



**Third Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2020**

Preparation

Silence:

Take a minute or two to take deep breaths and center yourself in silence.

Gathering

CALL TO WORSHIP - Adapted from Psalm 95
(can be read responsively with other people or individually)

O come, let us sing to God,
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**Let us come into God's presence with singing;
let us make a joyful noise with songs of praise!**

Come, let us worship and bow down
and kneel before our Creator!

**For the Maker of heaven and earth is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture
and the sheep of the Shepherd's hand.**

Do not harden your hearts as in the wilderness
when your ancestors tested me,
though they had seen the work of my hands.

**We will worship Christ,
our water in the wilderness and rock in a weary land.**

Song (sung or reflected on) - In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful/El Señor Es Mi Fortaleza
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yjZsXCZX8f4>)

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful;
in the Lord I will rejoice.
Look to God; do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

El Señor es mi fortaleza.
El Señor es mi canción.
Él nos da la salvación.
En él confío, no temeré.

Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

En él confío, no temeré.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of exodus and wilderness,
who provides for us in the desert,
we confess our sins before you:
We hold on to what is evil,
but let go of what is good.
We drink deeply from the stagnant pools of sin,
but ignore the living waters of your life.
We judge our neighbors,
but do not examine our own motives.
Forgive us,
and let your mercy overflow
and wash away our guilt and shame
that we may walk in newness of life in Christ's name.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Word

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON - Exodus 17:1-7

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. The people quarrelled 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?' 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?' So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' 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. 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. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

GOSPEL LESSON - John 4:5-42

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

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

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' 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.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

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

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

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

SERMON - Pastor Aaron

<https://rescov.org/sermons/the-one-who-draws-near/>

Response

SONG (sung or reflected on) - *Come to the Water*

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uJJVrZKqKNE>)

O let all who thirst,
let them come to the water.
And let all who have nothing,
let them come to the Lord.
Without money without price,
why should you pay the price,
except for the Lord?

And let all who seek,
let them come to the water.
And let all who have nothing,
let them come to the Lord.
Without money without strife,
why should you spend your life
except for the Lord?

And let all who toil,
let them come to the water.
And let all who are weary,
let them come to the Lord.
All who labor without rest,
how can your soul find rest
except for the Lord?

And let all the poor,
let them come to the water.
Bring the ones who are laden,
bring them all to the Lord.
Bring the children without might,
easy the load and light.
Come to the Lord.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Adapted from the *New Zealand Prayer Book*)

Blessed are you eternal God,
to be praised and glorified forever.

God our Creator, hear us as we pray for the unity of the Church.
May we all be one that the world may believe.

Have compassion on those who suffer from sickness, grief, or trouble,
especially all who have contracted coronavirus and all who care for them.
In your presence, may they find strength.

Look with your kindness on our homes, families, and friends.
Grant that your love may grow in our hearts.

Make us alive to the needs of our community.
**Help us to share one another's joys and burdens
and care for each other well, especially in times of crisis.**

Inspire and lead those who hold authority in the nations of the world.
Guide us and all people in the way of justice and peace.

Strengthen all who minister in Christ's name.

Give us courage to proclaim your Gospel.

We pray specifically for (our prayers from last Sunday):

Peace amidst the COVID-19 Coronavirus.

For those who are more vulnerable to illness, for those who experience loneliness and anxiety as a result of social distancing, for all those, including nurses and doctors, who are on the frontlines caring for people, and for all the families and children impacted by school closures and missed meals.

For all the refugees caught between Turkey and Syria

For healing for Marit's cousin whose pancreas was removed.

For Jack's friend who might have a court order for forced medication.

For those facing xenophobia and racism, particularly Asian-Americans, in our current context.

For Mara F. and Elsie M. who are under quarantine in Oregon after contact with someone who contracted COVID-19.

We pray all of this in the name of the one who taught us to pray,
Our Father...

Sending

BENEDICTION (*Worship Sourcebook*)

May the grace of God,
deeper than our imagination;
the strength of Christ,
stronger than our need;
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
richer than our togetherness,
guide and sustain us today
and in all our tomorrows.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

thanks be to God.