



In the abundance of water – the fool is thirsty.
~ Bob Marley

March 8, 2026

Third Sunday of Lent

9:30 a.m.

Prelude

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

arr. Matthews
Keith Ciccone, organ

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Karen E. Gale

Passing the Peace

Peace be with you!

Peace be with you!

Let us pass the peace with one another...

* Introit

Tree of Life

**Tree of Life and awesome mystery,
In your death we are reborn,
Though you die in all of history,
Still you rise with every morn.
Still you rise with every morn.**

**Living Water of salvation,
Be the fountain of each soul;
Springing up in new creation,
Flow in us and make us whole.
Flow in us and make us whole.**

* Call to Worship

Come, all who thirst—come to the water!

You who long for the water of life—come and drink!

Dip your soul in the river of God's goodness;

quench your thirst at God's well of grace.

For God is here among us, offering living water to all who would drink!

Let's worship God together!

* Hymn 432

Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah

Lenten Prayer of Confession

Let us confess the excuses we have made for not living for the kingdom of God:

For our blindness to the needs of others and our preoccupation with our own agenda,

Lord, have mercy.

For our failure to pay attention to the still, small voice in our lives,

For our surrender to fear and self-protection,

Christ, have mercy.

For harsh words spoken to our friends, and love withheld from our enemies,

Lord, have mercy.

* Indicates all who are able may stand.

Please silence your cellphones.

For seeking success rather than faithfulness, for praying without acting,

Christ, have mercy.

For our life choices this week that have not contributed to greater love and justice in the world.

Lord, have mercy.

May we turn back again to the Source of living water, poured out for us all, abundant and never failing.

Christ, in your mercy, hear our prayers. Amen.

Children's Time

Scripture

Exodus 17:1-7

Directed by God, the whole company of Israel moved on by stages from the Wilderness of Sin. They set camp at Rephidim. And there wasn't a drop of water for the people to drink. The people took Moses to task: "Give us water to drink." But Moses said, "Why pester me? Why are you testing God?"

But the people were thirsty for water there. They complained to Moses, "Why did you take us from Egypt and drag us out here with our children and animals to die of thirst?" Moses cried out in prayer to God, "What can I do with these people? Any minute now they'll kill me!"

God said to Moses, "Go on out ahead of the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel. Take the staff you used to strike the Nile. And go. I'm going to be present before you there on the rock at Horeb. You are to strike the rock. Water will gush out of it and the people will drink."

Moses did what he said, with the elders of Israel right there watching. He named the place Massah (Testing-Place) and Meribah (Quarreling) because of the quarreling of the Israelites and because of their testing of God when they said, "Is God here with us, or not?"

John 4:5-30, 39-42

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."

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...

...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."

*Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

Sermon

"Living Water"

Rev. Karen E. Gale

Musical Reflection

My Song Is Love Unknown

Keith Ciccone, Baritone
Nancy Mills, Soprano

Prayers of the People/Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Our Father (Creator), 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.

*Hymn 50

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Dedication of the Offering

*Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures, here, below.
Praise God, above, ye heav'nly hosts.
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

**Loving Christ, source of living water,
Help us love as you loved, without boundary or limit.
Help us give as you gave, generously and abundantly.
Help us live as you lived, with God at the center of all we do.
Accept these gifts, part of the living water we offer to your church and the world.
Amen.**

*Hymn 47

Great is Thy Faithfulness

*Benediction

Postlude

Hosanna

arr. Tuttle



**Today's Coffee Hour Host is
Janet Holton**



Rev. Karen E. Gale, Interim Pastor ❖ revkarengale@gmail.com
Keith Ciccone, Director of Music ❖ keciccon@aol.com
Mattie Gietman, Dir. Children's Ministry ❖ mattie@firstchurchbraintree.com
Deb McMartin, Administrator ❖ office@firstchurchbraintree.com
Valerie Fink, Bookkeeper ❖ finance@firstchurchbraintree.com