



"A Community Of Many Faithing Communities Where All Belong!"

Living Waters Contemplative Life Center | Divine Intervention Ministry to the Homeless
Tippecanoe just.good.food Garden | Food Justice Site PCUSA
Arts and Science Literacy Camps for Children

Welcome To Worship

March 12, 2023

9:30 a.m.

3rd Sunday in Lent



Welcome to this time of being with God and each other.

"Thirsting in the Wilderness" Rev. Trish Eckert

✧ **Prelude: Zo Trembley**

✧ **Welcome and community news**

Adult Education after worship today

There is always an open invitation to join us for our two other weekly worship services, which take place on Zoom:

Sunday nights 6 pm Centering Prayer

Monday nights 6:30 pm Sanctuary Time of Belonging

✧ **Readying Ourselves for Worship**

Surely God is in this place, Holy Ground!

*Surely God is in this place,
Holy Ground!*

✧ **A Blessing as we Center Ourselves in this Moment**

Wilderness Blessing ~ Jan Richardson

Let us say
this blessing began
whole and complete
upon the page.

And then let us say
that one word loosed itself
and another followed it
in turn.

Let us say
this blessing started
to shed all
it did not need,

that line by line
it returned
to the ground
from which it came.

Let us say
this blessing is not
leaving you,
is not abandoning you
to the wild

that lies ahead,

but that it is loathe
to load you down
on this road where
you will need
to travel light.

Let us say
perhaps this blessing
became the path
beneath your feet,
the desert
that stretched before you,
the clear sight
that finally came.

Let us say
that when this blessing
at last came to its end,
all it left behind
was bread,
wine,
a fleeting flash
of wing.

✧ **Becoming Present to God and Each Other - Our Check-in**

~ **The Joy of Passing the Peace** ~

✧ **Kid's Time**

✧ **Gathering as God's People: Our Theme**

Scripture presents us with wilderness moments time and time again. At creation, God's Spirit hovered over the wilderness. Fast forward and we find the Israelites wandering in the wilderness. Fast forward again, and we find Jesus' ministry, which began in the wilderness and was marked with frequent trips back to the wilderness to be alone with God. Scripture is speckled with wilderness moments, which must mean something—right? I am excited about this Lenten theme because I believe that there is something about the wilderness that is foundational to our faith, and I want to claim that. We learn who we are in the wilderness. We learn who God is in the wilderness. We learn how to take the next step, how to find comfort with the unknown, and how to trust God's call in the wilderness. We are reminded of what truly matters and what we can let go of in the wilderness. In the wilderness our faith is born, nurtured, challenged, and resurrected; and we all need that from time to time. So this Lent, we're invited to embrace the wilderness together. The wilderness of faith, grief, self-discovery, doubt—you name it, God is there. Let the journey begin.

Let us turn our attention to these aspects of wilderness this week:

The wilderness can be a place of surprising connection

The wilderness is a place to be vulnerable and seen

The wilderness is a place to tell the truth

The wilderness is a place of deprivation and anger

In the wilderness, we seek God's provision

✧ **Gathering Hymn 819 *Be Still, My Soul***



✧ **Opening Ourselves to God's Grace**

One: Jesus met the blind man at the city gate.

All: Jesus met the crowds at the edge of the sea.

One: Jesus met the leper in his pain.

All: And Jesus met the Samaritan woman in her isolation.

One: So with confidence we declare—

All: Jesus meets us here.

One: For we too are the blind and the broken, the hurting and the bleeding.

All: Jesus meets our scars, our fears, our prayers, and our dreams.

One: So you are welcome here.

All: All are welcome here.

One: Let us worship God.



✧ **Sharing our Innermost Lives with God**

Gracious God,

When it comes to our faith, we know we could learn from the Samaritan woman who ran through the streets singing your name.

So forgive us for the times when we remain silent about what our faith means to us.

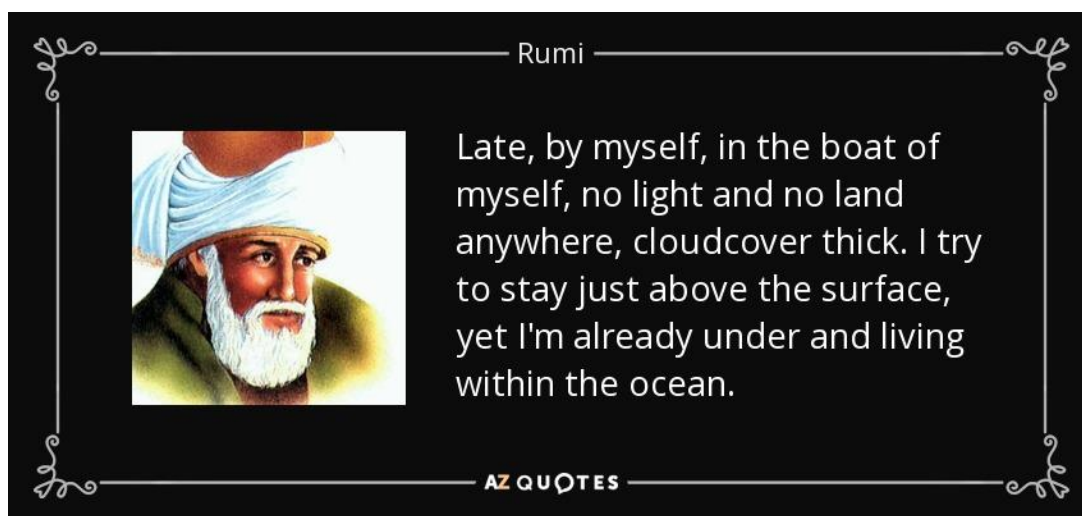
Forgive us for the times when we choose comfort over bravery.

