



Church on the Hill, Lenox

3rd Sunday of Lent

March 8, 2026
Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

Preludes

* Call to Worship

Psalm 95 adapted

One: O come, let us sing to the Lord;

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

One: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;

All: let us make a joyful noise with songs of praise!

One: For the Lord is a great God, great above all gods.

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

One: the heights of the mountains are also of the Lord's making.

All: The sea is God's, God having made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

One: O come, let us worship and bow down;

All: let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

One: For this Lord is our God,

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

All: O that today we might listen to this voice!

One: O that today it might be so, which we declare in greeting one another,
"The peace of the Lord be with you."

All: And also with you.

* Hymn NCH #582 O God of Earth and Altar

Prayer of Invocation

In unison

Lord God, speak to us and grant us to hear; give word to your breath that we might be sustained by your speaking.

You call the world into being by mere utterance. You name us into fullness, each and all. Grant that we also might practice such creative faith—that what we speak in confession might be lifted for new freedom, that what we name as our hope might be manifest as new likelihood.

For we do indeed have much to confess, much to forgo to step into forgiveness. Help us to set aside our cruelty, our callousness, our casual attitudes about crucial things. Help us to open our lives to all that you love about us, among us, within us—the vulnerable, the suffering, all that needs mercy and awaits justice.

Truly, so much of the world swears by violent force as true power. So much of our politics promises that violence will make things right or is at the very least what actually endures.

Life with you, though: following in your way, dwelling with your Son, and being the dwelling-place for your Holy Spirit: these would have communication as communion, attention as realization, hope cast to be fulfilled. Life with you promises the enduring power of presence, mutually presented being-unto-Being that is steadfast and steadying through even the worst of history's storms.

Our Lenten journey calls us to this presence of mind and to such immediate encounter—that as we approach the cross, we are humbly glorified in your company, our footing yet sure, our hearts yet full. We move through death to life everafter, which, far from cheapening life, rather lends it ultimate weight.

Speak to us, God the Word, that we might be sustained forever. Amen.

Readings Exodus 17:1-7; John 4:5-30

Prayer of Preparation

One: May the words of my mouth

All: And the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight,

O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

Sermon

*** Hymn NCH #196** *When Like the Woman at the Well*

Pastoral Prayer

Joys and Concerns

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to God.

One: Let us pray.

Spoken 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 and ever. Amen.

Offering

*** Doxology**

Tune NCH #780

***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.***

*** Hymn NCH #209** O Love, How Vast

*** Announcements**

*** Closing Song** *Amazing Grace* Please turn to others while singing!

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.

Benediction

Postlude

About the Church on the Hill, Lenox

First gathered in 1769, the Church on the Hill, UCC, in the name of its host, Jesus Christ, welcomes all who seek to know God and invites everyone to join in our common life and mission through participation in this congregation. As Jesus Christ did before us, we affirm that each individual is a child of God, and recognize that we are called to be like one reconciled body with many members, seeking with others of every race, ethnicity, creed, class, age, gender identity and gender expression, sexual identity, and physical or mental ability, to journey together toward the promised realm of God. On the threshold of Christ's open door, the Holy Spirit leads us into a beloved world where we seek to serve as Christ's disciples for the sake of God's good news which is for all.

Office Information: 55 Main Street; 637-1001; office hours T, W, T, F, 11-2

Podcast: Rev. Liz Goodman, UCC, Lenox MA

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Deacon of the Month: Arthur Oliver

Musicians: Charlie Fitzhigh

Liturgist: Ellen Merritt

Coffee Hour Host: Ellen Merritt