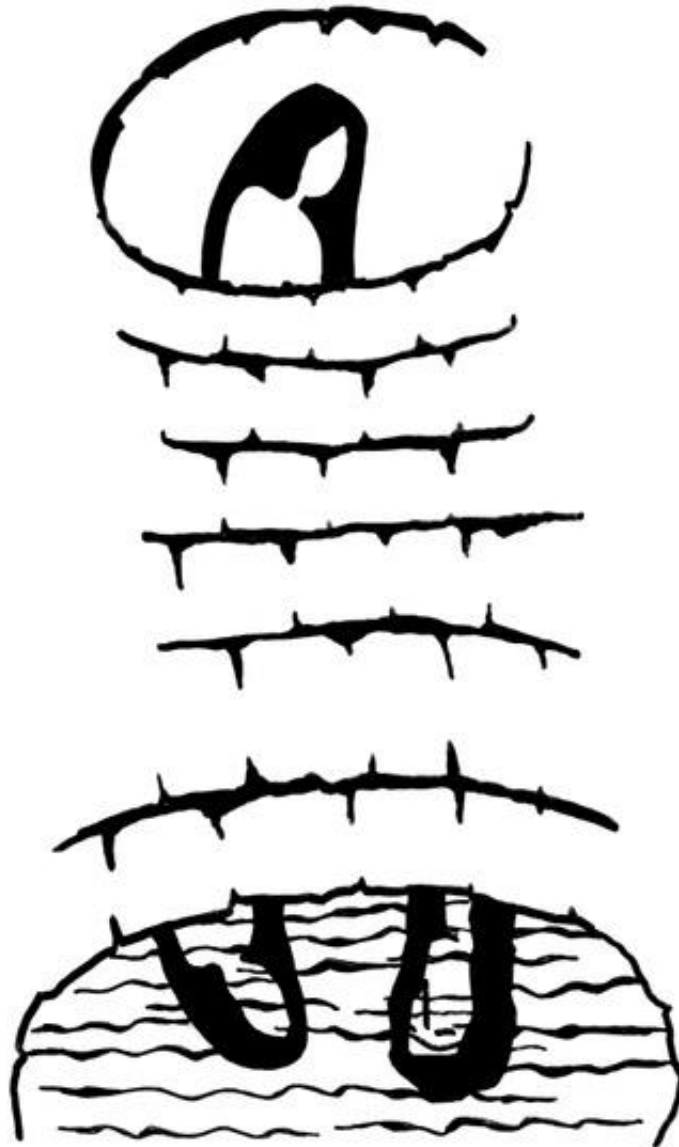


THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2020

10:30AM

SAINT GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



We Gather As A Community Of Faith

GATHERING SONG #90

Wait for the Lord

TAIZE

(Sing or speak these words several times.)

***Wait for the Lord, whose day is near,
Wait for the Lord, be strong take heart.***

We Prepare to Worship God

TIME FOR PERSONAL PRAYER AND MEDITATION

Lord God, Great I AM,
you are living water.
As we worship you this day,
show us who we are:
channels of your love
and vessels of your grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We Approach God in Faith

CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 95 and John 4

One: O come, let us worship and bow down;
All: let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker.
One: The hour is coming and is now here.
All: In spirit and truth, let us worship God.

SONG #81 *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

TUNE: AUSTRIAN HYMN

***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 the 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 while such a river ever flows, their thirst to assuage?
Grace, so like the Lord the giver, never fails from age to age.***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord, you know who we are.
You know everything we have done.
We thirst for things that will never satisfy us.
We commit ourselves to things that will never last.
We worship things that will never bring salvation.
Still, you offer us the gift of living water.
Still, you offer us the gift of eternal life.
Forgive us, O Lord,
and give us this living water,
so that we may never thirst again. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

This is the good news of God's grace:
Though we were sinners,
Christ died for us.
Though we were enemies of God,
God loved us.
Once we were lost and dead—
now Christ has become our life and salvation.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

To reduce the risk of sharing illness,
we are changing our practice of Passing the Peace.

The lay leader will say the words:
"May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you."
The congregation will respond: "And also with you."
Then the congregation will be seated.

God's Word is Read, Heard, & Proclaimed

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy One, who bridges the distance we create,
be with us as we experience the distance in our faith community this morning.
Be with us as we encounter the distance in space and relationship in this reading.

Be with us and bridge the distance between Your word and our understanding.
Be with us and bridge the distance between us and You.
In Christ and through the Spirit. Amen.

GOSPEL John 4:5-42

⁵ So [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) 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.) 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." ¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 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." 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."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." 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. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 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. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." 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." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

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?" ²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” ³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” ³³ So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” ³⁴ Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. 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. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. 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.”

One: This is the Word of the Lord:

All: **Thanks be to God.**

TIME FOR REFLECTION

- Where do you experience distance (in a broad sense) in this text?
- What or who bridges that distance?

- Look at the picture to the right.¹ It is a photo of a statue by sculptor Ivan Mestrovic of the encounter between Christ and the Samaritan woman.

