



seeking:
*Will you give
me a drink?*



"Living Water" by Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

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Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

3rd Sunday in Lent

March 12, 2023

**SEEKING: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith
Will you give me a drink?**

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*God of love,
we are thirsty for you, thirsty for your love,
your blessing, and your presence.
We open ourselves to your grace—
for you gush forth with the water of life.
Renew us with your Word. Amen.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Elevation in B Minor

Dom Paul Benoit

BRINGING THE LIGHT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Vince Leseney

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.

*SONG OF PRAISE

We All Come Thirsty

Bulletin p. 7

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Friends, with that grace in mind, let us pray:

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.

(Time of silent reflection)

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

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.**

*THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*SONG OF RESPONSE

Glory to God

Hymnal, No. 582

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen

World with-out end, with-out end. Amen (x3)

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Melissa Gill

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 17:1-7

Page No. 56

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalms 95

O come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,

when your ancestors tested me, and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

For forty years I loathed that generation and said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they do not regard my ways."

Therefore in my anger I swore, "They shall not enter my rest."

ANTHEM

Give Me a Vessel

SCRIPTURE READING

John 4:5-42

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Page No. 864

MESSAGE

Will You Give Me a Drink?

Tracy L. Evans

*SONG OF FAITH

Take My Life

Hymnal, p. 697

*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. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal, page 35

Response... Wellspring of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

God of All Living

Hymnal, No. 713 vs 4

God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun,
Teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
Using us gently and making us one.

*DEDICATION PRAYER

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

Hymnal, No. 700

*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*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.**

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Lectionary Readings for March 19: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41.

The Food & Shelter items of the month for March **are crackers and peanut butter. Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.**

Hearing-assistance devices and **large print hymnals** are available from the head usher.

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

we all come thirsty

ST. COLUMBA ("The King of Love My Shepherd Is")

Text: Anna Strickland (2022)

Music: Irish melody

We Through all dif - come thir - sty to the well to
We care for God's our com - mun - i - ty to Our

seek the li - ving wa - ter With wounds and
care and hold each oth - er ly There are no
mu - tual aid shared free - ly To all we

pasts we'd ra - ther hide But let - ting our hearts
stran - gers as for we they re - ceive Our With sib - lings, sis - ters,
give as we re - ceive Our With grace - and lov - ing

sof - ten
bro - thers
deep - ly

Take My Life

697

1 Take my life and let it be con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would I with - hold;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti -
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sa -
 take my in - tel - lect and use ev - ery power as

cease - less praise; let them flow in cease - less praise.
 ful for thee, swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 ges from thee, filled with mes - sa - ges from thee.
 thou shalt choose, ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
 it shall be no longer mine.
 Take my heart, it is thine own;
 it shall be thy royal throne,
 it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
 at thy feet its treasure store;
 take myself and I will be
 ever, only, all for thee,
 ever, only, all for thee.

700 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

1 I'm gon-na live so (live so)
 2 I'm gon-na work so (work so) God can use me an - y -
 3 I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)
 4 I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)

where, Lord, an - y - time!
 (an - y - time!)
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na
 I'm gon-na

live so (live so)
 work so (work so) God can use me an - y -
 pray so (pray so)
 sing so (sing so)

where, Lord, an - y - time!
 (my Lord,) (an - y - time!)