

Welcome to the

Setauket Presbyterian Church

of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



Third Sunday in Lent

Order of Worship

March 12, 2023

❖ *please rise in body or in spirit; unison words are in bold.*

GATHERING MUSIC

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

The Light Enters

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.

❖ **HYMN no. 166** *Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days*

CALL TO CONFESSION

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? How often have we simply decided that justice and compassion were not worth the work? Forgive our fragile hearts and remind us that it was you who sat at that well in Samaria in the heat of the day. It was you. It is still you. With hope we pray, amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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 realization change and inspire us. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE Hymn no. 437 *You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy!*

(sung twice: first by the choir, then by the whole congregation)

You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

You are the Christ, giver of mercy!

You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of Christ's peace with one another.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN and THE LORD'S PRAYER

Children will be escorted to Church School by Heidi or a teacher after the Lord's Prayer

PRAYER FOR 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.

Give us the courage to 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 John 4:1-15

Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, "Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John" (although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized), he left Judea and started back to Galilee. But he had to go through Samaria. So he 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."

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READING John 4:16-29, 39

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 worshiped 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 worshipers 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?"²⁸ 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?" ...

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done."

SERMON

Water to Share

Rev. Ashley McFaul-Erwin

❖ **HYMN** no. 182 *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP

ODE Auction

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

❖ DOXOLOGY no. 609

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God,
all creatures high and low: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

❖ DEDICATION OF SELF AND SUBSTANCE (adapted from Isaiah 58:11-12)

You are the source of every good and perfect gift, O God. Use these tithes and offerings for your glory. Let your church be a spring whose waters never fail; and let your people be repairers of the breach and restorers of streets to live in. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

❖ HYMN no. 475 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

❖ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

Today's liturgy is by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

We welcome **Jane-Marie Wright** as our Worship Assistant this morning.

Thanks to **Jane-Marie** for this service!
