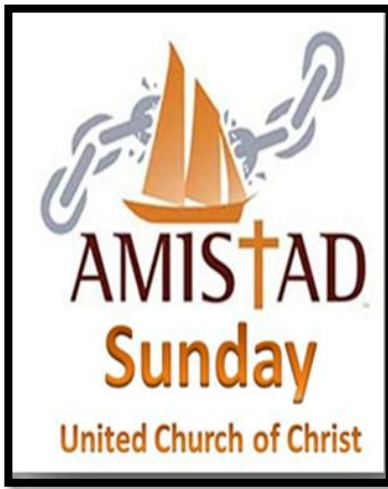
A close-up photograph of a woman's face in profile, drinking water. The image is heavily tinted with a deep red color. A stream of water is captured mid-air, falling into her open mouth. The background is dark and textured. A white rectangular box is superimposed over the center of the image, containing the text "Thirsty Voices" in a white, handwritten-style font.

Thirsty Voices



**UNION CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

*We welcome all people to experience God's love,  
grow spiritually and engage in meaningful service.*

**SERVICE OF THE WORD  
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY/ AMISTAD SUNDAY**

**March 8, 2026**

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

*This service is livestreaming. Thank you. ❤️*

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**ENTER TO WORSHIP**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

*When you hear the music, please gather. Be seated and prepare for worship.  
Lighting the Candle, we remember God's presence with us.*

**PRELUDE** "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"

**THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH**

Words of Welcome & Announcements

**INTROIT** "There's a Spirit of Love in this Place"

**There's a spirit of love in this place, there's a spirit of love in this place. You can't see it, but it's there, just as precious as the air. There's a spirit of love in this place.**

Refrain: **O alleluia, sing alleluia! We bless your holy name.  
O alleluia, sing alleluia! There's a spirit of love in this place.**

Greeting One Another

***No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.***

\*Chorus:

***We are one in the bond of love; we are one in the bond of love, we have joined our  
spirits with the Spirit of God, we are one in the bond of love.***

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**One:** Come into the wildness of possibility where strangers meet, and everything changes in one conversation. Come away from all that you thought you knew and find your voice.

**All:** **We have so much to say, so much has gone unsaid.**

One: Come into the wilderness and find others that are eager and ready to speak with you and hear your truth.

**All: We come to tell the truth.**

## **INVOCATION**

Christ is with us!

**Christ is in our midst!**

**In the driest desert, O God, you provided a rock that held a fountain for those who thirst. Come, gracious God, and fill us with your love. In a place of quarrelling, you provide an answer that holds life for those who hope. Come, gracious God, and fill us with your love. In a place of wonder, you provided living water, for those who met there. Come, gracious God, and fill us with your love. Amen.**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**                      “Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer”

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

**Sharing Joys and Concerns**

### **Amistad Sunday Prayer**

***Lord, we remember all refugees. We remember all who suffer in war torn areas. We remember all who suffer in the modern-day slavery of human trafficking. Help us, O God to feed the hungry, teach us to shelter the homeless and to share the love of Christ. Grant us wisdom to discern injustice. Teach us to resist ignorance, and all that would enslave your people. This prayer we offer in the mighty name of Jesus, as we together say Amen, Amen and Amen.***

***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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.***

**PRAYER RESPONSE**                      "In the Garden"

**I come to the garden alone while the dew is still on the roses, and the voice I hear falling on my ear, the Son of God discloses.**

***Refrain: And he walks with me, and he talks with me, and he tells me I am his own; and the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.***

**OFFERTORY MOMENT**                      International Women's Day                      Paula Dorhout, Moderator  
Linda Padmore, Past Moderator

Song: "We are Marching in the Light of God"

**\*DOXOLOGY** (*Deacons George and Brandon to bring offerings forward.*)

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that Love has done:  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.***

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT**

**Loving God, on this International Women's Day, we offer blessings and thanksgiving for these gifts. We also thank you for the women who have nurtured, taught, and inspired us. Bless the work of their hands and empower them to continue making the world a better place. Amen.**

*(All children and youth are welcome to attend the Sunday School Class.)*

**READING OF SCRIPTURES**

**Exodus 17:1-7**

The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?" But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?" Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

**Psalm 95**

O come, let us sing to God;

**let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;

**let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!**

For God is a great God,

**and a great Ruler above all gods.**

In God's hand are the depths of the earth;

**the heights of the mountains are also God's.**

The sea is God's, for God made it,

**and the dry land, which God's hands have formed.**

O come, let us worship and bow down,

**let us kneel before God, our Maker!**

For God is our God,

**and we are the people of God's pasture, and the sheep of God's hand.**

O that today you would listen to God's voice!

**Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,**

when your ancestors tested me,

**and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.**

For forty years I loathed that generation and said,

**"They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they do not regard my ways."**

Therefore in my anger I swore,

**"They shall not enter my rest."**

### **John 4:5-42**

Jesus, worn out by the trip, sat down at the well. It was noon. A woman, a Samaritan, came to draw water. Jesus said, "Would you give me a drink of water?" (His disciples had gone to the village to buy food for lunch.) The Samaritan woman, taken aback, asked,

"How come you, a Jew, are asking me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" (Jews in those days wouldn't be caught dead talking to Samaritans.) Jesus answered, "If you knew the generosity of God and who I am, you would be asking *me* for a drink, and I would give you fresh, living water." The woman said, "Sir, you don't even have a bucket to draw with, and this well is deep. So how are you going to get this 'living water'? Are you a better man than our ancestor Jacob, who dug this well and drank from it, he and his sons and livestock, and passed it down to us?"

Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again and again. Anyone who drinks the water I give will never thirst—not ever. The water I give will be an artesian spring within, gushing fountains of endless life."

The woman said, "Sir, give me this water so I won't ever get thirsty, won't ever have to come back to this well again!" He said, "Go call your husband and then come back." "I have no husband," she said. That's nicely put: 'I have no husband.' You've had five husbands, and the man you're living with now isn't even your husband. You spoke the truth there, sure enough." "Oh, so you're a prophet! Well, tell me this: Our ancestors worshiped God at this mountain, but you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place for worship, right?" "Believe me, woman, the time is coming when you Samaritans will worship the Father neither here at this mountain nor there in Jerusalem. You worship guessing in the dark; we Jews worship in the clear light of day. God's way of salvation is made available through the Jews. But the time is coming—it has, in fact, come—when what you're called will not matter and where you go to worship will not matter. "It's who you are and the way you live that count before

God. Your worship must engage your spirit in the pursuit of truth. That's the kind of people the Father is out looking for: those who are simply and honestly *themselves* before him in their worship. God is sheer being itself—Spirit. Those who worship him must do it out of their very being, their spirits, their true selves, in adoration.” The woman said, “I don't know about that. I do know that the Messiah is coming. When he arrives, we'll get the whole story.” “I am he,” said Jesus. “You don't have to wait any longer or look any further.” Just then his disciples came back. They were shocked. They couldn't believe he was talking with that kind of a woman. No one said what they were all thinking, but their faces showed it. The woman took the hint and left. In her confusion she left her water pot. Back in the village she told the people, “Come see a man who knew all about the things I did, who knows me inside and out. Do you think this could be the Messiah?” And they went out to see for themselves. In the meantime, the disciples pressed him, “Rabbi, eat. Aren't you going to eat?” He told them, “I have food to eat you know nothing about.” The disciples were puzzled. “Who could have brought him food?”

Jesus said, “The food that keeps me going is that I do the will of the One who sent me, finishing the work he started. As you look around right now, wouldn't you say that in about four months it will be time to harvest? Well, I'm telling you to open your eyes and take a good look at what's right in front of you. These Samaritan fields are ripe. It's harvest time! “The Harvester isn't waiting. He's taking his pay, gathering in this grain that's ripe for eternal life. Now the Sower is arm in arm with the Harvester, triumphant. That's the truth of the saying, ‘This one sows, that one harvests.’ I sent you to harvest a field you never worked. Without lifting a finger, you have walked in on a field worked long and hard by others.” Many of the Samaritans from that village committed themselves to him because of the woman's witness: “He knew all about the things I did. He knows me inside and out!” They asked him to stay on, so Jesus stayed two days. A lot more people entrusted their lives to him when they heard what he had to say. They said to the woman, “We're no longer taking this on your say-so. We've heard it for ourselves and know it for sure. He's the Savior of the world!”

