

March 6, 2026

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Today is the birthday of the poet **Elizabeth Barrett Browning**, born in Durham, England, in 1806. Most of us know her through the beloved line, “How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.” Yet love, for her, was never only private or sentimental.

After eloping with Robert Browning and making a home in Italy, her poetry widened to embrace the concerns of the world. She spoke against slavery, despite the fact that her own family’s wealth had come from Jamaican plantations worked by enslaved people. She wrote about the suffering of children in factories and about the political turmoil she witnessed around her.



Her **poetry holds together beauty and conscience, affection and justice**—reminding us that love of humanity must also include a willingness to see and give voice to suffering. This passage from *Aurora Leigh* offers a glimpse of her faith:

*Earth's Crammed with Heaven  
And every common bush afire with God;  
But only he who sees, takes off his shoes,  
The rest sit round it and pluck blackberries...*

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**This Sunday** is the third Sunday in Lent, and after church we will continue our Lenten Sunday Forum series. We will gather at **11:30 in the Parish Hall** to discuss **forgiveness and reconciliation** -- for ourselves, others, and with God. Come share your experiences and questions with your community.

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**Sunday Hymns Preview**

*Click on the title to listen*

**#692 I Heard the voice of Jesus say**

**Christ has broken down the wall**

**#700 O love that casts out fear**

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**Lenten Sunday Forums:**

11:30 am in the Parish Hall

**Forgiveness and Reconciliation**

*March 8*

**Lenten Practice: Planning Your Funeral**



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**Lenten Contemplative Prayer**

Wednesdays, 6:00 pm in the Chapel

**Each Wednesday through March 25**, we will hold a 30-minute contemplative prayer service in the Chapel. It will be a time of stillness, silence and communal prayer -- a good pause midweek to re-center our lives and encourage each other's faith journey.



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**Holy Week: March 29-April 5**

**Palm Sunday, March 29**

*10:00 am in the Nave*

Holy Eucharist, Procession of Palms,  
and Sunday of the Passion

**Maundy Thursday, April 2**

*6:30 pm in the Parish Hall*

Community Agape Dinner, Holy  
Eucharist, Foot washing

**Good Friday, April 3**

*6:30 pm in the Nave*

The Passion, Solemn Collects, and  
Contemplation of the Cross



**Easter Sunday: April 5**

*10:00 am in the Nave*

Festive Eucharist with special Choral Music

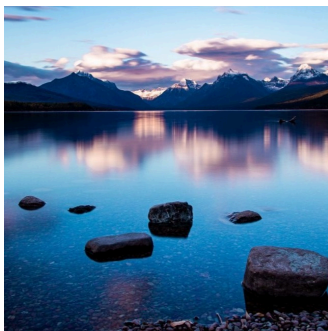
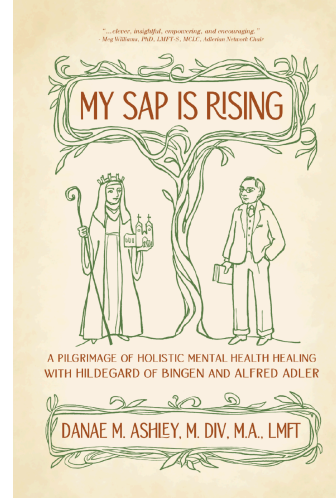
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**Book Launch: My Sap is Rising by the Rev. Danae Ashley and Hildegard of Bingen Compline Prayer Service**

Friday, March 27 7:00 pm-9:45 pm in the Parish Hall and the Chapel

You are invited to celebrate the Rev. Danae Ashley's debut book, *My Sap is Rising!* **There will be a presentation by the author with selected readings from the book, a panel discussion with the author, Kester Limner (illustrator), and the Rev. Dr. Angela Yarber of Tehom Center Publishing, and a book signing.** We will close our celebration with a beautiful Compline Prayer Service featuring selections of Hildegard of Bingen's music and

writings. It is going to be a remarkable evening—full of *viriditas*!  
Learn more at [www.danaeashley.com](http://www.danaeashley.com).



### **Still Waters: Community, Contemplation, and Action** Tuesdays: 10:00 am in the Parish Hall, 7:00 pm on Zoom

Join your community for a new weekly group led by Elizabeth Clark-Stern designed to **deepen our connection** to each other and to God, and **create a confidential space** for sharing our challenges, joys, and ideas about our calling. Inspired by the program innovated by Richard Rohr, this group will offer the weekly practices of Still Waters, including some gentle Thai Chi and a 10 minute Centering Prayer. **The group will meet each**

**Tuesday** at 10:00 am in the Parish Hall or 7:00 pm on Zoom. **Contact Elizabeth Clark Stern here** to receive the Zoom link.

### **Coming Up at St. Stephen's**

Sundays 10:00 am Holy Eucharist and Coffee Hour (Nave and Parish Hall)  
Sundays 3:00 pm Youth Group Food Program (Narthex)  
Tuesdays 10:00 am Still Waters: Community, Contemplation, and Action (Parish Hall)  
Wednesdays 6:00 pm Lenten Contemplative Prayer through March 25 (Chapel)  
Wednesdays 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study (Parish Hall)

March 8 11:30 am Forum: Forgiveness and Reconciliation (Parish Hall)  
March 15 11:30 am Forum: Lenten Practice: Plan Your Funeral (Parish Hall)  
March 27 7:00 pm My Sap is Rising Book Launch and Hildegard of Bingen Compline Prayer Service (Parish Hall & Chapel)  
March 29 10:00 am Palm Sunday (Nave)  
March 30 1:00 pm Celebration of the Life of Mary Fran Hopkins (Chapel)  
April 2 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service (Nave)  
April 3 6:30 pm Good Friday Service (Parish Hall)  
April 5 10 am Easter Sunday (Nave)

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