

Order of Worship
LENT 3

Exodus 17:1-7, John 4:5-29, 39-42
SEEKING: Will you give me a drink?

First Pres. Cedar Falls
March 12, 2023

Prelude

Welcome

Song

"Rain Down"
refrain is #48 in the hymnal

Praise Band

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.

Gathering Hymn

"Weary Seekers"
(tune: 720 Jesus Calls Us)

verses 2, 3

2. Doubting seekers, burned out seekers, all are welcome in this place.
Wounded and rejected seekers come and find Christ's healing grace.
3. Seekers hurt by church pronouncements, judging certain love as wrong.
In the face of harsh denouncements, we resist. Love is our song!

Invitation to Confession

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 us 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.

Quiet Reflection

Assurance of Grace

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.

Share the good news of the gospel with one another:

We belong to God. We are held in God's love. We are made new. Amen.

Our Response to Grace #447

"We Are Forgiven"

Time for Wonder

Blessing Each Other

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Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings

Exodus 17:1-7, John 4:5-42

Sermon

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 our hands and hearts be nourished for this life-giving work. Amen.

Response to the Word #343 "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life" verses 1, 3, 4, & 6

Offering Invitation

Sung Offering Dedication #710 "We Lift Our Voices"

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Our Life Together

Sending Hymn "Sing a New World into Being" Mary Louise Bringle
Tune: HYMN TO JOY

Benediction and Charge

As you leave this place,

may God bless you with seeking.

Seek out the hungry.

Seek the weary.

Seek the good in every person you pass.

Seek out the hopeful.

Seek the faithful.

As you seek and as you wonder,

may you find what you are looking for.

In the name of our loving God, who is always seeking us, go now in peace. Amen.

Postlude