



Worship Celebration

Third Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2020 + 11:15 AM

Welcome to The United Methodist Church of Berea!

*As followers of Jesus Christ, who reveals a God whose love knows no boundaries, we are committed to welcoming and affirming every person as a beloved child of God. Every person—of every sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, age, economic status, health, ability, or any other identifying label—is welcome to participate fully in our ministries and life together as church. We hope The UMC of Berea will become a home for you, your family, and your friends as together, **we make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.***

We Gather as God's Children

We are glad you have chosen to worship with us today. Please indicate your presence in worship by signing the Who's Who attendance pad (located on the pew near the center aisle) or checking in on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/UMCBEREA.

Words of Welcome

Prelude

I Call to You, Lord Jesus Christ

J.S. Bach

+ Call to Worship

You, who are thirsty, come.

***Here, we will find Christ's grace to quench our thirst
and God's love to nourish our spirits.***

Let us worship God,
for God is here.

Let us be centered in love,
for love is here.

Let us rejoice in God's presence,
for in God's presence, our lives are restored.

+ Hymn

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

UMH 127

+ Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

Faithful One, we long to trust your steadfast faithfulness.

We yearn to know your life-giving love.

Love us into faithful living.

Wash over us with your grace.

Nourish us with the water of your presence, and lead us into eternal life.

In the name of your love, we pray. (silent prayers of confession)

May God forgive us, free us, and lead us more fully into life.

In the name of Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

+ Please stand as you are able.

We Grow in God's Word

Leader: With disciples of every time and place, let us listen for the word of God among us.

People: *Our ears and hearts are open.*

First Lesson—Exodus 17.1-7 (CEB)

¹The whole Israelite community broke camp and set out from the Sin desert to continue their journey, as the LORD commanded. They set up their camp at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people argued with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink."

Moses said to them, "Why are you arguing with me? Why are you testing the LORD?"

³But the people were very thirsty for water there, and they complained to Moses, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt to kill us, our children, and our livestock with thirst?"

⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What should I do with this people? They are getting ready to stone me."

⁵The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of Israel's elders with you. Take in your hand the shepherd's rod that you used to strike the Nile River, and go. ⁶I'll be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Hit the rock. Water will come out of it, and the people will be able to drink." Moses did so while Israel's elders watched. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites argued with and tested the LORD, asking, "Is the LORD really with us or not?"

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Lesson—John 4.5-42 (CEB)

⁵Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, which was near the land Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there. Jesus was tired from his journey, so he sat down at the well. It was about noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me some water to drink." ⁸His disciples had gone into the city to buy him some food.

⁹The Samaritan woman asked, "Why do you, a Jewish man, ask for something to drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" (Jews and Samaritans didn't associate with each other.)

¹⁰Jesus responded, "If you recognized God's gift and who is saying to you, 'Give me some water to drink,' you would be asking him and he would give you living water."

¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you don't have a bucket and the well is deep. Where would you get this living water? ¹²You aren't greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave this well to us, and he drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock."

¹³Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks from the water that I will give will never be thirsty again. The water that I give will become in those who drink it a spring of water that bubbles up into eternal life."

¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will never be thirsty and will never need to come here to draw water!"

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, get your husband, and come back here."

¹⁷The woman replied, "I don't have a husband."

"You are right to say, 'I don't have a husband,'" Jesus answered. ¹⁸"You've had five husbands, and the man you are with now isn't your husband. You've spoken the truth."

¹⁹The woman said, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you and your people say that it is necessary to worship in Jerusalem."

²¹Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the time is coming when you and your people will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You and your people worship what you don't know; we worship what we know because salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the time is coming—and is here!—when true worshippers will worship in spirit and truth. The Father looks for those who worship him this way. ²⁴God is spirit, and it is necessary to worship God in spirit and truth."

²⁵The woman said, "I know that the Messiah is coming, the one who is called the Christ. When he comes, he will teach everything to us."

²⁶Jesus said to her, "I Am—the one who speaks with you."

²⁷Just then, Jesus' disciples arrived and were shocked that he was talking with a woman. But no one

asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?" ²⁸The woman put down her water jar and went into the city. She said to the people, ²⁹"Come and see a man who has told me everything I've done! Could this man be the Christ?" ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to see Jesus.

³¹In the meantime the disciples spoke to Jesus, saying, "Rabbi, eat."

