

Old First Presbyterian Church

seeking:

Will you give me a drink?



“living water “ by Lauren Wright Pittman
Inspired by John 4:5-42, digital painting

Third Sunday in Lent March 12, 2023

Worship Through Praising God

Please fill out a guest card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate or give it to an usher.

Silence is requested as we prepare our hearts for worship.

** At the asterisk, please rise in body or spirit.*

Prelude Gavotte and Musette

William Faulkes (1863-1938)

**Welcome and
Church Life**

Introit

Joseph Clokey (1890-1960)

Rend your heart, and not your garments,
And turn unto the Lord your God.
For God is gracious and merciful,
Slow to anger, and of great kindness.

***Call to
Worship**

Erwin Barron

Leader
People

We gather together—
**the seekers, the dreamers, the shooting-star wishers,
in hopes of seeing God.**

Leader
People

We gather together—
**the curious, the hungry, the loving, the lonely,
in hopes of finding peace.**

Leader
People

We gather together—
**those who are thirsty and those with water to spare,
in hopes of finding justice.**

Leader
People

So come to the well, come to the living water.
Come, let us worship God.

***Hymn 479**

Come Now to the Water

Refrain

**Ho, all who thirst, come now to the water,
and all whose souls are parched and weary, come and drink!
Ho, all who thirst, come now to the water,
and from your heart will flow a never-failing spring!**

1

**Why forsake the Lord, the fount of living water,
choosing broken cups that cannot be filled?**

2

**For the Lamb will be our shepherd and will guide us
to the well-springs of the water of life.**

3

**All who come may take this gift of living water.
They will thirst no more, for they shall be filled.**

**Prayer of
Confession**

Erwin Barron

**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?**

Silence is kept.

**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
Forgiveness**

Leader 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.

People This is the Good News:
**God's grace is deeper than any well.
We are seen, loved, and forgiven.**

***Hymn 205**

Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

Ubi caritas et amor, *Where love and affection are -*
Ubi caritas Deo ibi est. *Where love is, God is there.*

Offering

Ushers will receive the offering during the anthem. You may also make your offering electronically using the kiosk in the narthex.

Anthem

From Elijah, Opus 70 Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
O come everyone that thirsteth,
O come to the waters, O come unto Him.
O hear, and your souls shall live forever.

***Doxology**

DUKE STREET
Arranged by Hal H. Hopson (born 1933)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**Time with
Our Children**

***The Peace**

Leader Peace be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Worship Through Hearing God's Word

**Prayers of the
People**

Ted Chiao, Read by Cindy Burt

Prayer Partners

John and Carmen Josiah, Cynthia Kang, Saundra Keyes, Jeanne Kirkwood,
Levi Knippel, John and Riley Kramar, Nina Krietzman, Marne Krozek,
Bobby Lane

**The Lord's
Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

Scripture John 4:5-42
Leader For the Word of God in scripture,
For the Word of God within us,
For the Word of God among us,

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Pastor Henderson

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.

Worship Through Responding to God's Word

***Hymn** **We All Come Thirsty**
Sung to ST COLUMBA ("The King of Love My Shepherd Is," Hymn 802)

- 1 We all come thirsty to the well
To seek the living water
With wounds and pasts we'd rather hide,
But letting our hearts soften.
- 2 Through differences our hands can reach
To care and hold each other.
There are no strangers for they are
Our siblings, sisters, brothers.
- 3 We care for God's community
Our mutual aid shared freely,
To all we give as we receive
With grace, and loving deeply.

***Charge and
Benediction**

Choir

Hal H. Hopson (born 1933)

The Lord bless you,
The Lord keep you,
The Lord give you peace.

From Numbers 6:24-26

Postlude

Rondeau, from the Abdelazer Suite, Z 570

Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

Old First Presbyterian Church

Sharing God’s Love, Welcome, and Justice on Our Corner, in Our City, and in the World

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Today’s Liturgy and Art: A Sanctified Art

This Lent we are using “Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith,” creative resources for Lent and Easter from A Sanctified Art, a collaborative offering support to worshiping communities in integrating art and creativity into their spiritual practices.

The call to worship, prayer of confession, assurance of forgiveness, affirmation of faith, and closing hymn are adapted from prayers by the Reverend Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | www.sanctifiedart.org

The cover art “living water” is by Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | www.sanctifiedart.org. Of the image, Pittman says:

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.” 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.”

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, 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, and now a vessel of living water herself.

Concert for Turkey/Syria Earthquake Relief, March 25

A concert to raise funds for relief in the earthquake-stricken regions of Turkey and Syria will be held at Old First on Saturday, March 25, at 3:00 pm. Plan to hear the many voices – choirs, soloists, ensembles from various San Francisco houses of worship – and to support relief efforts in the regions of Turkey and Syria hit by two earthquakes in a row.

Devotionals for Lent, Fishboxes for OGHS

Devotionals for Lent and fishboxes for Easter’s One Great Hour of Sharing annual offering are available in the narthex.

We Staff the Food Pantry, Saturday, March 18

We need your hands! Without your hands, Old First won’t have enough hands for the Interfaith Food Pantry on Saturday, March 18, but you can sign up so easily by visiting our website – www.oldfirst.org – and then clicking on the link in the sidebar column.

This Week at Old First

Sunday March 12, Third Sunday in Lent

2:00 pm Board of Deacons Meeting, On-Line

4:00 pm O1C: Ives Collective, strings and winds, works by Grażnya Bacewicz, Amy Beach, and Antonín Dvořák.

7:15 pm Friendly Circle AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall

Friday March 17

8:00 pm O1C: Lang/Rainwater Project, trombone and piano

Saturday March 18

9:00 am Old First Staffs the Interfaith Food Pantry, Fellowship Hall

1:00 pm Presbyterian Women, On-Line

7:30 pm O1C: Gen Z at O1C, Junior Bach Festival, 70th Anniversary

Sunday March 19, Fourth Sunday in Lent

11:00 am Worship

4:00 pm O1C: Ann DuHamel, “Prayers for a Feverish Planet,” piano and electronics

7:15 pm Friendly Circle AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall

Old First Presbyterian Church Staff

The Reverend Maggi Henderson	Pastor
The Reverend Erwin C. Barron	Parish Associate
The Reverend Lisa Robecheck	Parish Associate
Larry Marietta	Music Director
Jarron Carlson	Composer in Residence
Brad Peterson	Office Admin
Kiristi Hoerauf	Wedding Coordinator