Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
Third Sunday in Lent
March 12, 2023
11:00 a.m.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

When the woman came to the well, Jesus—the embodiment of living water—said simply, 'Give me to drink.' Our Savior will likewise speak to us in a voice we recognize when we come to Him—for He knows us. He meets us where we are. And because of who He is and what He has done for us, He understands.

Carole M. Stephens

THE GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRELUDE

Prelude on *St. Columba* Henry G. Ley

***CALL TO WORSHIP** **Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt**

One voice: Like a fountain, like a fast flowing river.
Many voices: God's love flows ever on.

One voice: Like a gentle stream, like rainfall in the desert.
Many voices: God's love refreshes our souls.

One voice: Like the vast oceans, like the wildest seas.
Many voices: God's love is deeper than we can imagine.

All: We come to this day to worship God, seeking living water as we continue on our Lenten journey.

***HYMN** We All Come Thirsty (Please see insert)

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)** **Pat Levi**

O God you are the source and wellspring of all of life. And yet we confess our souls are sometimes parched. You offer us living water, yet we confess we sometimes settle for wells that run dry. As we make our way through this Lenten wilderness, met us here and slake our thirst for love, for hope, for healing, for mercy, for forgiveness. Through Christ we pray (*silent prayer . . .*)

*** WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

One voice: Hear this good news – the ancient stories we share tell of God who forgives again, and again, and again.
This one that creatively finds new ways to reveal grace upon grace and love upon love.
All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL
All those children and youth who are present are invited to come forward at this time.

A READING FROM THE TORAH Exodus 17:1-7

ANTHEM Lead me, Lord Samuel Sebastian Wesley

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS John 4:5-42

THE SERMON **Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt**
"High Noon"

***HYMN 161** "Woman in the Night"
Text: Brian Wren, 1982
Music: Alfred V. Fedak, 1989
NEW DISCIPLES (Fedak)

***LENTEN AFFIRMATION (Unison)**

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,
and in living our questions when answers are not obvious.
We believe in curiosity.
We believe in giving thirsty people a drink of water.
When we do this, we believe what Jesus said:
"You are doing it unto me."

by A Sanctified Art (adapted)

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

***HYMN 182** "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"
Text: Horatius Bonar, 1846
Music: *English County Songs, 1893*
KINGSFOLD

***THE CHARGE**

THE BENEDICTION (Sung by the choir)

The Grace by Richard Shepherd

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
And the love of God,
And the fellowship of the holy Spirit
Be with us all evermore. Amen.

During this time of Lent, we ask that you leave the sanctuary in meditative silence following the service.

*Please stand as you are able

Liturgist: Pat Levi, Tacci Smith
Elder of the Day: Sharon Lytle

CHURCH STAFF
Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt, Minister
Frank W. Boles, Interim Director of Music
Donna Eagle Joslin, Church Administrator
Leslie Sayyar, Brent Roberts, Treasurers
Barbara Escalante, Bookkeeper

WarrenWilsonPC
@WarrenWilsonPC
WarrenWilsonPresbyterianChurch

WELCOME VISITORS! If you are worshiping here for the first time today, welcome! We are glad to have you with us on this joyous day.

PRAYERS GO OUT FOR: Lee Dugger and family; Betty Smith; Bob Gambrell; Walt Roberts, Fran & Burnace's son; Blake Joslin and his parents, Carol Lee and Brooks; Houston Huggins, Beth Meriwether's brother; Bob & Janice Kesterson, Mark Meriwether's aunt and uncle; Jackie Wintle's cousin, Richard Taylor and her niece, Jessica Brown; Kip Smith, Tacci's father; Pat Crumpler; Shane Reece, Nancy Garrison's son; Pat Wilson's son, Kell; Fred Porter & Fred Harvey, the Griswold's brothers-in-law; Bartley Spencer, Sandy Brauer's brother in law; Erika Lytle; Jackie Ligon Cole; Rick Garrison; Fran Roberts' sister-in-law, Linda Briggs; Flo Bishop; Jon Hettrick and his family; Marjorie Hettrick; Kim Reece, daughter of Nancy and Rick Garrison.

OFFERING We will not receive a formal offering during our service however, there are offering plates as you enter the sanctuary, or you may mail your offering to: Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church
101 Chapel Lane, Swannanoa, NC 28778, or make donations directly and securely on our website by going to, warrenwilsonchurch.org

FINISHING STRONG! Our Lenten educational series focused on preparing for life's final stages continues today. Join us in the Fellowship Hall following worship today for a discussion of Spiritual/Emotional/Familial Considerations in life's final stages. A light lunch will be provided.

A NOTE ABOUT OUR LITURGY Parts of our liturgy today are drawn from a Lenten resource developed by the creative team from A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

SPIRITUALITY RETREAT The Presbytery of Western NC is once again offering the yearly Lenten Spirituality Retreat on March 24-25. This year it will be held at William Black Lodge in Montreat. It will be led by Donna Chase, Director of Spiritual Formation at 1st Presbyterian of Greensboro. Each day allows for learning, fellowship and prayer so that you return home relaxed and rejuvenated. Contact Sandy Brauer (828-803-4718) for questions or help getting registered.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING This special offering joins with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors in need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. We will be collecting this offering through Easter Sunday. If writing a check with your donation, please make it out to WWPC with OGHS on the memo line. Thanks in advance for your generous giving.

COVER IMAGE By Laura 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

5 Lewis, Karoline M. John: Fortress Biblical Preaching Commentaries. (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 2014). 55.
6 Ibid. 56.
7 Ibid. 56.
8 Ibid. 60.

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church



March 12, 2023

Warren Wilson
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

101 Chapel Lane
Swannanoa, NC 28778
(828) 298-9092
www.warrenwilsonchurch.org

At Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church we are mothers and fathers, single and married, gay and straight, young and old, black and white, prosperous and poor, uncertain and sure, broken and whole -- and everything in between. Together we are the many faces of humanity, yet as a joyful, caring and loving community of faith, we are one in Christ!