³²Jesus said to them, "I have food to eat that you don't know about."

³³The disciples asked each other, "Has someone brought him food?"

³⁴Jesus said to them, "I am fed by doing the will of the one who sent me and by completing his work. ³⁵Don't you have a saying, 'Four more months and then it's time for harvest'? Look, I tell you: open your eyes and notice that the fields are already ripe for the harvest. ³⁶Those who harvest are receiving their pay and gathering fruit for eternal life so that those who sow and those who harvest can celebrate together. ³⁷This is a true saying, that one sows and another harvests. ³⁸I have sent you to harvest what you didn't work hard for; others worked hard, and you will share in their hard work."

³⁹Many Samaritans in that city believed in Jesus because of the woman's word when she testified, "He told me everything I've ever done." ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹Many more believed because of his word, ⁴²and they said to the woman, "We no longer believe because of what you said, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this one is truly the savior of the world."

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Chancel Choir Anthem

Ave Verum Corpus

arr. Charles Gounod

Sermon

+ Hymn

You Who Are Thirsty

TFWS 2132

Call to Prayer

O Lord, Hear My Prayer
(sung three times by all)

TFWS 2200

Prayers of the People/The Lord's Prayer

UMH 895

Giving Our Tithes and Offerings

Moment for Mission

Offertory

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

J.S. Bach

+ Doxology

(to the tune of Amazing Grace, UMH 378)

***Praise God our Maker, Christ the Son, who came to walk this earth.
Through joy and pain he knows our life, with Spirit, gives new birth.***

+ Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

Living God, through these gifts we now bring, help our world live.

Loving God, through these gifts we now bring, help our world love.

Nourish others as you have nourished us:

with your steadfast presence and your healing grace. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

+ Hymn

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

UMH 298

+ Benediction

Blessed by God's love and strengthened by Christ, our living water,
we go out to bless God's world with love.

Thanks be to God.

Amen.

Postlude

If We Will Trust in God to Guide Us

J.S. Bach

We invite you to enjoy the postlude. When you are ready to leave the worship space, we ask that you do so quietly out of respect for those who are still listening. Thank you for being with us today!

Our service of worship is ended. Our worship through service now begins.

Fellowship Hour

Please join us before or after worship in the Gathering Place for fellowship and refreshments.

Each week, snacks and treats are provided by a friend of the congregation. Consider offering the gift of hospitality and providing simple refreshments, perhaps in celebration of a birthday or anniversary or other milestone. To sign up or for more information, please contact **Jason Antczak** at **440-759-7805** or jasonantczak78@gmail.com.

Weekly Seeds

You are invited to use these resources for further reflection during the week. Gather together a few friends from your neighborhood, workplace, or any other community of which you already belong, and walk together through these prayers, questions, and preparations for next Sunday's worship services.

Morning Prayer

God, my maker, hold me this day,
with the same hand that shapes the mountains,
the same hand that cradles the deep waters.
Keep my heart soft and open;
make my faith firm and strong.
Renew me, reform me, recreate me
into the image of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Evening Prayer

I come to you now, O Lord,
weary from this day's journey:
thirsty for rest, hungry for peace.
Renew me in your love,
and restore me by your grace,
until I find my rest at last
by the river of the water of life. Amen.

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Questions for reflection and conversation:

1. After being released from captivity in Egypt, the Israelites spend time wandering in the wilderness, and it's in this journey that they begin to form an identity as a people while facing a daunting challenge. Their worldview has been shaped by their captivity in Egypt, and their "murmuring" is a manifestation of this. In what ways is your worldview shaped by the culture in which you live? What is necessary for liberation?
2. This morning's Gospel story is a deeply relational one, showing us how interdependent we really are on God, each other, and the land. How have relationships sustained you? Reflect on the connections between the Gospel lesson and today's first lesson: how do they inform each other?

Next Sunday's Scripture Lessons

March 22, 2020 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 15.1-13, Psalm 23 (754 or 137), Ephesians 5.8-14, John 9.1-41

Thank you to those leading in worship today:

Ministers

All God's People

Pastors

Rev. Nathan Howe
Rev. Carrie Antczak

Organist

Dr. Barbara McGregor

Chancel Choir Director

Courtney Popp

Greeters

Sam & Mary Jane Weaver

Liturgist

Sharon Williams