And forgive us for the times we shut people out, missing opportunities to run into you.

Teach us to be brave like the Samaritan woman, and saturate our thirst for that which leaves us thirsty.

With hope and gratitude we confess.

With hope and gratitude we pray, amen.



❖ **Prayer of Intention**

❖ **Bible Wisdom Teachings**

Exodus 17: 1-7 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?’

John 4: 7-15 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.’

One: May we hear anew the origin stories of our faith and draw from the roots of our tradition.

All: Thanks be to our God.

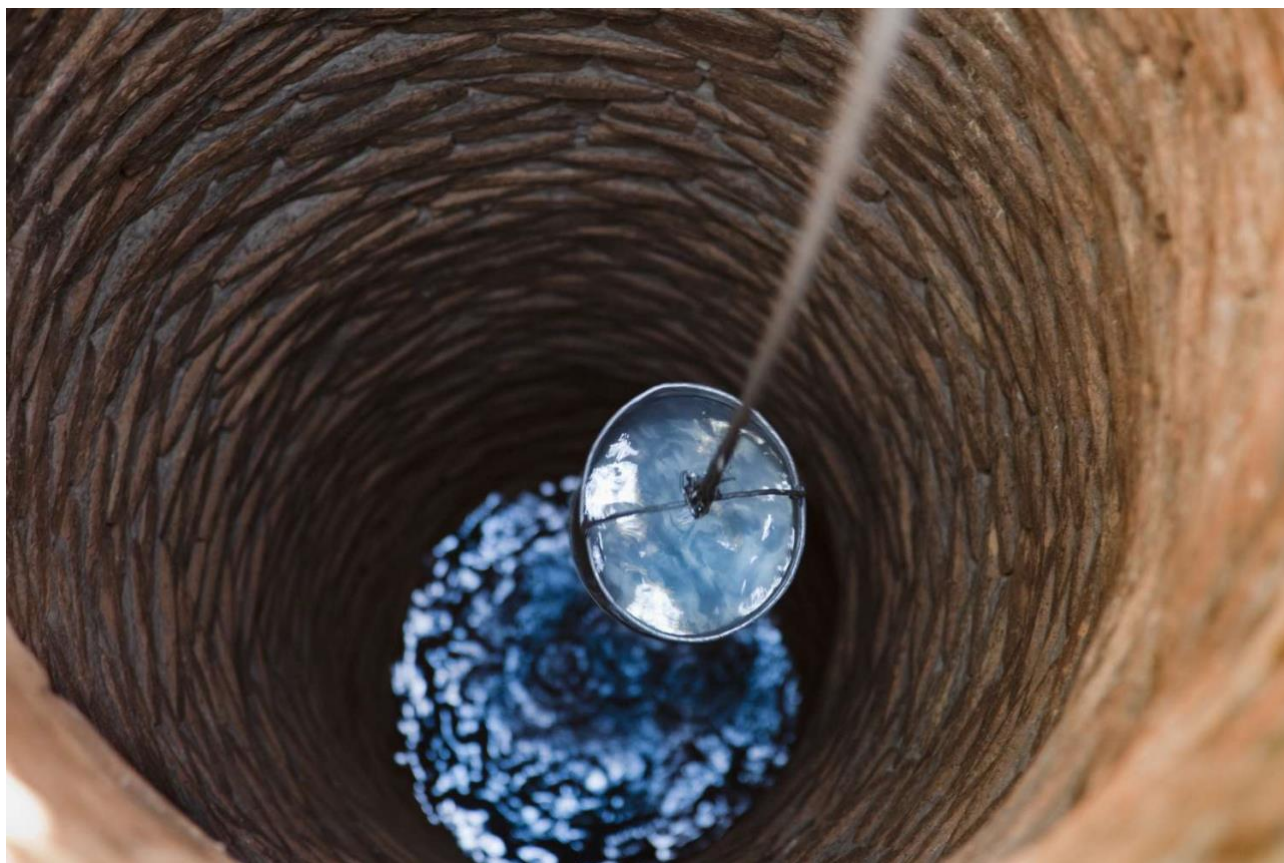
✧ *Message Thirsting in the Wilderness*



✧ **Reflection Questions**

- **As you travel through this season**
- **What are you finding in the midst of your daily rhythms and routines?**
- **Are your habits and practices drawing you closer to the sustenance you need or pulling you farther away from it?**
- **What are you thirsty for?**
- **How might you remain open and take your vessel to the source?**

✧ **Short period of silent reflection**



✧ **Sharing Our Wisdom**

✧ **Hymn 81 *Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken***

✧ **Community Prayers & the Pastoral Prayer**

The Lord's Prayer

ALL:

**Heavenly Father, Heavenly Mother, Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done,
Let heaven and earth become one.
Give us this day the bread we need,
Give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us, from each one to each one.
Lead us to holy innocence beyond the evil of our days —
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:
Forever your name is All in One. Amen**

✧ **Benediction**

Go into the world with assurance, hope and promise:
the grace of the Word of life rest upon you;
the love of the Source of life embrace you;
and the transforming power of the Breath of life
help, strengthen and surprise you,
this day and all your days. Amen.

Now that the worship has ended, may the service truly begin.

✧ **Our Response:**

Holy One, now we your servants go in peace. Your Word lives on in us.

✧ **Postlude Zo Trembley**

