

Greenbelt Community Church

One Hillside Road,
Greenbelt, MD 20770

office@greenbeltucc.org



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
March

Fourth Sunday in Lent

MARCH 15, 2026

**Women's History Month
Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2026**

Greenbelt Community Church is a community centered around the belief that we are all created in the image of God. We welcome everyone seeking God's presence, in any of the ways that you may identify... by economic class, by race, by national origin, by gender identity/expression, by age, by physical or mental ability... whoever you are and wherever you come from, we welcome you into full participation here. We rejoice that you chose to worship with us, today, as we extend an invitation to live out the extravagant welcome of Christ. Together, we are listening for God's still speaking voice. WELCOME, People of God!

A special welcome to our first-time and returning visitors! Please let us know you were here with us, today: Contact: office@greenbeltucc.org

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Aubra Love

***Call To Worship**

Pastor: Discerner of hearts, you look beneath our outward appearance.

People: You see your image in each of us.

Pastor: Banish in us the blindness that prevents us from recognizing truth,

People: So that we may see the world through your eyes.

All: Help us to see with the compassion of Jesus Christ who redeems us. Amen.

***Opening Hymn: NCH #252 "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"**

***Passing the Peace**

Time with Young Disciples

Pastor Aubra Love

Anthem: "Power of the Cross" by Lew King

The Greenbelt Community Church Choir

Scripture: Psalm 23 The Message

Jan Derry, Lay Reader

God, my shepherd!

I don't need a thing. You have bedded me down in lush meadows, you find me quiet pools to drink from. True to your word, you let me catch my breath and send me in the right direction.

Even when the way goes through Death Valley, I'm not afraid when you walk at my side. Your trusty shepherd's crook makes me feel secure.

You serve me a six-course dinner right in front of my enemies. You revive my drooping head; my cup brims with blessing.

Your beauty and love chase after me every day of my life. I'm back home in the house of God for the rest of my life.

Unison Prayer

Jan Derry, Lay Reader

O God, you spoke your word and revealed your Good News in Jesus, the Christ. Fill all creation with that Word again, so that by proclaiming your joyful promises to all nations and singing of your glorious hope to all peoples, we may become one living body, your incarnate presence on the earth. Amen.

Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 The Message

Pastor Aubra Love

God addressed Samuel: "So, how long are you going to mope over Saul? You know I've rejected him as leader over Israel. Fill your flask with anointing oil and get going. I'm sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I've spotted the very leader I want among Jesse's offspring."

"I can't do that," said Samuel. "Saul will hear about it and kill me."

God said, "Take a heifer with you and announce, 'I've come to lead you in worship of God, with this heifer as a sacrifice.' Make sure Jesse gets invited. I'll let you know what to do next. I'll point out the one you are to anoint as your leader."

Samuel did what God told him. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the townspeople greeted him, but apprehensively. "Is there something wrong?"

"Nothing's wrong. I've come to sacrifice this heifer and lead you in the worship of God. Prepare yourselves, be consecrated, and join me in worship." Samuel made sure Jesse and all his offspring were also consecrated and called to worship. When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, "Here he is! God's anointed!"

But God told Samuel, “Looks aren’t everything. Don’t be impressed with his looks and stature. I’ve already eliminated him. God judges persons differently than humans do. Men and women look for physical beauty; God looks into the heart.” Jesse then called up Abinadab and presented him to Samuel.

Samuel said, “This isn’t God’s choice either.” Next Jesse presented Shammah. Samuel said, “No, this one isn’t either.” Jesse presented all seven of his children to Samuel.

Samuel was blunt with Jesse, “God hasn’t chosen any of these.” Then Samuel asked Jesse, “Is this it? Are there no more offspring?”

“Well, yes, there’s the runt. But he’s out tending the sheep.” Samuel ordered Jesse, “Go get him. We’re not moving from this spot until he’s here.” Jesse sent for him.

He was brought in, the very picture of health—bright-eyed, ruddy. God said, “Up on your feet! Anoint him! This is the one.” Samuel took his flask of oil and anointed him, with his brothers standing around watching.

The Spirit of God entered David like a rush of wind, God vitally empowering him for the rest of his life. Samuel left and went home to Ramah.

Sermon: "God Searches the Heart "

Pastor Aubra Love

***Pulpit Hymn: NCH #248 "Such Perfect Love My Shepherd Shows"**

The Community at Prayer

Pastor Aubra Love

(Joys and Concerns, Prayers of the People, Lord’s Prayer, choosing to use debts/debtors, or trespasses/trespases, or sins/sinners as familiar to you)

On our Prayer List: Ken C; Marty F; Anne G; Gil L; Butch N; Sue N; Thyra P; Kenny P; Joyce P; Rhonda; William and Phyllis S; Jim T; Lora T; Gwen V; We are in continuous prayer for all those thousands who have experienced job losses. Please know that you do not mourn alone. We pray for healing during this season of urban occupation by military reserve forces. We pray the war will end and that no more lives will be lost. We pray for women and children who have been made homeless due to intimate partner violence.

Our prayers are with all young persons who have been made homeless due to gender identity or gender expression; We pray, O God, for our mental health warriors (those struggling and those helping). Our prayers are with veterans who return from their service with no place to call home and no circle of love; We pray for those returning from incarceration and who cannot find work; Our prayers are for all those around the world dying of starvation and AIDs due to the closure of USAID; healing for Ukraine and the Gaza peninsula. We ask protection for all whose freedoms are being taken by the

government; We pray for the healing of our nation and a reign of domestic peace and a measure of civility. We pray for the Seventh Day Adventist congregation that shares our space at Greenbelt Community Church. God, in your tender mercies, hear our prayers.

Prayer Response

Invitation to the Offering

Focus Text: *“God is my Shepherd. I don’t need a thing.”* –Psalm 23:1

(Opportunities to give for the ministries of this church are available through the offering plates during the worship service; by mailing your gift to the church office, or by signing up for electronic giving at greenbeltcommunitychurch.org/)

Offertory

***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.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Jan Derry, Lay Reader

God of every land and nation, we come as your people to proclaim the greatness of your name. May we know the power of your love at work in the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Closing Hymn: AAHH #500 "Glory, Glory Hallelujah"**

***Commissioning and Blessing**

Pastor Aubra Love

***Choral Response**

***Postlude**