



ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH
A UNITED METHODIST/PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) COMMUNITY
WILDE LAKE INTERFAITH CENTER • COLUMBIA, MARYLAND
UNITED IN LOVE – UNITED FOR SERVICE

March 12, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT // IN-PERSON & ONLINE SERVICE

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Liturgist: Connie Lynch

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WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

“Shout to The Lord”

TFWS #2074

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like you
All of my days, I want to praise the wonders of your mighty love
My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath, all that I am never cease to worship you

Refrain:

*Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of your name
I sing for joy at the work of your hands
Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you*

(sing hymn twice)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Calling all travelers, pilgrims, and wanderers—

We come to drink from the fountain of blessing.

Gather, you siblings of God's family and servants of Christ.

We come to rest by the fountain of blessing.

Living water is available for all who are thirsty.

We come to be restored at the fountain of blessing.

Christ is the spring of everlasting life.

We come to be healed by the fountain of blessing.

OPENING PRAYER

Living Christ, you are the source of everlasting life. You promise that when we receive the living water, we will never be thirsty again. May we see abundance in our love for one another, our generosity of spirit, our energy for the work ahead, and our confidence in your faithfulness. Full of gratitude, we draw near to the fountain of blessing. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 17:1 – 7

ANTHEM

“We See the Mountains Lifted High Before Us”

SJU Chancel Choir

Traditional Irish; arr. Hal H. Hopson

We see the mountains lifted high before us
And some may ask, “From where does our help come?”
I tell you this, our help comes from the Lord
The God who made all heavens, all the earth

God calls us back when on the road we lose our way
The Lord who keeps us never, never sleeps
The God of all, the very God of Israel
Will hold us fast and bring us home again

The Lord, by night, will be a light to guide us
The Lord, by day, will be a constant shade
Our going out, our coming in are guarded
From this time forth, and yet forevermore

SCRIPTURE READING

John 4:5 – 42

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Lenten Coin Calendar

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

MESSAGE

“**WE ARE THIRSTY**”

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

OFFERTORY SONG OF REFLECTION

“Change My Heart, O God”

TFWS #2152

Change my heart, o God.
Make it ever true.
Change my heart, o God.
May I be like you.

You are the potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me.
This is what I pray.

CALL TO GENEROSITY

Gracious God, you are a well that does not run dry. You never tire of giving good gifts to your children. And in response, we bring our offerings to be used to support our faith community and to participate in heaven’s love and justice work. Bless and multiply these gifts today, and use them for your glory. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

GTG #81

Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God
God, whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for a blest abode
On the rock of ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation’s walls surrounded, thou may’st smile at all thy foes

Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear
For a glory and a covering, showing that the Lord is near
Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day
Safe they feed upon the manna which God gives them when they pray

See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love
Well supply thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove
Who can faint when such a river ever flows, their thirst to assuage?
Grace, so like the Lord the giver, never fails from age to age

BENEDICTION

Siblings in Christ, you have come to the fountain, and you have received the living water. Go forth into the world, bringing water to the thirsty and welcome to the lonely. May you be saturated in peace, and drenched in love. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Patricia Hammer
accompanist

Readings are NRSV unless otherwise noted. CEB=Common English Bible; CEV=Contemporary English Version; KJV=King James Version; MSG=The Message; NIV=New International Version; NLT=New Living Translation; TIB=The Inclusive Bible

Exodus 17:1 – 7

17:1 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

17:2 The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?"

17:3 But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?"

17:4 So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me."

17:5 The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.

17:6 I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

17:7 He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

John 4:5 – 42

4:5 So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.

4:6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

4:7 A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."

4:8 (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)

4:9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)

4:10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

4:11 The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"

4:12 Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"

4:13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,

4:14 but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

4:15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

4:16 Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."

4:17 The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband';

4:18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"

4:19 The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet.

4:20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."

4:21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

4:22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

4:23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.

4:24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

4:25 The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."

4:26 Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

4:27 Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?"

4:28 Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,

4:29 "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?"

4:30 They left the city and were on their way to him.

4:31 Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something."

4:32 But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about."

4:33 So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?"

4:34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work.

4:35 Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.

4:36 The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.

4:37 For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.'

4:38 I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

4:39 Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done."

4:40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days.

4:41 And many more believed because of his word.

4:42 They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

