true. Change my heart, O God – may I be like you. You are the Potter - I am the clay. Mold me and make me - this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God - make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God - may I be like you.

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Offering Invitation: Everything comes to us as a gift from God – our families, our talents, our challenges, our treasures, our minds, our bodies – even the water that sustains us and gives us life. Let us be mindful of the living water that nourishes our souls as well, as we now present our gifts to God through our morning offering.

Offertory

*** Response: # 780 Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessing flow. Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above, you heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*** Prayer of Dedication: O gracious God, we give you thanks for your many gifts to us of food and shelter, of family and loved ones. Keep us mindful of how blessed we are and help make us generous to those who are in need. Accept these gifts, as a sign of our willingness to serve you. Bless and multiply them to your use, for we make this offering in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

*** Hymn: # 300, “Jesus Shall Reign” (verses 1, 3, 5)**

*** Benediction: May the living water of Christ find within each of us that which is thirsty and quench that thirst – so that we too may be a well that springs up and overflows into the lives of those around us. Let us go forth into the world, drinking deeply of the living water and knowing that God is with us in all things. Amen**

*** Response: # 78, “Part in Peace” (verse 3)**

Part in peace! Our voices raising – in God’s presence always be. This the worship and the praising – bringing peace to you and me.

*** Postlude Music**