



New Covenant Presbyterian Church
March 12, 2023 10:00am Service



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The Worship of God

March 12, 2022 Third Sunday of Lent

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing Our Vision

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...



If you want bottled water, there are so many choices! And clearly Americans are responding. More than half of all Americans buy bottled water - a fact that boggles the mind when one considers that our country has some of the cleanest tap water in the world. Yet, the sales of bottled drinking water have become a \$4 billion industry in our country alone!

We do this even though there's no guarantee that the plastic-encased liquid will be any purer than what is available from your own kitchen sink - and it probably isn't. Visions of remote mountain springs vanish when one realizes that *Dasani* (made by Coca-Cola) is simply purified tap water. In fact, most bottled water you might buy in the supermarket is *purified* faucet fluid, rather than "source" water, i.e. a bubbling spring or something like that.

This is a critical distinction, because it's *what* we drink and the *source* of that drink that really matters. This is an important distinction particularly if you're in a developing country in the Third World where truly pure water isn't readily available. If you're in the United States, however, it's simply a lifestyle choice. How interesting that no bottled-water company has been able to give the world water which quenches our thirst forever. For that, we have to look to Jesus.

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

L: Come and worship! God invites us to come just as we are.

P: *In wonder and awe, let us come seeking the face of God.*

L: We come longing to experience God's embrace,

P: *And we are wrapped in God's loving arms.*

L: We come hungry to encounter the Word,

P: *And God feeds us with the Bread of Life.*

L: We come parched for renewal and restoration,

P: *And God quenches our thirst with living water.*

L: We come weary and worn,

P: And God shoulders our burdens and grants us peace.

L: Come and worship, my friends! In wonder and awe, God is revealed to us.

P: We come as we are, giving thanks that we are changed by God's love and grace.

Hymn # 370

Just As I Am, Without One Plea

*1-Just as I am, without one plea
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou biddest me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

*3-Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

*2-Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

*4-Just as I am, thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down,
Now to be thine, yes, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

Prayer of Confession



We live from day to day, O Lord, not too concerned about the consequences of our sinful behavior. The thought of being judged almost seems like a dream in a future far off from us, and we do pretty much as we please. Forgive us for not receiving Christ as One who reveals our sins to us in the here and now, expecting us to change our ways. Forgive us for ignoring his presence and authority, and help us to live in such a way as to please him. And now, holy God, we turn to you in silent prayer to share our concerns and to seek your forgiveness.....Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

L: Hear the Good News: For freedom, Christ has set us free.

P: Through the Spirit, by faith, we wait for the hope of righteousness.

L: Friends, believe and live the Good News of the Gospel -

P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Meeting God in the Word

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson*Exodus 17: 1-7**The People Quarrel With Moses**Lay Leader*

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?'

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **P:** *Thanks be to God.*

Second Reading*John 4: 5-15, 21-26, 28-30, 39-42**Carol*

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.’ 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 worshippers 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.’

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?’ They left the city and were on their way to him.

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, ‘He told me everything I have ever done.’ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.’

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **P:** *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

Thirsty Souls Are Quenched



Responding to the Word

Hymn # 446

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

*1-Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God;
God, whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for a blest abode.
On the rock of ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation’s walls surrounded, thou may’st smile at all thy foes.*

*2-See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters, and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river, ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord the giver, never fails from age to age.*

*3-Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear
For a glory and a covering, showing that the Lord is near.
Thus deriving from their banner, light by night and shade by day,
Safe thy feed upon the manna which God gives them when they pray.*

Affirmation of Faith

L: Moses leads you up from the land of Egypt, out of the chains of slavery into the burdens of freedom. And you sing to the Lord, saying, "The Lord is our strength and our song; the Lord has become our salvation."

P: ***And we affirm, "The Lord our God is among us."***

L: But now you come to a pool of water and you cannot drink because it is bitter. And you murmur against Moses and you mutter against the Lord.

P: ***And we cry in despair, "Is the Lord among us or against us?"***

L: Then the Lord shows Moses a tree, and Moses throws it into the water, and the water becomes sweet.

P: ***And we affirm, "The Lord our God is among us."***

L: Now you set out for another place, leaving behind the oasis and coming into the wilderness. Food is scarce, and again, you have a complaining spirit.

P: ***And we cry in despair, "Is the Lord among us or against us?"***

L: But the Lord sends quail in the evening and manna in the morning, and all of you are filled.

P: ***And we affirm, "The Lord our God is among us."***

L: Now you move on from the wilderness, making camp after another day. But again, you have no water to drink and you murmur against Moses.

P: ***And we cry out, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt? Will you kill us and our children with thirst?" And you, once again, mutter against the Lord asking, "Is the Lord among us or against us?"***

L: Then the Lord shows Moses a rock, and water flows from it and your thirst is quenched.

P: ***And we affirm, "The Lord our God is among us."***

L: O faithless generation, have you believed only because you have seen signs? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe!

A: ***We believe, O Lord! Forgive our unbelief and help us to believe without seeing.***

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

*Cares Chorus: I cast all my cares upon you. I lay all of my burdens down at your feet.
And anytime, I don't know what to do, I cast all my cares upon you.*

The Call to Celebrate Our Gifts

God provided all that we need, and so we are called to return a portion of our blessings to God to be used in God's service. We so appreciate all that each of you shares for our church's ministry. May we all give sacrificially for God's glory.

Prayer of Dedication: Holy and loving God, we give you thanks for all the ways you bless our lives, but today, we most especially thank you for quenching our souls with your presence and your Word. Let us not take our blessings for granted, and may we be generous with all that we have. Amen.

Going Out to Serve

Hymn # 510

Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts



*1-Jesus, thou joy of loving hearts,
Thou fount of life, thou light of all,
From the best bliss that earth imparts
We turn, unfilled, to heed thy call.*

*2-Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood;
Thou savest those that on thee call;
To them that seek thee thou art good,
To them that find thee, all in all.*

*3-We taste thee, O thou living bread,
And long to feast upon thee still;
We drink of thee, the fountainhead,
And thirst our souls from thee to fill.*

*4-Our restless spirits yearn for thee,
Where'er our changeful lot is cast,
Glad when thy gracious smile we see,
Blest when our faith can hold thee fast.*

Blessing

L: May God, who is help for the helpless, grant you strength and perseverance.

P: *May Christ, who is the hope of the hopeless, grant us the peace that passes all understanding.*

L: And may the Spirit, who is the comfort for the comfortless, grant you the assurance that passes all doubt,

P: *That we might all be blessed with whatever is needed, to faithfully serve the Lord.*

L: And may the love, grace and fellowship of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit...

Response

*He is Lord – He is Lord,. He has risen from the dead, and he is Lord.
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess, that Jesus Christ is Lord.*