“This statue on the Notre Dame campus freezes time [at the moment Jesus asked her for a drink of water.] But in the Gospel, we hear Jesus tenderly poke and prod and speak to her until she opens up and lifts her head....It is [the] tone of tenderness that [bridges the distance.]...Come into the space with gentleness. Living water will flow.”²



¹ Photo credit: Karla J. Bellinger

² Karla J. Bellinger. *Living the Word: Scripture Reflections and Commentaries for Sundays and Holy Days, Year A*. World Library Publications: Franklin Park, IL. 2019. p. 81.

- Where are you experiencing distance in your life?
- What or who could bridge that distance?

We Respond in Faith

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

- For what or whom are you grateful?
- About what or whom are you concerned?

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Holy One,
 Bridger of Distance,
 Connector of Beings,
 hear our prayer....

In the midst
 of non-stop news stories
 about illness and scarcity,
 press conferences and cancellations...
 grant us quiet in our minds.

In the midst
 of heightened anxiety
 about caregivers and caregiving,
 about health and hygiene,
 grant us calm in our hearts.

In the midst
 of opposing views:
 close doors or stay open,
 reach out or hunker down...
 grant us peace in our spirits.

In the midst
 of distance
 in our families, our faith communities,
 in all our relationships with others...
 grant us connection in our separation.

In the midst
 of our lives:
 our gratitude and concerns,
 our hopes and longings...
 grant us an abiding sense of Your Comfort.

And hear us as we pray together in spirit...

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

OFFERING

To reduce the risk of sharing illness,
we will not pass the offering plates from person to person.
The ushers will hold the offering plates and come to you.
Please do not take the plate from the usher.
Simply place your offering in the plate.

DOXOLOGY

TUNE: OLD HUNDREDTH

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.***

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SONG # 479 *Ho, All Who Thirst (Come Now to the Water)*

TUNE: JACOB'S WELL

Chorus:

***Ho, all who thirst, come now to the water,
and all whose souls are parched and weary, come and drink!
Ho, all who thirst, come now to the water,
and from your heart will flow a never failing spring!***

Verse 1:

***Why forsake the Lord, the fount of living water,
choosing broken cups that cannot be filled?***

Verse 2:

***For the Lamb will be our shepherd and will guide us
to the well-springs of the water of life.***

Verse 3:

***All who come may take this gift of living water.
They will thirst no more, for they shall be filled.***

We Depart to Love & Serve God's Creation

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

In this time of distancing,
may God grant us
quiet in our minds,
calm in our hearts,
peace in our spirits,
connection in our separation,
and an abiding sense of God's Comfort.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you, and all those you love,
and all those who are convinced they are unlovable.

May we reach out to love.

Amen.

Please Pray for these Members, Relatives and Friends

Pat Lindsay, Rachel Williams, Sandra Richbourg, **Charolette Brown**, Libby Morton, Dan Grassi, Dick Grassi, **Paula Hagler**, Dave Smith, Carol Pope, Aleta Wheeler, Marie Minani, Inez Ruchte, Andrew Scharfe, **Peggie Bell**, **Jeane Nagel**

- **Sallie Taylor's sister, Janet**
- Jan Morgan's daughter, Anna
- Betty Fetvedt's sister, Peggy
- Marti Ranney's friend Sherrill
- Teresa Johnson's cousin, Kaitlyn
- Charolette Brown's friend, Jaqueline
- Janet Wherry's sons David & Stephen, & her sister Fran
- Rachel & Rodney Williams' daughter, Rene
- Pat & Bob Lindsay's granddaughter Rebecca, niece Stephanie & family, & friend Ann Weber
- Chris Zaineddin's friend Peggy, nieces **Colleen**, & Sourour Dehnadi, **brother Ken**, & friend Paul Hutter & family
- Dave & Rita Hart's friends Max, Terry, neighbor Mary & her family
- Roberta Dibble's friend Margaret Rothman
- Carmen Rosa, along with Tania Valentine & Maurice Kersey
- Friends of Hess & Hart families, Max & Leatha Carey & family, & Allen Lee & Family
- Jo Lourens' father Flip Viviers
- Kimberly & Chad Craven's friend & her family
- Lisa, coworker of Koreen Thomasson, & Lisa's husband Ed
- Sara Monazah's grandmother Zary
- Carol Pope's brother, David
- Kathy & Bob Wolinski's daughter, Amy
- John Lavender's brother Don Allen Lavender, & John & Susie's niece's husband Ben Cooper
- Nicole Goolsby's mother Lyn Rion
- Joe Moody's sister Mary Lynn
- Cindy Hemminger & family following her 5 year old cousin Hazel's diagnosis with Leukemia
- Donald and Nancy Ross' friend Terri McIrvine, and her husband and daughters
- Mary Ellen Jackson's cousin Betty Turner
- Frank Boyd, following a second surgery for a detached retina
- Nancy MacCormac and family following the death of Earl MacCormac
- Dave Hart, and the friends and family of Dave's friend Gerhard, following his death
- **The Tatum-Carter family, following the death of their friend Matthew**

*requests in **bold** have been recently added or are in need of special prayer.