This is the word of life.

***Thanks be to God!***

**SONG OF PREPARATION**      “He Never Failed Me Yet”      Arr. Robert Ray  
Choir

**SERMON**      “Thirsty Voices”      Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey

**\*CLOSING HYMN**      “It is Well With My Soul”

**\*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**      “Down By the Riverside”

***DEPART TO SERVE***



We **WELCOME** each of you to this celebration of worship. If you are visiting, we invite you to sign our Guest register in the Narthex. Offering envelopes are found in the pocket on the back of the chairs in the sanctuary for your convenience.

**Participating in Today's Service:**

**Readers**

Dorothy Bates, Criss Gaetano, Rebekah Gay

**Deacons Assisting**

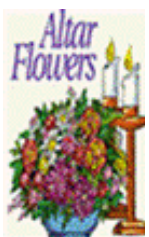
George Gerson

**Union's Joys & Prayer Concerns**

**Joys:** All Birthdays in March! Our Church Family! Live Streaming! Lenten Season! Amistad Sunday! International Women's Day!

**Concerns:**

Lin McNaughton's Mom; Sharon and Donna Minott's family and friends; Joan Gerson; Phyllis Adderley; Dorthy Bates; Martha Yanick family & friends; Stephen Spencer family and friends; Jan Mark; Robert Herald family & friends; Timothy Blood; Tom Richards's sister, Cindy Richards-Wallace & his friend, Jackie Sloan; Ada Harvey's grandson, Grant; David Ramirez; Irv Koehler; Tom Richards; Linda Padmore's family & friends; Rod Jenning's family & friends; Marion Gaetano's family & friends; Jane Grandusky's husband, Mark; Bonnie Avery's family and friends; Teresa Byrd; Lin McNaughton's cousin, Cade; Linda Padmore's daughter, Jeannine; Linda Harvey; Susan Young's sister, Genie; Kirk Dorhout; Evelyn Chouris; Charlotte Snowden; Renna McGinnis; Beth White's family & friends; Frank Byrd's family & friends; Melanie Shepherd; Charlene Buck; Linda Padmore's niece, Yvette & sister, Christine; Donna's brother, Clevert; George Gerson's Brother, Michael; Melanie's Friend, Donna; Borjana's son, Petar; George Gerson's friends, Diane & Timothy Scott; George Gerson's nephew, Glenn; Ruth Cassidy's husband, Bill; Rose's daughter, Tyshawna for healing & recovery; Jan Mark's son, Gary; Justice & Peace efforts; grieving, depression and anxiety; all refugees; Ukraine War; Puerto Rico; Haiti; Gun violence everywhere; Environmental concerns; Maui, HI; Florida; Israel conflict; Palestinians; Hurricane victims; Wild fires; Immigrant families; Attack on DEI; Medicaid & Food Assistance Programs; Mass deportations of Immigrants



Every Sunday beautiful flowers adorn our altar. We have a flower chart for sign-ups. Also, you can call the office or send an email to [office@unionucc.net](mailto:office@unionucc.net). Garden flowers are \$10 and floral arrangements are \$40. As an added bonus you can list the flowers in the bulletin in memory or in honor of someone or a special occasion. You are also welcome to take the \$40 arrangement home.

Sunday School Highlight

"Can I try again, please?" "Let me have a do-over." Second chances can be found in many places and it can be a gift to receive one. Join us in Sunday School as we share in a story Jesus told and talk about when we have had second chances and when we haven't. Today's Sunday School teacher is Cunny Burgos.



# Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

William Williams, 1745

Exod. 13:21; 16:4; 17:6; Ps. 105:39-44; Rev. 22:1-2

St. 1, transl. Peter Williams, 1771; alt.

St. 2-3, transl. William Williams, 1772; alt.

