



The United Church of Canada
Prairie Spirit Pastoral Charge
Coaldale United and St. Andrew's UC
Trinity and First United
Worship leader Rev Ruth Preston Schilk
Reader: Gerry Dyck
Music: Cheryl Nelson

March 8, 2026

Third Sunday of Lent

Announcements:

Land Acknowledgement:

Introit:

Refrain: Spirit Come – Refrain 2x:

Spirit come (Spirit come),
Spirit come (Spirit come),
Open our eyes
Open our hearts
Come, Spirit, come

Call to Worship:

Lord I am thirsty
Come to the well
My soul is weary
Come to the well
Bruised and battered
Come to the well
Tired and discouraged
Come to the well
Misunderstood
Come to the well
Judged and found wanting
Come to the well
Wounded and withdrawn
Come to the well

Ready to quit
Come to the well
Come to the well
where there is water that is
thirst quenching
wound healing
soul soothing
life giving

Water of life
found in the One
who knows our name
and calls us back
to drink deeply
of the Wisdom of the Well.

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Lenten Tenebrae:

Gospel Reading: John 4:5-42

5 So Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

7 A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." 8 (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) 9 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.) 10 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." 11 The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12 Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" 13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 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." 15 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."

16 Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." 17 The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you have

now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" 19 The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. 20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." 21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 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. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." 25 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." 26 Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

27 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?" 28 Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 29 "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" 30 They left the city and were on their way to him.

31 Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." 32 But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." 33 So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" 34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. 35 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. 36 The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. 37 For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' 38 I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour."

39 Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. 41 And many more believed because of his word. 42 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 Saviour of the world."

Four candles are lit, as well as the Christ candle.

One: We live in a world of many divisions: class, gender, religion, race, and politics.

All: **It is not easy to risk our vulnerabilities in order to get to know someone who seems different.**

One: Though God welcomes all peoples, invites the gifts of all nations, and celebrates the uniqueness of each culture, we live in poverty when we remain separated.

All: **Our lines of separation diminish our togetherness and diminish our humanity.**

One: Like the Samaritan woman at the well, we are thirsty for a drink that will quench our deepest yearnings.

All: **We long to drink deeply at the well.**

One: Yet, we remain thirsty and we live a life of quiet desperation.
The third candle is extinguished.

All sing: (MV 90) “Don’t be afraid”

**Don’t be afraid
My love is stronger, my love is stronger than your fear
Don’t be afraid,
My love is stronger, and I have promised,
Promised to be always near.**

Let us pray.

All: O Christ, you said, “Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.” * Therefore, O God, we pray that you will quench our deepest thirst for acceptance, love, and peace. Fill our cup with your spirit till it overflows. May we drink to our heart’s content at your well. May we live a life of blessing by giving to others what you give to us with generosity, courage, and hope.
Amen. *Matthew 7:7

Hymn: VU 222 Come, Let Us Sing

Prayer for Healing:

Words of Assurance: based on Romans 5:1-5 (from The Message)

Hymn: MV 117 By the Well, a Thirsty Woman

Scripture Reading: Exodus 17:1-7

17 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. 2 The people quarrelled 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?" 3 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?" 4 So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." 5 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. 6 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. 7 He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

May God bless our understanding of these scriptures.

Message:

Hymn: MV 92

Like a Rock

Minute for Mission: Partnership in Bloom:

Spring doesn't arrive quietly. It pushes. It breaks through frozen ground, insisting on life.

That same insistence is at work through Mission and Service partners around the world. And when we give to Mission and Service, we're not simply supporting good intentions. We're strengthening this steady, rooted, courageous work that is already underway.

Our generosity supports partners as they show up, day in and day out, wherever there is need.

When wildfires displace families: they're there to open their doors in welcome.
When food prices rise beyond reach: they're organizing food distribution before cupboards are bare.

When storms wash away infrastructure: they're planting crops in soil made fragile by climate change.

When isolation presses in on communities: they're creating safe spaces for learning, healing, and belonging.

Every gift we give through Mission and Service is fuel for this response. Our collective generosity becomes groceries on a table, a workshop that shifts harmful beliefs, seeds planted in changing climates, and training for leaders.

This work is not theoretical. It's daily, practical, and faithful. And it grows because, together, we continue to help it grow.

Spring is coming. Let's make sure hope grows everywhere it's needed.

Give to support Mission and Service today; help love take root.

Mission Prayer:

God is creative and self-giving, generously moving in all the near and distant corners of the universe. Nothing exists that does not find its source in God. Our first response to God's providence is gratitude. We sing thanksgiving. Amen

Invitation to Offering:

Doxology: MV 18 Lord Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy tried and true;
with thanksgiving, I'll be a living
sanctuary for you.**

Offering Prayer:

Prayers of Our Hearts:

Lord's Prayer (sung): music by Pat Mayberry:

***Creator God, 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 and ever. Amen.***

Hymn: MV 87

Water Flowing from the Mountains

Commissioning and Benediction

Sung Blessing: VU 298

When You Walk from Here with 3-Fold Amen

When you walk from here,
when you walk from here,
walk with justice, walk with mercy,
and with God's humble care. (x2)
Amen, Amen, Amen.