



Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you,  
no one can see the kingdom of God  
unless they are born again."

**John 3:3**

DailyVerses.net

**March 1, 2026**

## **St. John's United Church of Christ**

*As believers in Jesus Christ, we strive with unconditional love and selflessness – using our God given gifts – to provide a nurturing shelter for those seeking a Christian home. We offer opportunities for spiritual growth through worship, education, fellowship, prayer and Christian action throughout our community and the world.*

**Called by God  
Sharing with the World**

**March 1, 2026**  
**Second Sunday in Lent**

**Meditation**

“By many hands the work of God is done.” Richard Le Gallienne

**Chimes**

**Prelude**            *There Is a Fountain*, arranged by Mark Hayes

**Welcome and Announcements**

**✝ Opening Hymn #463**        *Revive Us Again*

We praise thee, O God for the Son of thy love,  
For Jesus who died is now gone above.

Hallelujah! thine the glory;

Hallelujah, Amen!

Hallelujah thine the glory;

Revive us again.

We praise thee, O God, for thy Spirit of light,  
Who has shown us our Savior and scattered our night.

Hallelujah! thine the glory;

Hallelujah, Amen!

Hallelujah thine the glory;

Revive us again.

All glory and praise to the Lamb that was slain,  
Who has borne all our sins, and has cleansed every stain.

Hallelujah! thine the glory;

Hallelujah, Amen!

Hallelujah thine the glory;

Revive us again.

Revive us again; fill each heart with thy love;  
May each soul be rekindled with fire from above.  
Hallelujah! thine the glory;  
Hallelujah, Amen!  
Hallelujah thine the glory;  
Revive us again.

## **Lifting up our Joys**

## **March Birthday Blessings**

## **Passing of the Peace**

**✠ Call to Worship** (Congregation reads **bold print**)

Come, all who need help!

**Our help comes from God, the one who made heaven and earth.**

Come, all who desire blessing!

**Our blessing comes from God, the God of Abraham, the God of the ages.**

Come, all who long for salvation!

**Our salvation comes from Jesus Christ, the one sent by God to save the world.**

**✠ Opening Prayer**

Pastor Jeff

**✠ Prayer of Confession**

**God of salvation, you shower our lives and our world with love, yet we too often turn away from your blessing. It is just so easy to complain! There are little annoyances each day, but they pile up into a mountainous burden that becomes a curse on our lives. Free us from our unwise choices, O God. When we are distracted and confused, redirect our attention to the abundant opportunities to experience your love. During this Lenten journey, focus our hearts on you, that we may choose the blessing of salvation offered us each day through Jesus Christ, in whom we pray.**

*Silent pause for reflection*      **Amen.**

**✠ Assurance of Forgiveness**

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*✠ All who are able shall stand*

God did not send Jesus into the world to condemn it, but that the world might be saved through him. Through the saving love of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and blessed! **Thanks be to God!**

## Children's Message

Pastor Jeff

## Bible Readings

*Genesis 12:1-4; John 3:1-17*

Stefan Spolski

### Genesis 12:1-4

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

<sup>4</sup> So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

### John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

<sup>11</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

## Choir Anthem

Pastor’s Message

*“A New Heart”*

Pastor Jeff

✠ **The Nicene Creed** (*unison*)

**I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and**

**glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Giving our Gifts to God**

### **Offertory**

#### **†Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise God all creatures here below.**

**Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.**

**Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

### **† Communion Hymn #373**      *Change My Heart, O God*

Change my heart O God, make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.  
    You are the Potter, I am the clay;  
Mold me and make me, This is what I pray.  
Change my heart, O God, Make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

### **†Invitation to the Table**

#### **†Communion Prayer**

May the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Pastor Jeff

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Holy God, you created this planet full of life and you created humans in your image. You taught our ancestors how to live in your world by giving them challenges and the ability to face them. You brought them out of captivity in Egypt into fullness of life. You sent prophets to teach them. Most of all, you sent to us your child Jesus, who showed us through his loving example how you love us. And now you call us to follow in his footsteps, carrying your message of hope and justice to the world. Creating us in your image, you offered to us the challenges of living in your complex world. And so we join with all creation to praise you:

**✠ Sanctus**

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of thy glory, Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord, Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!**

*(the congregation may be seated)*

**Words of Institution**

Hear the words of the institution of the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ...Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

**The Blessing of the Elements**

Pastor Jeff

**Prayers of the People**

Pastor Jeff

**The Lord's Prayer** *(unison)*

**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 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**

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

## **Sharing the Elements**

Take and eat; representing the body of Christ, broken for you. **Amen!**

Take and drink; this is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you. **Amen!**

**Communion Music**     *Einsame Blumen* by Robert Schumann

## **✠Prayer of Thanksgiving** (*unison*)

**Holy God, thank you for your love which lifts us, your presence which fills us and your life which empowers us to be your people. Amen.**

**✠Closing Hymn #88**     *Lord, I Lift Your Name on High* (Sing 2X)

Lord, I lift your name on high,  
Lord I love sing your praises.  
I'm so glad you're in my life,  
I'm so glad you came to save us.  
You came from heaven to earth to show the way,  
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay;  
From the cross to the grave,  
From the grave to the sky;  
Lord, I lift your name on high.

## **✠Sending Forth and Final Blessing**

**✠Three-fold Amen**

**✠Chimes/Meditation**

**Postlude**     *We've a Story to Tell to the Nations*



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