1 Guide me, O my great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this bar - ren  
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, where the heal - ing wa - ters  
3 When I reach the Riv - er Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious fears sub -

land; I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me with your power - ful  
flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my jour - ney  
side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me safe on heav - en's

hand. Bread of heav - en, feed me till I want no more,  
through. Strong de - liv - erer, ev - er be my strength and shield,  
side. Songs of prais - es I will ev - er sing to you,

bread of heav - en, feed me till I want no more.  
strong de - liv - erer, ev - er be my strength and shield.  
songs of prais - es I will ev - er sing to you.

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'  
 (We Are Marching in the Light of God)

Ps. 89:15

South African freedom song; transl. Freedom Is Coming, 1984

The musical score is written in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are: "Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-khos', si - ya - We are march - ing in the light of God, we are hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - light of God, the light of God. We are march - ing, march - ing, we are ham - ba, Oo, ham - ba, si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-khos'. march - ing, Oo, march - ing, we are march - ing in the light of God." The score includes various musical notations such as chords (G, D7, C, D, G7), triplets, and dynamic markings like "Last time, end".

# Journey to EASTER



**PALM SUNDAY PARADE**  
 March 29, 2026  
 10:00AM  
 Multicultural Taste-Testing

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
 APRIL 2, 2026  
 6:00PM Soup Fellowship  
 7:00PM Service

**GOOD FRIDAY**  
 APRIL 3, 2026  
 6:00 PM Fish Fry  
 7:00 PM Service

Ecumenical Good Friday Service at  
 Tabernacle Baptist Church, 801 Eighth St.,  
 West Palm Beach, FL. All are invited.

**EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION**  
 APRIL 5, 2026  
 10:00AM

Intergenerational Easter Party to follow!

# When Peace, Like a River

(It Is Well with My Soul)

Ps. 146; Col. 1:19-23; 2:13-14; 3 John 1:2

Horatio G. Spafford, 1873; alt.

1 When peace, like a riv - er, up - holds me each day, when  
 2 Though e - vil should tempt me, though tri - als should come, let  
 3 My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought— my  
 4 O God, speed the day that is filled with your light, when

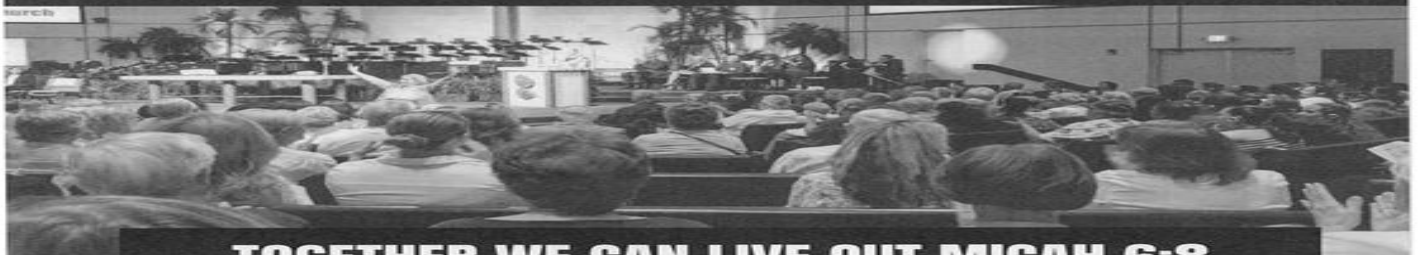
sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, What - ev - er my lot, you have  
 this blessed as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ has re - gard - ed my  
 sin— not in part, but the whole— Is nailed to the cross and I  
 clouds are rolled back as a scroll; The trum - pet shall sound and the

*Refrain*

taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."  
 help - less es - tate, and has paid life and blood for my soul: It is  
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!  
 Lord shall ap - pear, "e - ven so"— it is well with my soul.

well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
 It is well with my soul.

