



seeking: Will you give me a drink?

With Christ as the Cornerstone, we will build a church of living stones, where every member is a minister and is equipped to express God's love by word and deed to all people.

Based on I Peter 2:5, 6

The Worship of God

The Third Sunday in Lent

Gathering Music

Prelude

"Majesty" Susan Gardner

By Jack W. Hayford arr. Calvin Taylor

Welcome

† Call to Worship

- One: We gather together-
- All: the seekers, the dreamers, the shooting-star wishers, in hopes of seeing God.
- One: We gather together-
- All: the curious, the hungry, the loving, the lonely, in hopes of finding peace.
- One: We gather together-
- All: those who are thirsty and those with water to spare, in hopes of finding justice.
- One: So come to the well, come to the table. Come, let us worship God. Amen.

*** Opening Hymn 682** "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

Words by Edwin Hatch, Music by Robert Jackson

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land; I am weak, but Thou art mighty; hold me with Thy pow'rful hand; Bread of Heaven, Bread of Heaven, feed me till I want no more, Feed me till I want no more.

(cont'd on next page)

Steve Rose

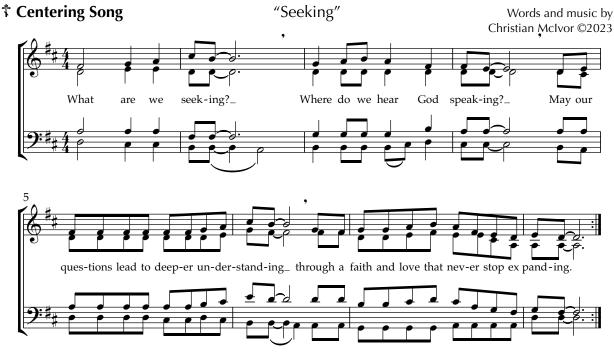
Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow; Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through; Strong Deliv'rer, strong Deliv'rer, be Thou still my strength and shield, Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside; Bear me through the swelling current, land me safe on Canaan's side; Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to Thee, I will ever give to Thee.

> During the last stanza of our Opening Hymn, all children are invited to come forward for today's children's sermon.

Children's Sermon

April Alston



Call to Confession

Christian McIvor

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.

Words of Forgiveness

- One: This is the good news of the gospel:
- All: God's grace is deeper than any well. We are seen, loved, and forgiven. May this realization change and inspire us. Amen.

Offertory Anthem	"I Believe" GBC Choir	By Mark A. Miller
I believe in the sun, I believe in the sun Even when, even when it's not shining. (Repeat)		
I believe in love, I believe in love Even when, even when (Repeat 3x)	l don't feel it.	
I believe in God, I believe in God Even when, even when	God is silent.	
O00		
↑ Doxology "Pr	aise God from Whom All Blessings Flow'	O WALY WALY; Words by Neil Weatherhogg, Music: Scottish Folk Melody
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below; Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore.		
† Prayer of Dedication		Will Moody
Scripture Reading	Exodus 17:1-7	Sebastian Heredia
Sermon	Will you give me a drink?	Chrissy Tatum Williamson
Silent Reflection		
Invitation		Chrissy Tatum Williamson

As the deer panteth for the water, So my soul longeth after Thee. You alone are my heart's desire, And I long to worship Thee.

(Refrain)

You alone are my strength, my shield; To You alone may my spirit yield. You alone are my heart's desire, And I long to worship Thee.

You're my friend and You are my brother, Even though You are a King. I love You more than any other, So much more than anything.

(Refrain)

I want You more than gold or silver, Only You can satisfy. You alone are the real joy giver, And the apple of my eye.

(Refrain)

Celebrating Community

Benediction

Postlude

"Alleluia! Alleluia!" Susan Gardner Steve Rose

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

By Edward Hodges

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Cover Art:

"Wet Stones" by Carmelle Beaugelin; Inspired by Exodus 17:1-7 Conté crayon, charcoal, acrylic, gold gild on paper

On a recent search to remedy dull kitchen knives, I found myself learning about wet stones. Sharpening a knife used to be called "whetting," so to sharpen a blade was to "whet" it. Stones used for sharpening were called "whetstones," or a "wet rock." Natural whetstones are typically formed of quartz, but today can be formed into pumice stones from all kinds of materials. This interesting play on the words "wet" and "stone" led me to ask of this Exodus narrative, "In focusing on their perceived lack, how had the Hebrews' trust in God begun to dull?"

In Exodus 17 we find the first encounter involving the Hebrews where a perceived lack of water, a necessary resource for survival, is in question. When collective despair and the threat of abandoning the journey to God's promised land is aroused, God aids Moses in providing water from rocks along the way. This fear of scarcity dulled the once sharpened faith of the community to the extent that they longed for their former life in Egypt where water was abundant but sipped under the oppression of slavery. How is it that seeking freedom could cost so much?

Like the Hebrews in the wilderness, our fear of scarcity may cause us to struggle in our confidence in God's provision as we seek our own promises along our life's journey. In seeking to quench our thirst, like the figures in this image, perhaps we may find the provision of God in the grace of relief and from unexpected places that sharpen our faith.

-Carmelle Beaugelin



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