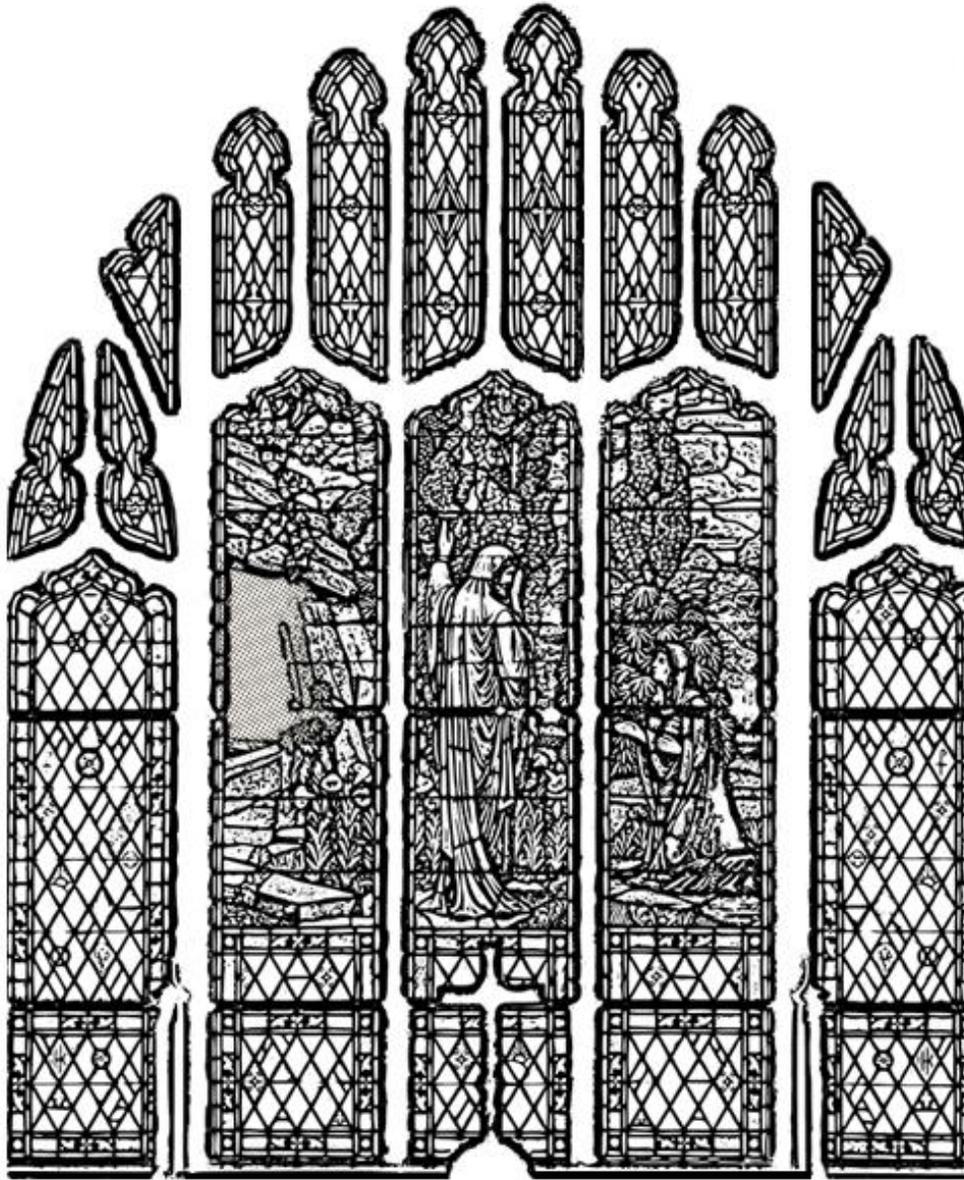


# MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, March 8, 2026, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

The Third Sunday in Lent

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3319 WEST LIBERTY AVENUE ... PITTSBURGH, PA 15216 ... 412-531-7131

THE REV'D THOMAS Q. STRANDBURG, PASTOR ... [tstrandburg@mlumc.org](mailto:tstrandburg@mlumc.org)



**Sunday, March 8, 2026 – Lent III**

*Let us travel deep into the wilderness today on this third Sunday of Lent. Sure, you can cut out chocolate for another few weeks. Step it up at the gym, and yes, maybe sit quietly for ten minutes in the morning. But what can the Israelites of their time in the wilderness, where their survival was in the balance, show us? Is it coming face to face with God because we have no alternative?*

*\*Indicates an invitation to stand in spirit or posture, as able.*

**The Prelude**

*Kyrie*

Girolamo Frescobaldi  
offered by Mr. Brenton Rahman

**The Introit (10:45)**

*Since by Man Came Death*  
No. 46 from Messiah (HWV56)

G.F. Handel

**\*Opening Hymn**

**“Come, ye sinners, poor and needy”**

**UMH 340**

**\*The Greeting & Call to Worship**

∞ The Lord be with you.

