

Worship on the Third Sunday in Lent  
March 23, 2025

The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson, Pastor  
Diane Dawson Dexter, Organist

**Prelude**      “*Adagio Cantabile*” by Ludwig van Beethoven

## Welcome and Announcements

**Call to Worship** Psalm 63:1-8

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you.

**My soul thirsts for you; whole being faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.**

I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and glory.

**Because your steadfast love is better than life, I will glorify you.**

I will praise you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in prayer and call on your name.

**My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast; I sing to you with joy.**

On my bed I think of you and meditate on you in the watches of the night.

**Because you have been my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings.**

My soul clings to you, O God.

**Your right hand, O Lord, upholds us.**

**Hymn 121**      “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

## Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. We confess that we have been quick to judge others and slow to make changes in our own lives. We confess that we have focused on the shortcomings of others instead of reforming our own. Turn us, O Lord, from these ways that lead to perishing. Lead us, O Lord, in your ways that lead to abundant life. We pray in the name of Jesus, our risen Lord. Amen.**

## Assurance of Forgiveness

## Prayer for Illumination

**Old Testament**      Isaiah 55:1-9

New Testament Luke 13:1-9

**Sermon** "Three Strikes and You're In" Dr. Rosanna Anderson

**Affirmation of Faith (Confession of 1967 Inclusive Language Text)**  
**God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love. God has created the world of space and time to be the sphere of God's dealings with humankind. In its beauty and vastness, sublimity and awfulness, order and disorder, the world reflects to the eye of faith the majesty and mystery of its Creator.**

**Offertory** “*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*” by J.S. Bach

**Doxology** Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise him, all creatures here below.  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## Prayer of Dedication

**Holy God, you offer abundance to all who are thirsty and hungry. You call us to draw near so that we will listen and delight in your ways. Thank you for giving us new life in Christ. Help us to set aside that which is not worthy of our time. May we turn our attention to you and find joy in serving our community. Accept the gifts of our time, talent, and treasure in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## Sharing Praise and Concerns for Prayer

**Prayers of the Church and the Lord's Prayer** (*trespasses*)

**Hymn 671** "Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing"

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

### Church Calendar

Sunday, March 23 **Worship and Fellowship** 10:00 a.m.  
You are welcome to join us for worship onsite or via live stream.

Tuesday, March 25 **Alcoholics Anonymous & Al-Anon** 7:00 p.m.  
We sponsor this year-round group. In this season, meetings are held via zoom. To connect with the facilitator, email [info@finyaa.org](mailto:info@finyaa.org).

Wednesday, March 26 **Bible Study** 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.  
Everyone is invited to participate in a hybrid format in the church Parlor and via Zoom. We will discuss Week 3 in *From Wilderness to Glory: Lent and Easter for Everyone* by N. T. Wright.

Thursday, March 27 **Tots Time** 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.  
This is a casual time for toddlers and adults to share fellowship.

Saturday, March 29 **Jukebox Saturday** 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
Mere Doyen leads this opportunity to vote on an album that we will listen to together. This month's theme is Concept Albums.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous** via Zoom 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 30 **Worship and Fellowship** 10:00 a.m.  
Please join us to worship the Lord onsite or via live stream.

**Union Chapel (United Church of Christ)**  
**The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson, Pastor**  
Laura Chapman, Director of Operations  
Becky Walters, Administrative Assistant  
Diane Dawson Dexter, Organist

*"Whoever you are and  
wherever you are on your faith journey,  
you are welcome here."*



**Union Chapel**  
**(United Church of Christ)**  
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