## NEHEMIAH ACTION



**TOGETHER WE CAN LIVE OUT MICAH 6:8**

**7pm Tuesday, March 24th at  
 JupiterFIRST Church**

**1475 INDIAN CREEK PKWY, JUPITER, FL 33458**

**DOORS OPEN AT 6:45**

Questions???  
 Contact Megan Sease:  
[Megan@peacepb.org](mailto:Megan@peacepb.org)

NEED A RIDE ???  
 SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN  
 UP FOR A PEACE BUS



**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
5088 SUMMIT BLVD, WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33415**

Ministers of the Church  
Pastor  
Music Director  
Vocalists

All of Us  
Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey  
Aaron Adderley  
Michelle Benghtt  
Tom Richards  
Vanie Joseph

Sexton  
Email Address: Pastor Sheila [sheila@unionucc.net](mailto:sheila@unionucc.net)  
Office - Zaida Pacheco [zaida@unionucc.net](mailto:zaida@unionucc.net) / [office@unionucc.net](mailto:office@unionucc.net)  
Union Congregational Church, UCC: [unionucc.net](http://unionucc.net)  
Florida Conference, UCC [www.uccfla.org](http://www.uccfla.org)  
National UCC: [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)

**Office Phone: 561-686-0330** - please leave a message.

Go to [www.unionucc.net](http://www.unionucc.net) to see more of our news.

**Office Hours are: Tuesday thru Friday from 9:00AM – 1:00 PM.**

**THIS WEEK AT UNION UCC**

**Sunday, March 8, 2026 – International Women’s Day/ Amistad Sunday**

**10:00 AM - Worship – Facebook Live Streaming**  
**11:15 AM - Fellowship – All are welcome!**  
**11:30 AM - 12:00 PM Kids / Youth Rehearsal**  
**12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Leadership Orientation**

**Tuesday - Friday – The Prayer Room is Open!**

**9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Open during office hours!**

**Sunday, March 15, 2026 – One Great Hour of Sharing**

**10:00 AM - Worship – Facebook Live Streaming**  
**11:15 AM - Fellowship – All are welcome!**  
**11:30 AM - 12:00 PM Kids / Youth Rehearsal**  
**12:00 PM - 12:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal**  
**12:30 PM - 1:30 PM Music Rehearsal**



**NEW MEMBER'S CLASS**  
**MARCH 22, 2026**

We are inviting returning guests to be part of Union’s church family. All who are interested in becoming a member of the church, please see Pastor Sheila or a deacon.



**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING!**  
**NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026.**

**Our love offering to the world.**

Your offering helps rebuild from disaster, feed the hungry, provide clean water to the thirsty, empower the oppressed, and restore hope.  
Each of you shared one what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly, in order compassion for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
One Great HOUR OF SHARING  
ucc.org/oghs

## Thirsty Voices

There's an old stone well on my Vermont property dating back to the eighteenth century. It's no longer operational as it ran dry years ago. A deeper well has since been drilled. Still, there's something spiritually powerful about that old well. Each time I walk by the stone relic I find myself pausing for a blessed second, imagining Jesus offering me water in which I would never thirst again.

It was the same offer he extended to the Samaritan woman in the village near Shechem at Jacob's well, believed to have been built around 1906 B.C.

Jesus encounters the woman in the noontime sun. After getting past the societal faux pas of a Jew asking a Samaritan for water, and after disregarding the red flag waving that this woman is an outcast among her own people — after all, who draws water when the sun is the highest and the hottest — Jesus has the water conversation.

He doesn't talk about the refreshing liquid that quenches parched throats, but the refreshing Word of God that saturates souls that have become spiritual wastelands.

Sir, how do I get this water? It's a question we should all ask, for what will satiate our thirsting for acceptance and wholeness?

Soon after moving to my fledgling farm that I named "Old Stone Well Farm," in honor of that well that captivated me, I began a Lenten spiritual practice. I would rise early in the morning and sit on the old rock slab covering the well's opening. I would then picture Jesus right beside me sharing all the beautiful things he sees in the world, and all the beauty he still sees in me just as he saw in the Samaritan woman.

My friends, although you can't physically join me at my old Vermont well this Lent, there is a well for you sit by this day. It is a place to retreat to and to close your eyes and to whisper to your Friend and Savior, "Jesus, I would very much like this water that you offer."

*Thirst-quenching God, may we find ourselves asking Your Son boldly for the water in which we will never thirst for anything ever again. May this be the day we take a big holy gulp of hope, of love, of forgiveness, and of peace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*