

Third Sunday in Lent
March 12, 2023

The Tree of Life

Welcoming and Announcements

Centring Music: Air from the D Major Suite

J. S. Bach, edited by Ellen Jane Lorenz

Lighting of the Christ Candle and the Candles of Lent

Christ the Life and Light of the World,
may we be mindful of how your love persistently
shines even in our times of wandering,
our times of searching for the truth,
our times of doubt and pain.

**Be the light of our love, we pray:
bring us back to you again.**

Opening Hymn: **I Heard the Voice of Jesus**

(Voices United 626)

Words: Horatius Bonar 1846

*Music: English and Irish traditional melody, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams 1906
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1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast.'
I came to Jesus as I was,
weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.

2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down, and drink, and live.'
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
and all your day be bright.'
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
till travelling days are done.

Opening Prayer

We are tired and thirsty.

We sit by the well our ancestors have dug.

Christ, you come, and offer us living water.

We wonder about life, about truth, about our place.

**Christ, you cross all boundaries to speak with us,
and your Word stirs in us.**

We doubt our abilities. We believe people's judgments.

We feel alone.

**Christ, your love changes us,
and a spring of life wells up in us.**

Give us, please, the living water of your life-giving Spirit,
gushing up to boundless love and the joy of being.

For this, God, we are thirsty.

Come and quench the thirsting of our souls. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

A Time to Wonder: The Woman at the Well (Video presentation)
Sandy Tales

Choir Anthem: Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You
Jay Althouse

Scripture Reading
The Hebrew Bible: Exodus 17:1-7
The Gospel: John 4:5-42

Reflection

Hymn of the Day: Water Flowing from the Mountains
(More Voices 87)

Words and music: Jim Hannah, 2003; arr. David Melhorn-Boe, 2006
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- 1 Water flowing from the mountains
Water flowing o'er the earth.
Water comes to us, so precious.
Living water gives us birth.

Refrain Drink deep this source of life.
Drink deep and know.
For living water sings,
and living water brings
the love that makes our spirit grow.

- 2 Water rushing down the rivers.
Water rushing to the sea.
Water comes to us, so precious.
Living water makes us free. *Refrain*

- 3 Water springing from the dry place.
Water springing in the sun.
Water comes to us, so precious.
Living water for each one. *Refrain*

Invitation to Offering

Choral Response: What Can I Do? (More Voices 191)

Words and Music: Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy; arr. Alan C. Whitmore, 2005
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What can I do?
What can I bring?
What can I say?
What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy.
I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love.
I'll do my share.

Offering Prayer

Bless the gifts we offer.
Bless we who offer them.
Bless those who will, in turn, be touched.
May this circle of blessing be pleasing in your sight, O God.
Amen.

Joys and Concerns

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

In the dry wildernesses of our lives,
in the days of heat and thirst,
you offer us living water,
Thank you, gracious and generous God.
When we begin to doubt your presence,
and grumble that your love is unreliable,
you offer us living water,
Thank you, gracious and generous God.
When life's regrets and the bad choices we have made

leave us feeling excluded and unworthy,
you offer us living water,

Thank you, gracious and generous God.

When circumstances, or the inhumanity of others,
have left us alone and wounded,
you offer us living water,

Thank you, gracious and generous God.

We thank you and praise you, O God,
that how ever we may thirst,
what ever we may need to satisfy our souls,
you offer it freely and abundantly in Christ;

**So we drink deep of the living water
and, as we draw from your wells,
we seek to pass the cup to others
who, like us, are thirsty for your grace.
Amen**

Parting Hymn: **Like a Healing Stream** (More Voices 144)

Words and music: Bruce Harding, 2003

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1 Like a healing stream in a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,
God is tricking through our lives
as in a dream unfolding,
promising revival and rebirth
like a healing stream.

2 Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,
God is bubbling through the soil
to coax a new creation,
yearning for an end to want and need
like a gentle rain.

3 Like a river strong with a restless current,
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,
God is carving out a channel
in a new direction,
calling for an end to hate and war
like a river strong.

4 Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts
to shape a new tomorrow:
God will always challenge and provide!
Like a mighty sea,
like a river strong,
like a gentle rain,
like a healing stream.

Blessing

Benediction: **Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery**
(Voices United 121)

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Living Water of salvation,
be the fountain of each soul;
springing up in new creation,
flow in us and make us whole,
flow in us and make us whole.

Three candles of Lent are extinguished.

Postlude: Come Thou Fount, "Nettleton"

*Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813
arranged by Becki Slagle Mayo*

Worship Leaders – Pastor Nancy Walker and Pastor Beth Parsons

Music Leader: Sharon Prindle-Collins

Welcoming – Stephen Godfrey

Scripture Reader – Sue Christensen

Spirit Kids Program – Joanne Thomas

Greeters – Grace and Russell Lindsay

Technical Support – Louise Johnston and Ron Norman

Fellowship Time – Elaine Zandee and Friends

Flowers for the service are offered by Casey Vandenbrink
in celebration of the life of his wife, Evelyn Vandenbrink.