

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded



March 12, 2023

Welcome to worship this morning!

Bulletin Cues: **Bold** indicates congregational response, * indicates please stand, if able. Bathrooms are located down the hall, around the corner to the left. A family bathroom is located in the hallway on the right hand side (next to the Kidz Klub).

seeking: Will you give me a drink?



LIVING WATER

by Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by John 4:5-42

Digital painting

In a quick Google image search of this story, I noticed that, in most of the art, Jesus and the Samaritan woman are almost never on the same level. In my piece, the positioning of Jesus and the Samaritan woman is inspired by the work of Karoline M. Lewis in her commentary on John. She introduces a fresh way of looking at this text, with a focus on their “mutuality of need.”⁵ Jesus needs water to drink, and the woman needs living water. She writes: “Jesus needs her to be a witness, and she needs Jesus to invite her into this new identity.”⁶

In this image, their body positioning is mirrored, with their eyes on the same plane. Where their arms overlap becomes a vibrant blue, creating a water drop with a dove in it, representing the living water

that springs forth from their mutual need and relationship. Each of their clothing is patterned with the other’s need. In Jesus’ clothing are simplified “springs of water gushing up to eternal life” (John 4:14). In the Samaritan woman’s clothes, her water jar is positioned upright and poured out, representing her wrestling with whether she will interact with this man—and further, whether he is the awaited Messiah.

The image is subtly divided in half by slight shifts in color value. There is a chasm between them socially, culturally, religiously, etc. Referencing a primary dispute between the Jews and the Samaritans, their places of worship are in the background: on the left is the temple in Jerusalem, and on the right is Mount Gerizim.

In the center is the Samaritan woman’s vessel. We are not told whether she fills the jar or gives Jesus water, however, we are told that she leaves the jar behind. Her need is not the water in the well; her need is for grounding in a new identity,⁷ and to be seen for who she really is. She needs to not be defined by the worst parts of her life, the number of her husbands, or others’ assumptions, but to be seen through the lens of mutual need—to be seen as one of the first witnesses of the Messiah,⁸ and now a vessel of living water herself.

—Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

 a Sanctified Art © A SANCTIFIED ART | SANCTIFIEDART.ORG

With many thanks and used with permission:

Words for Worship “Seeking.” Adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah A. Speed |

A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Paraphrased Lord’s Prayer by Steve Garnaas-Holmes, *Unfolding Light*.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather together—

the seekers, the dreamers, the shooting-star wishers,

in hopes of seeing God.

We gather together—the curious, the hungry, the loving, the lonely,

in hopes of finding peace.

We gather together—those who are thirsty and those with water to spare,

in hopes of finding justice.

So come to the well, come to the table.

Come, let us worship God. Amen.

Query: What are you thirsty for today? Whose thirst do you wish you could quench?


*OPENING HYMN GTG 81

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken


vs. 1 and 3




1 Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y of our God.
3 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring-ing from e - ter - nal love,



God, whose word can-not be bro - ken, formed thee for a blest a - bode.
well sup - ply thy sons and daugh-ters and all fear of want re-move.



On the rock of a - ges found-ed, what can shake thy sure re-pose?
Who can faint while such a riv - er ev - er flows, their thirst to as-suage?



With sal - va-tion's walls sur-round-ed, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
Grace, so like the Lord the giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Today we will hear the story of the Samaritan woman. In the heat of the day, she meets Jesus at a well and he asks her for a drink. When was the last time I drew water for someone? When was the last time I drew water for myself? We come to the prayer of confession, trusting that even if we forget our bucket, God will still meet us at the well.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, we have been on every side of this story.
We have been the one who is thirsty and in need of compassion,
and we have been the one with a bucket and a deep well.
So today we wonder: how often have we missed the opportunity
to share water with our neighbors?
How often have we forgotten that we have a bucket and the power to bring change?
Remind us that it was you who sat at that well in Samaria in the heat of the day.
It is still you. With hope we pray. Amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, as hard as it is to imagine:
we could lose the bucket, we could hoard the water for ourselves,
we could pretend we do not see all who are thirsty, and we would still belong to God.
This is the good news of the gospel: God's grace is deeper than any well.
We are seen, loved, and forgiven. May this assurance change and inspire us. **Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE

The Lone Wild Bird *tune: Prospect, GTG 807*
**The lone, wild bird in lofty flight
Is still with thee, nor leaves thy sight.
And I am thine, I rest in thee.
Great Spirit, come and rest in me.**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God of conversation, we come to you today thirsty—
thirsty for hope, thirsty for good news, thirsty for a glimpse of you.
So today we pray, move in these words like a current.
Help us wade into your story with open eyes and open hearts.
Give us the courage to drink this moment in.
We are listening. We are grateful. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

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 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?' 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 quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalms 95

O come, and sing to the Beloved;

make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Come into the Presence with thanksgiving;

make a joyful noise with songs of praise!

For great is our God, above all gods,

Who holds the seas' depths and the mountains' heights.

O come, worship and bow down, and kneel before our Maker!

We are the people of God's pasture, and the sheep of God's hand.

Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, and at Massah in the wilderness;

Come with thanksgiving, and drink the living water.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Joy of Longing Hearts
by Mary McDonald

CPC Choir

GOSPEL READING

John 4:5-42

read by Mark Neville and Ivy Pillers

Jesus extends his generous offer far beyond the expected boundaries. As the conversation between Jesus and the woman concludes, may we join the people of the Samaritan village in their wholehearted acceptance.

ALL: They said to the woman, we no longer believe just because of what you have said. Now we have heard for ourselves and we know that this man really IS the Savior of the world.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 479 Ho, All Who Thirst

repeat as directed

All

Ho, all who thirst, come now to the wa - ter, and

all whose souls are parched and wea - ry, come and drink!