℞ **And also with you.**

∞ Come, let us worship God! Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

℞ **Come, let us worship our Shepherd!**

∞ We are the sheep of God’s pasture, and we follow where God leads us.

℞ **Come, let us open our hearts!**

∞ We receive God’s love poured into our hearts through the Spirit.

℞ **Come, let us worship God, the rock of our salvation!**

∞ Let us worship God, whose mercy guides and sustains us on the path of new life!

**\*Opening Prayer**

*Said by all, with one voice.*

**As we wander through dry and weary places,  
we often forget that you are near.**

**Like your people in the wilderness, we thirst for life,  
and like the woman at the well, we long for living water.**

**Meet us here today, O Lord.**

**Quench our thirst with your mercy and your truth.**

**Open our hearts to the gift of the water that never runs dry.**

**As you brought water from the rock and offered living water through Christ,  
refresh our spirits and renew our faith.**

**In the name of Jesus Christ, the source of living water, we pray. Amen.**

**\*Silent Prayer**

**\*Response**

**“Fill my cup, Lord”**

**UMH 641**

**A Message for Young Disciples (10:45 am)**

*As the young disciples gather at the front of the church, all sing:*

**This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.  
Water, God's word, bread and cup, prayer and song: This is where children belong.**

*The young disciples (3 yr. - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade) then depart the sanctuary for Kids Praise.*

*Teachers will lead them back to the sanctuary prior to the conclusion of the service.*

**The First Lesson**

**A Reading from Exodus**

**Ex. 17:1-7**

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?”

So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

**Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.**

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Hymn**

**“Come, all of you”**

**UMH 350**

## **\*The Second Lesson**

## **A Reading from the Gospel according to John**

JN. 4:5-15

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, 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."

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **The Pastoral Prayer & 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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,  
for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**The Sermon**

**"A Deep Well"**

**Mr. Seitz**

## **\*The Affirmation of Faith**

UMH 882

*All are invited to stand, in spirit or in posture, and to face the altar as the affirmation of faith is recited.*

Pastor: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare:

**All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## **\*The Sign of Peace**

*℣.* The peace of Christ be with you.

*℟.* And also with you.

*The people are now invited to share signs of peace with their fellow members of Christ's body.  
Extended conversation would ideally and most appropriately be reserved until the end of the service.*

## **Announcements**

### *At the Offertory*

<b>The Offertory Hymn (8:30 am)</b>	<b>"Go down, Moses"</b>	<b>UMH 448</b>
The Anthem (10:45 am)	<i>Kyrie Eleison</i>	Joh. Chr. Heinrich Rinck (1770-1846)

**\*The Doxology & Prayer of Dedication** **UMH 95**

**\*The Sending Hymn** **"Jesus, lover of my soul"** **UMH 479**

## \*The Dismissal

∇. Let us bless the Lord.

℞. Thanks be to God.

## \*The Benediction, Choral Amen (10:45) & Recessional

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### *Prayer Concerns*

**Quay Strandburg**, *father of Pastor Tom, who is gravely ill.*

**David Barber**, *son of Gloria Barber, who is suffering from cancer, that he might have peace and relief from pain.*

**Gary Henry**, *undergoing cancer treatment.*

The Rev'd **Deborah Ackley-Killian**, *undergoing cancer treatment.*

**Norma Buhrman**, *enduring serious illness.*

*For those serving their country or community as first responders or in the armed forces, especially:*

SPC **Russell Dale** - CPT **Shaun Hay** - LTC **Azizi Wesmiller** - LTC **Matthew Wesmiller**

2LT **Keith Cable** - LTC **Zachary Allen Finch** - CPL **Wyatt Hoover**

*We pray for victims of violence in our nation and around the world.*

*We pray for our church community, and all who will encounter us in this season of Lent, that we might grow in holiness and in love toward one another.*

*This week, we remember and pray for Christ's body throughout the world, especially remembering this week the church in **Ireland and the United Kingdom.** (Prayer Cycle of the World Council of Churches).*

*Please remember the special concerns of those in our community and throughout our world in your personal prayer life throughout the week. If you wish to solicit prayers from the congregation for any matter (health, travel, special concerns, etc.), please contact the church office to have your concern added to the prayer list.*

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*Leaders in Worship this Morning*

SAMANTHA BAKER AND DILLON SCHMIDT, ACOLYTES

ALAN CHESLEIGH, CROSS BEARER

LIZ DIPiETRO (8:30AM) AND DERICK FLORIAN (10:45AM), LECTOR

THE CHOIR OF THE MT. LEBANON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MR. A. MITCHELL V. STECKER, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & LITURGY

MR. DAVID SEITZ, PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

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*The altar flowers this morning given by  
Laura, Nate, Asher, & Silas Ward  
to the glory of God and  
in loving memory of  
Bob Ward.*

*To provide flowers for a future service of worship, please call the church office at 412-531-7131,  
or use the form linked through the QR code below.*

