



*“A Lighthouse Guiding  
People to Christ”*



Letting Go: Set Free From Shame

March 3, 2024  
Third Sunday of Lent

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PRELUDE / COUNTDOWN  
WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS  
WELCOMING OF GUESTS  
PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor  
Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 34:1-10)

Liturgist

*Liturgist: Living Rock of Abundant Life, the poor cried out; you heard, and saved them from all their troubles.*

**Congregation:** To those who have nothing, your promise is this: whatever is needed will be given.

*Liturgist: Your eyes are on those who do justice, and your ears are open to their voice.*

**Congregation:** To those who yearn for peace, your promise is this: whatever is needed will be given.

*Liturgist: Your arms enfold the brokenhearted, and rescue those whose spirits are crushed.*

**Congregation:** To those who fear the future, your promise is this: whatever is needed will be given.

**All:** *O taste and see how good God is! Happy are those who take refuge in the Living Rock.*

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

*Every Time I Feel the Spirit* (v.1,2)

UMH #404

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Lenten Creed

Liturgist

I believe in God the Creator, who made me and all things, who set me on my path in this world.

I believe in God the Savior, who is one with the Creator, who rescued me and all creation from the depredations of our violations against God and creation. This man, Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ, walked a path through this world, taking on human form having been born of a woman through the power of the Holy Spirit. He lived and worked in this world among people just like me. He walked God's path to death on a cross and rose from the dead to open our pathway to eternal life.

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

\*GLORIA PATRI

See screen

OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 34:48 (NKJV)

Liturgist

I sought the LORD, and He heard me, And delivered me from all my fears. <sup>5</sup> They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces were not ashamed. <sup>6</sup> This poor man cried out, and the LORD heard *him*, And saved him out of all his troubles. <sup>7</sup> The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them. <sup>8</sup> Oh, taste and see that the LORD *is* good; Blessed *is* the man *who* trusts in Him!

CHILDREN'S SERMON  
CHILDREN'S PRAYER

Pastor

Dear Lord, You have given us Jesus, the Living Water. May we drink of Your Living Water so we will never thirst again. In Jesus' name, amen.

SERMON ANTHEM

*My Redeemer*

Choir

GOSPEL READING John 4:5-42 (NKJV)

Liturgist

So, He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus, therefore, being wearied from *His* journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. <sup>7</sup> A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." <sup>8</sup> For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. <sup>9</sup> Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup> The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water?" <sup>12</sup> "Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?" <sup>13</sup> Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, <sup>14</sup> "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." <sup>15</sup> The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw." <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." <sup>17</sup> The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' <sup>18</sup> "for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly." <sup>19</sup> The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> "Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you *Jews* say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. <sup>22</sup> "You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. <sup>23</sup> "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. <sup>24</sup> "God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." <sup>25</sup> The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." <sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am *He*." <sup>27</sup> And at this *point* His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?" <sup>28</sup> The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, <sup>29</sup> "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" <sup>30</sup> Then they went out of the city and came to Him. <sup>31</sup> In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." <sup>32</sup> But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." <sup>33</sup> Therefore the disciples said to one

another, "Has anyone brought Him *anything* to eat?" <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. <sup>35</sup> "Do you not say, 'There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! <sup>36</sup> "And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup> "For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' <sup>38</sup> "I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors." <sup>39</sup> And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I *ever* did." <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of His own word. <sup>42</sup> Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard *Him* and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."

PRESENTATION OF PRAYERS AND PRAISE  
PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor  
Pastor

\*HYMN OF PREPARATION

*Just As I Am* (v. 1-6)

UMH #357

SERMON

Pastor

Title: Letting Go

Theme: Set Free from Shame

Main Idea: The Samaritan woman arrives at the well as a sinner but leaves as a saint. Encounters with God will do that to you.

RECEIVING OF TITHES AND SACRIFICES  
OFFERTORY PRAYER

Renewing and refreshing God, fill our thirsty souls with your living water! As Jesus promised to the woman at the well, and as Jeremiah reminded the prophets, this water is ours if we keep our focus on you and don't chase after other gods. May the offering we make this day mark our commitment to keeping our eyes and our hearts set on a closer walk with you. We pray in the name of Jesus, our rock, and our redeemer. Amen.

PASSING THE PLATE

\*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, From Whom All Blessings*

UMH #94

\*HYMN OF CELEBRATION

*People Need the Lord* (v. 1-2)

CEL #445

\*COMMISSION / BENEDICTION

*Go now from this service of worship to the service of God's people near and far, refreshed by the living water that Jesus offers to you. Listen for the parched voices of the least of these; search out the dry places and the arid souls, and become for them a spring of living water. And as you go, may the blessings of the God of life, the Christ of love, and the Spirit of grace be upon you this day and forevermore. **Amen***

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*Love and Fellowship*

See screen

POSTLUDE



Members

Marion Lollie and her husband, Sammie  
Mary Alice Linzy

Friends and Family

Pat and Bob McNealy  
Ricky Benton (brother of Marion Lollie)  
Tamara (friend of Gary Nielsen)  
Rita Mathis (friend of Franklin & Frances Chaires)  
Laura (daughter of Franklin & Frances Chaires)