

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:30am • August 31, 2025

Mission Statement: As a community of faith, we welcome all who seek understanding. • As a community of hope, we offer friendship and comfort to those in need. • As a community of love, we provide caring support and shared fellowship to all.

WE ARE A COMMUNITY CHURCH. OUR FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS AND MEMBERS COME FROM MANY PLACES AND MULTIPLE FAITH TRADITIONS. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO FIND A SPIRITUAL SANCTUARY HERE.

— WELCOME —

CENTERING MUSIC

Sharon Novak

CALL TO WORSHIP

Joshua 3:5

One: Joshua told the people,

People: Consecrate yourselves,

All: For tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.

*SONG #9

*Come Thou
Almighty King*

Sharon Novak

— PRAYING —

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

LORD'S PRAYER: 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and glory forever. *Amen.*

*SONG (INSET)

*Down to the River
to Pray*

Sharon Novak

— REFLECTING —

SCRIPTURE

Joshua 2-6 (excerpts)

REFLECTION

*SCARLET LETTER,
SCARLETT CORD*

Rev Gail Doktor

*SONG #(INSET)

*When Joshua Fought
the Battle of Jericho*

Sharon Novak

— OFFERING —

*SONG #44

Doxology

Sharon Novak

PRAYER of DEDICATION

— CLOSING —

*BENEDICTION

May the love of God live in us today, may the love of God live in us today.

May the warmth we feel within us show in all we do and say.

May the love of God live in us today.

May the peace of God be with us today,

May the peace of God be with us today.

May it guide us and protect us as we go our separate ways.

May the peace of God be with us, May the love of God live in us,

May the love of God shine through us today.

DOWN to the RIVER to PRAY (lyrics)

v1.

O brothers, let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
Come on brothers, let's go down
Down in the river to pray

Refrain:

*As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good old way
And who shall wear the robe and crown
Good Lord, show me the way!*

v2. O sisters v3. O children

v4. O mothers v5. O fathers

JOSHUA FOUGHT the BATTLE of JERICHO (lyrics)

Refrain: *Joshua fought the battle of
Jericho, Jericho, Jericho,
Joshua fought the battle of Jericho,
And the walls came tumbling down!*

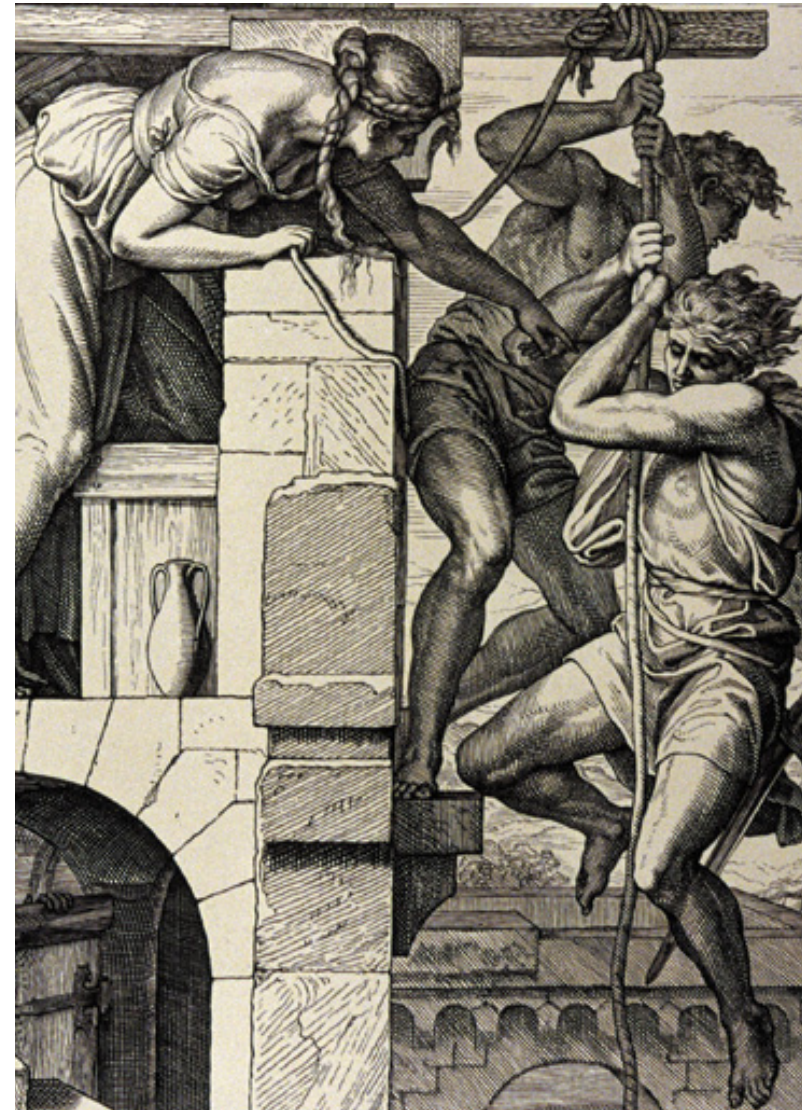
- v1** You may talk about your men of Gideon,
You may talk about your men of Saul,
But there's none like good old Joshua
And the battle of Jericho! **Refrain.**
- v2** Right up to the walls of Jericho
They marched with spear in hand;
"Go blow them ram horns," Joshua cried,
"Cause the battle is in my hand." **Refrain.**
- v3** Then the lamb, ram,
Sheep horns began to blow,
And the trumpets began to sound,
Joshua told the children
to shout that morning
And the walls came tumbling down! **Refrain.**

