

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

FEBRUARY 24, 2008

10:00 AM

MINISTERS:

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

PASTOR:

THE REV. JOHN DAVID HEECKT

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

JEAN EARLY

GATHERING AND PREPARATION

Prelude

Introit: *The Lord is in His Holy Temple* W. Price

Greeting, Announcements, and Mission Moment

Call to Worship

One: God spoke these words, and said: I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before me.

All: Lord, have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

One: You shall not make for yourself any graven image, nor the likeness of any thing that is in the heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth, you shall not bow down to them, or worship them.

All: Lord, have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

One: You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

All: Lord, have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

One: Remember the Sabbath day, and keep in holy.

All: Lord, have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

One: Honor your father and your mother.

All: Lord, have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

One: You shall not murder.

All: Lord, have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

One: You shall not commit adultery.

All: Lord, have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

One: You shall not steal.

All: Lord have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

One: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

All: Lord, have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

One: You shall not covet.

All: Lord, have mercy on us, and write your laws in our hearts.

Confession and Declaration of Pardon

One: Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is not another commandment greater than these.

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence stand together and draw near to the throne of grace, that we might receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

***All: Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole hearts, we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.**

*One: Almighty God have mercy on you, and forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

***The Lord's Prayer** (*using "sins"*)

***Hymn:** *Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer*

NCH 19

THE SACRAMENT OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

(*SEE INSERT*)

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7 OT Pg. 64 (LP Pg. 79)

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 95 OT Pg. 550 (LP Pg. 676)

Second Reading: John 4:5-42 NT Pg. 94 (LP Pg. 115)

Anthem: *Legende* P.I. Tchaikovsky

Time With the Children

***Hymn:** *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* PH 157

(**All who are able, please stand.*)

Sermon

***The Apostles' Creed:**

We believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell; on the third day he rose again, he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Hymn:** *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* NCH 489

RESPONDING IN FAITH

Offering

Offertory *The First One Ever* L. Wilberger

Sally Yarrish, Soprano

PH 514

***Doxology**

***Unison Prayer of Dedication:**

All gracious God, we give you thanks for both your many blessings of the past week, and for the opportunity to return to you a portion of that with which you have blessed us. Receive this offering, we pray, multiply it, and put it to work, both in this congregation and beyond, so that your Kingdom may be established and your Name may be praised. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers on the People

Pastoral Prayer

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern

GOING OUT TO SERVE

***Hymn:** *God Be With You Till We Meet Again* PH 61

Benediction

Choral Response: *Threefold Amen*

Postlude:

RIDGEBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

GATHERED 1760

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

RIDGEBURY ROAD AT GEORGE WASHINGTON HIGHWAY

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The first reading is Exodus 17:1-7, and may be found on page 64 of the Old Testament section of the pew Bibles, or on page 79 of the large-print edition.

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?”

Here ends the first reading.

The second reading is John 4:5-42, and may be found on page 94 of the New Testament section of the pew Bibles, or on page 115 of the large-print edition.

So Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar,
near the plot of land 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 I knew the gift of God, and who it is who is asking of 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 well is deep.

Where do you get that living water?
Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob,
 who gave us this 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,

“Go, call your husband, and come back.”

The woman answered him,

“I have no husband.”

Jesus said to her,

“You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’;
 for you have had five husbands,
 and the one you have now is not your husband.
 What you have said is true!”

The woman said to him,

“Sir, I see that you are a prophet.
 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain,
 but you say that the place where people must worship is
Jerusalem.”

Jesus said to her,

“Woman, believe me,
 the hour is coming when you will worship the Father
 neither on this mountain or 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 worshipers will worship that Father in spirit and

truth,

 for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.”

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,

“I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

Just then his disciples came.

They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman,
 but no one said,

 “What do you want?”

 or,

 “Why are you speaking with her?”

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.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him,

 “Rabbi, eat something.”

But he said to them,

 “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”

So the disciples said to one another,

“Surely no one has brought him something to eat?”

Jesus said,

“My food is to do the will of him who sent me to complete his work

Do you not say,

‘Four months more, then comes the harvest?’

But I tell you,

look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.

The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal

life,

so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.

For here the saying holds true,

‘One sows and another reaps’

I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor.

Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

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 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.”

Here ends the second reading.