



Welcome to Worship

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Menomonie, Wisconsin

Third Sunday in Lent
March 12, 2023

Welcome

Prelude/Candle-lighting

“Like a River Glorious”
(Cindy Berry)

RuthAnn Ledgerwood

Ringing of the Bell

Lenten Chant

Return to God

Refrain

Re-turn to God with all your heart, the source of grace and
mer-cy: come seek the ten-der faith-ful-ness of God.

*Call to Worship

Leader: We've come to worship God, who makes streams flow from rock

All: **Who turns the parched earth into springs of water**

Leader: Who sends the rain from heaven

All: **And makes the wilderness blossom and flourish.**

Leader: As the deer thirsts for flowing streams, so we thirst for our God.

All: **Come, let us worship our life-giving God, who pours out living water on all who thirst.**

*Opening Prayer (unison)

O God, we gather at your waters as a crowd gathers on the beach on a sweltering summer day. We drink at your fountain as a parched dog laps at the fresh water of a bush creek. We await your refreshment as a tired worker watches for the change of shift. Quench our thirst, O God; satisfy our longings. May we be refreshed and restored as we return to your living water. Teach us where to find the bucket and how to carry it so that we might draw that water for those who most need it. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

“Like A Healing Stream”

SoF #84

Readings

Marian Ellison

Exodus 17:1-6

John 4:11-15

"At Blackwater Pond" by Mary Oliver

Anthem

"River in Judea"
(arr. J. Leavitt)

Chancel Choir

Sermon*Living Water/Living Faith*

Rev. Kathleen Remund

Transitional Music

RuthAnn Ledgerwood

Prayers of the People**Lord's Prayer**

Our Father/Mother/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.

Offering/Offertory

"Le Onde" or "The Waves"
(by L. Einaudi)

RuthAnn Ledgerwood

***Doxology (in unison)**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all people here below;
Praise God above you heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication (in unison)**

God, our Provider, you lead us to springs of living water. Your love and hope fill our hearts. Open our eyes to see the ways we might offer living water to those around us. Direct our gifts and offerings for your purposes, so that those who need to drink from your springs may do so. Amen.

Closing Hymn"I've Got Peace Like A River"*

Hymnal #368

***Benediction**

Leader: Go forth, my friends, and know that we are always invited to return to God, our Living Water. There is no place so far away, no secret so dire, no betrayal so utter that we cannot turn around and return to our Source, take steps towards repair, redirect our path. The way home awaits us, always.

All: **Amen.**

*Sung Benediction

Return to God

Refrain

Re - turn to God with all your heart, the source of grace and
mer - cy: come seek the ten - der faith - ful - ness of God.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the refrain, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Postlude

RuthAnn Ledgerwood

The flowers today are in memory of Wendy MacDougall from Deb and John Wesolek.

- The Call to Worship was adapted from one written by Christine Longhurst and posted at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com>.
- The Opening Prayer was adapted from one written by Anita Monro and posted on the *MAD-e-Lena* blog, <http://mad-elena.blogspot.com/>.
- *Return to God* words and music by Marty Haugen, used under license.
- The Prayers of the People were adapted from one written by Christine Longhurst and published in *Worship Resources for Lent & World Water Day, 2013*. Posted on the *Canadian Foodgrain Bank* website, http://foodgrainsbank.ca/lent_worship_resources.aspx
- The Prayer of Dedication was adapted from one written by Ken Sloane and posted at <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/offertory-prayers>
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This Week:

March 14 Church Council, 6:30PM (FH)
March 15 Kids Club, 4:00PM (RM2)
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 5:30PM
Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:30PM

March Events:

March 26 Budget Hearing, following 10:00AM worship service, in the sanctuary

Like a Healing Stream

73

$\text{♩} = 88$

Bsus B Bmaj¹¹ B Bsus B Bsus B E A E

1. Like a heal-ing stream_ in a bar-ren
2. Like a gen-tle rain___ on a thirs-ty
3. Like a ri-ver strong_ with a rest-less
4. Like a migh-ty sea___ reach-ing far hor-

E/G# A A/C#

des - ert,___ Spir - it wat - er bring-ing life_ to dus - ty
 gar - den,___ Spir - it wat - er come to nour - ish ti - ny
 cur - rent,___ Spir - it wat - er rush-ing on_ to dis - tant
 - i - zons,___ Spir - it wat - er with a love_ both deep and

E A A/C# E E/D# C#sus C#m/B

earth, God is trick-ling through our lives as in a dream un - fold - ing,
 seed, God is bub-ling through the soil_ to coax a new cre - a - tion,
 shore, God is carv - ing out a chan-nel in a new di - rec - tion,
 wide, God is work - ing in our hearts to shape a new to - mor - row:

F#m7 E/G# A/C# A F#m7 F#/B Bmaj¹¹ E A/E

1.2.3.

pro - mis-ing re - viv - al and re - birth___ like a heal-ing stream.
 yearn-ing for an end_ to want and need___ like a gen-tle rain._
 call - ing for an end to hate and war___ like a riv - er strong.
 God will al-ways chal-lenge and pro - vide!___ Like a migh-ty

E A/E E A/E E Aadd⁹/E A/E E

4.

sea,___ like a ri-ver strong,___ like a gen-tle rain,___ like a heal-ing stream.

I've Got Peace Like a River

368

African-American spiritual

7.7.11

African-American spiritual

1. I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a
 2. I've got joy like a foun-tain, I've got joy like a
 3. I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an

riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er in - a my
 foun-tain, I've got joy like a foun-tain in - a my
 o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean in - a my

soul. I've got riv - er in - a my soul.
 soul. I've got foun-tain in - a my soul.
 soul. I've got o - cean in - a my soul.

God will al-ways send an-angel to pro-vide. Like a mighty

4. E A/E E A/E E Aadd9/E A/E E
 sea, like a ri-ver strong, like a gen-tle rain, like a heal-ing stream.