

# ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Third and Jackson Streets

Decatur, Indiana

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(\* Please stand either in body or in spirit.

Third Sunday of Lent

March 8, 2026

John 4:5—42

**“The Samaritan woman makes us wonder: Does Jesus Know us?”**

Gathering Music: “Jesus Loves Me” Shelly Nussbaum

The Welcome and Announcements: Maggie Bolinger, Liturgist

(Visitors: Please sign the Friendship Folder)

The Prelude: “Praising The Almighty”

*Please take a moment and quiet your minds and open your hearts as  
we focus ourselves in preparation for worshipping God.*

The Light appears: The Acolytes serve

The Church Bell rings:

\*The Call to Worship: Liturgist

Liturgist: In our bones, there are lineages; we carry the seeds of  
division and the seeds of connection.

*Pastor: Look around you and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.*

**We are called to prayer that reaps with honesty and  
awareness what our ancestors have sown.**

In our cells, there are lineages; we carry the genes of harm and the  
genes of flourishing.

*Look around you and see how we are part of one another.*

**We are called to devotion that holds with tenderness and  
justice what our ancestors have enfleshed.**

In our sanctuaries, there are lineages; we carry the kernels of  
domination and the kernels of interdependence.

*Look around you and see how roots run deep.*

**We are called to praise that tills with care and clarity what our ancestors have composted.**

In our nation, there are lineages; we carry the marrow of chains and the marrow of freedom.

*Look around you and see how beneath us the water of life flows.*

**We are called to worship that thirsts with passion and courage for what our ancestors have dreamed.**

\*Hymn of Praise: “At Calvary” No. 338

\*Invocation: (Unison) Liturgist

**Into the stream of those who have labored before us, Spirit, let us flow. Into the river that rolls down with justice, Spirit, let us step. Into the well that is deeper than our divisions, Spirit, let us draw. In this moment, in every moment, we pray: give us this water, Jesus, so we will never be thirsty again. Amen.**

\*Passing the Peace of Christ: Liturgist

God has greeted us with his peace. Let us now pass the peace of Christ to each other.

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Call to Transformation: Rev. Kahler

Time of silent reflection

Prayer for New Life: (Responsively) Rev. Kahler

For the divisions we’ve created between “citizen” and “undocumented,” “American” and “illegal” and all the violence those divisions create:

**God, have mercy.**

For the segregation we've inhabited between "ghetto" and "good schools," for every border and wall and fence and redline and all the injustice that segregation creates:

**Christ, have mercy.**

For each time we say "us" and mean, "not them." For every "those people" and "you people" and all the fear and distaste that lives under our breaths:

**God, have mercy.**

Heal us from the ways we deny our kinship and disregard the dignity and belovedness of each and all of us.

**Turn us around, Holy One. Amen.**

Words of Grace:

Rev. Kahler

When Jesus met the Samaritan woman at the well, ancient prophetic visions and age-old dreams of one human family swirled under their feet. Old promises of love and liberation became the living water of new life.

**Praise God who forgives us and frees us inviting us, as siblings in Christ, to make our lives liturgies of Spirit and truth.**

The Scripture reading:            John 4:5—26    Liturgist, Pastor, Narrator  
Pew Bible, Pg. 465

The Choir Anthem:            "He Touched Me"            Chancel Choir

Time with the Youth;

Prayers of the People:

The Morning Prayer: Spoken and Silent

Prayer of our Savior:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, 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 Prayer Response:

Chancel Choir

The Scripture Reading:

John 4:27-42

Narrator, Pastor, Liturgist  
Pew Bible, pg. 925

The Word of God for the People of God

The Response: **Thanks be to God.**

\*The Sermon Hymn:

“Fill My Cup, Lord”

No.398

The Sermon:

“Well, Actually”

The Moment of Offering:

Liturgist

Invitation to Generosity:

Prayer Of Thanksgiving: (Unison)

**Let these offerings become seeds taking root in love and justice. Let these seeds become harvests of liberation for all of us. Let these harvests become offerings toward the slow work of healing and transformation. Amen.**

The Offering:

Ushers serve

The Offertory Music:

“Near The Cross”

Vicki Nussbaum,  
Elaine Rash, Nancee Linn

\*The Doxology:

**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**

\*The Hymn Of Commitment: "Grace Greater Than Our Sin" No. 201

\*The Benediction:

" ***Ripe for Harvesting***": **Service Prayers for Lent 3A** was written by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema. She is a founding member of the Liberating Lineages Collective.