PRAYERS: For PEOPLE — *Focus this week:* Alexis, Ann C., Bob G., Bunny C, Cindi, David, Dave & Beth, Dawson W., Deb L., Gillian, Huntley, Irene, Jenn, Jess, Judy, Kailee, Karen, Larry, Linda, Mary, Nancy, Rob, Ruth, Steve, Tom, Tyler, Val. For those who grieve. *Continuing:* Alice, Annie, Arden, Barbara, Bilo, Bob, Bruce, Cal, Cameron, Carl, Corey, Dean, David, Dawson S., Deb W., Don, Ed, Emmie, George, Karen, Kevin, Jan, Jean, Jim H., Joe, Joan, John, John H., Joyce, Jonathan, Judy, Karen, Kim, Kathy, Ian, Laurie, Marcia, Matteo, Maureen, Mary, Meg, Michelle, Parker, Petros, Phaedra, Robert G., Sally, Sam, Sarah, Sascha, Spencer Elizabeth, Tom, Tony, Rob, Robert, Val, Wayne, Lori's niece & nephew.

For PLACES — For Chikanga Church in Mutare, Zimbabwe and communities in Honduras. For hurting parts in the world.

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RAHAB: Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld, Germany, 1860

JACKSON COMMUNITY CHURCH, UCC
JACKSON, NH

Joshua 2 — Rahab and the Spies: Then Joshua ... secretly sent two spies ... *“Go, look over the land,”* he said, *“especially Jericho.”* So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there.

²The king of Jericho was told, *“Look, some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land.”*³

So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: *“Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land.”*

⁴But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. She said, *“Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from.”*⁵ *At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don’t know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them.”*⁶ (But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.)⁷ So the men set out in pursuit of the spies on the road that leads to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.

⁸Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof⁹ and said to them, *“I know that the Lord has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear ... for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.”*¹² *Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to ... and that you will save us from death.”*

¹⁴“Our lives for your lives!” the men assured her

¹⁵So she let them down by a rope through the window, for the house she lived in was part of the city wall. ...¹⁷ Now the men had said to her, *“If you don’t tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly and faithfully when the Lord gives us the land ... This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us”*¹⁸ *unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you have brought ... all your family into your house.*

“Agreed.” So she sent them away, and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window ...

Joshua 3 — Crossing the Jordan: ¹⁴So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them ... as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water’s edge,¹⁶ the water from upstream stopped flowing ... while the water flowing down to ... the Dead Sea was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho ... all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.

Joshua 5 — The Fall of Jericho: ¹³Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, *“Are you for us or for our enemies?”*

¹⁴“Neither,” he replied, *“but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.”* Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, *“What message does my Lord have for his servant?”*

¹⁵The commander of the Lord’s army replied, *“Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.”* And Joshua did so.

Joshua 6: Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in. ²Then the Lord said to Joshua, *“See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands ...”*³ *March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days.*⁴ *Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams’ horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets.*⁵ *When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in.”*

[After all had come to pass] ...²² Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, *“Go into the prostitute’s house and bring her out and all who belong to her, in accordance with your oath to her.”*²³ So the young men ... brought out Rahab, her father and mother, her brothers and sisters and all who belonged to her ... and she lives among the Israelites to this day.