Ho, all who thirst, come now to the wa - ter, and

Fine

from your heart will flow a nev - er - fail - ing spring!

Printed with Permission CCLI #2748883

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that a glass of water given to us by a stranger can taste like justice.

We believe that honest conversation has the power to change us.

We believe that all God's children have a voice and something to say.

We believe that Jesus loves the outcast, the ignored, the shamed, and the abandoned.

We believe in asking questions.

We believe in curiosity.

We believe in giving people a drink.

May we be brave enough to give people a drink. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, our Savior,

hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Mother and Father in heaven, holy be your name.

Impose your reign that we may do your will, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today this one day's bread.

Forgive our wrongs as we forgive those who do wrong against us.

Save us from our temptations and keep us from doing evil,

For the Realm, the power, and the glory are yours,


Now and forever. Amen.

SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE


*CLOSING HYMN GTG 475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing


vs. 1-3




1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!
he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

BLESSING AND CHARGE

As you leave this place,
may God bless you with seeking.
Seek out the hungry. Seek the weary.
Seek the good in every person you pass.
Seek out the hopeful. Seek the faithful.
Seek God in each of us.
As you seek and as you wonder,
may you find what you are looking for.
In the name of our loving God, who is always seeking us,
go now in peace. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Syria-Turkey Earthquake

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) urges your support in the aftermath of the 7.8- magnitude earthquake and its aftershocks in Syria and Turkey. Thousands are reported dead and injured, numbers that will rise as search and rescue continues. Buildings have been reduced to rubble, and roads and bridges have been severely damaged, resulting in dangerous conditions for first responders. In some places, such as Aleppo, this destruction is compounding the damage of the now 11-year war in Syria.

PDA is providing emergency relief and short-term recovery in the impacted areas. PDA will remain active throughout the recovery process, accompanying our partners as they determine long-term program needs and providing financial support for building and resilience.

Years of recovery lie ahead, and your commitment will help PDA extend the hands of Christ. Will you stand in the “GAP” for the people affected by this catastrophic earthquake?

It’s not too late to donate!

Donations will be matched by the CPC Mission Fund- up to \$500!

| Church Staff | | Serving in Worship Today | |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Pastor | Rev. Jan Wiersma | Liturgist | Mark Neville |
| Choir Director | Meg Cain | Readers | Mark Neville, Ivy Pillers |
| Handbell Director | Judy Kereakos | Special Music | CPC Choir |
| Pianist | Glenna Muir | IT Support | Louis Bouchard |
| Custodian | Nancy Sanford | | |
| Office Manager | Stephanie Pasch | | |

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

Sunday, March 12

9:30 am **Worship Onsite and Online**

2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Monday, March 13

6:00 pm Building Usage: Med City Tai Chi

6:30 pm Session Meeting (virtual)

Tuesday, March 14

10:00 am PW Bible Study

12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due

6:30 pm Building & Grounds Committee

7:00 pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network

Wednesday, March 15

6:30 am Prayer Group at Church of Christ

12:00 pm Conference Call *

6:00 pm Confirmation

7:00 pm CPC Choir

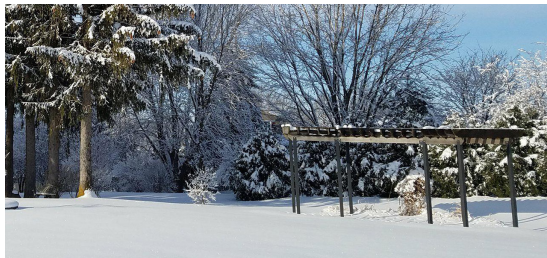
Thursday, March 16

5:30 pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios

Sunday, March 19

9:30 am **Worship- Onsite and Online**

2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios



Judy Leal
Jane and Ed Burgstaler family,
especially daughter Jenny
Connie Holst
Vera Atkinson's daughter, Teresa
Shannon Cisewski
Judy Robb and her family as they
mourn the death of her brother, Dan
Ron Murray
Dick and Nancy Massaro
Nellie Brovold's grandma, Hilda
Lyal Powell's family, on the death of
his Uncle Larry

***To be added to the prayer list,
please contact Pastor Jan at
pastor@cpcrochester.org.***

***For emergency pastoral care,
call Pastor Jan at 763-219-2927.***

Online Worship:

Sundays 9:30 – 10:30am

<https://meet.google.com/vao-wjef-cbe>

+1 575-305-4527 PIN: 652 821 468 #

*** Wednesday's Conference Call**

+1 413-889-2244 PIN: 433 818 991#

We often see this Gospel story [Jesus meeting a Samaritan woman at the well] as a bridge-building one. It's a reminder to be brave enough to cross boundaries and offer a drink to those society may separate from us. And it is. And also, it reminds us that God designed this whole world to run on benevolent connection. And that requires us to not just be charitable, but vulnerable.

— Rev. Danielle Shroyer, from her commentary for the 3rd Sunday in Lent
@sanctifiedart



seeking:
Will you give
me a drink?



The **Book Discussion Group** will read and discuss *Women Rowing North: Navigating Life's Currents and Flourishing as We Age*, by Mary Pipher this month. The *New York Times* bestseller from the author of *Reviving Ophelia* is a guide to wisdom, authenticity, and bliss for women as they age.

“Women growing older contend with ageism, misogyny, and loss. Yet as Mary Pipher shows, most older women are deeply happy and filled with gratitude for the gifts of life. Their struggles help them grow into the authentic, empathetic, and wise people they have always wanted to be.” (<https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/38884171>).

Join in on this interesting discussion on Sunday, March 26, following worship!