\*The Song of Departing Friends: "Savior, Again To Thy Dear Name"

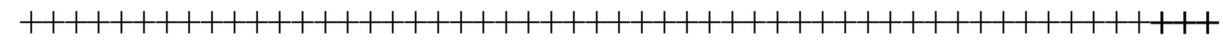
**Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise  
With one accord our parting hymn of praise;  
Once more we bless Thee ere our worship cease;  
With eager hearts we wait Thy word of peace. Amen.**

\*The Light is carried forth Acolytes serve

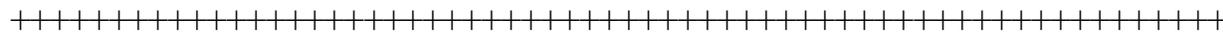
\*The Worship Leaders exit

\*The Moment for Silent Prayers Chimes

\*The Postlude: "Behold The Lamb"



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|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Each of Us        | A Minister of Christ           |
| Rev. Allen Kahler | Minister                       |
| Barb Engle        | Congregation President         |
| Jan Miller        | Board Secretary                |
| Maggie Bolinger   | Office Secretary               |
| Stacey Smith      | Church Treasurer               |
| Makayla Smith     | Financial Secretary            |
| Shelly Nussbaum   | Music Director/Church Organist |
| Kacie Shaffer     | Custodian                      |
| Justin Shaffer    | Building Manager               |



Bob Hildebrand, Bob Noack  
Brenda Strickler, Kacie Shaffer  
Terra Roop  
Acolytes

Door Greeters  
Ushers  
Money Counter  
Ushers

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We welcome all members, visitors, and guests to our worship service this morning. Visitors are asked to take a few moments to sign the Friendship Folder located in each pew and place in the offering plate.

Please join us in the dining room after worship for a time of fellowship and cookies, coffee, and punch.

Altar flowers today are presented by Myra Gaunt in honor of Dave's birthday. Today's bulletins are presented by Dave and Myra in honor of son-in-law BJ Knous' birthday.

As many of you know, Shelly Holloway Holden suffered a medical event in January and is in rehab in Lima. She is making good progress but faces a long recovery. We plan to support her and her family with a special offering today. Envelopes are available in the vestibules. You may also mail a donation to the church office before that date. Please mark your donation "Holden Offering."

Orders are due today to Barb Engle so she can place the order with Heller Nursery tomorrow. Monetary donations for the Memorial Fund are also accepted.

Our Operation Help products for March will be **canned vegetables**. Please bring your donations to the dining room or the west vestibule.

There is still time to help our youth group with their fundraiser calendar. You are asked to pick a date and pay that amount to Janet Smith. Several dates are still available, and more than one person can sign up for a particular date.

There will be a congregational meeting following worship on March 15<sup>th</sup> concerning repairs needed to our sound system. Several components are failing and need to be replaced to be able to worship both in person and online. We are planning some fundraising events to help with the cost of more than \$7-8,000. There are also some emergency repairs being made now on some failing plaster under the west balcony ceiling. While the cost exceeds \$6000, the Official Board feels this is an emergency repair and work needs to be completed as soon as possible for safety reasons.

*Dear Zion Friends,*

*I want to thank you for all the birthday wishes and get well cards. They were greatly appreciated. I also want to thank you for thinking of me through thoughts and prayers. Many Blessings go out to all of you.*

*Gerry Hilty*

### **Looking Ahead**

Wednesday, March 11: Midweek Services “The I AM The Door”

Meal 6:00 p.m.

Worship Service 6:45 p.m.

Thursday, March 12: Hand Bell Choir Practice 6:00 p.m.

Chancel Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 15: “One Great Hour of Sharing” offering

Congregational Meeting

Website: [zionuccdeatur.org](http://zionuccdeatur.org)

Email: office: [office@zionuccdeatur.org](mailto:office@zionuccdeatur.org)

pastor: [arkinpastor59@gmail.com](mailto:arkinpastor59@gmail.com)

Last week's Worship Attendance: 43 Offering: \$4096.00

Needed each week: \$4045.87

Scan here to make your donation via Paypal

