

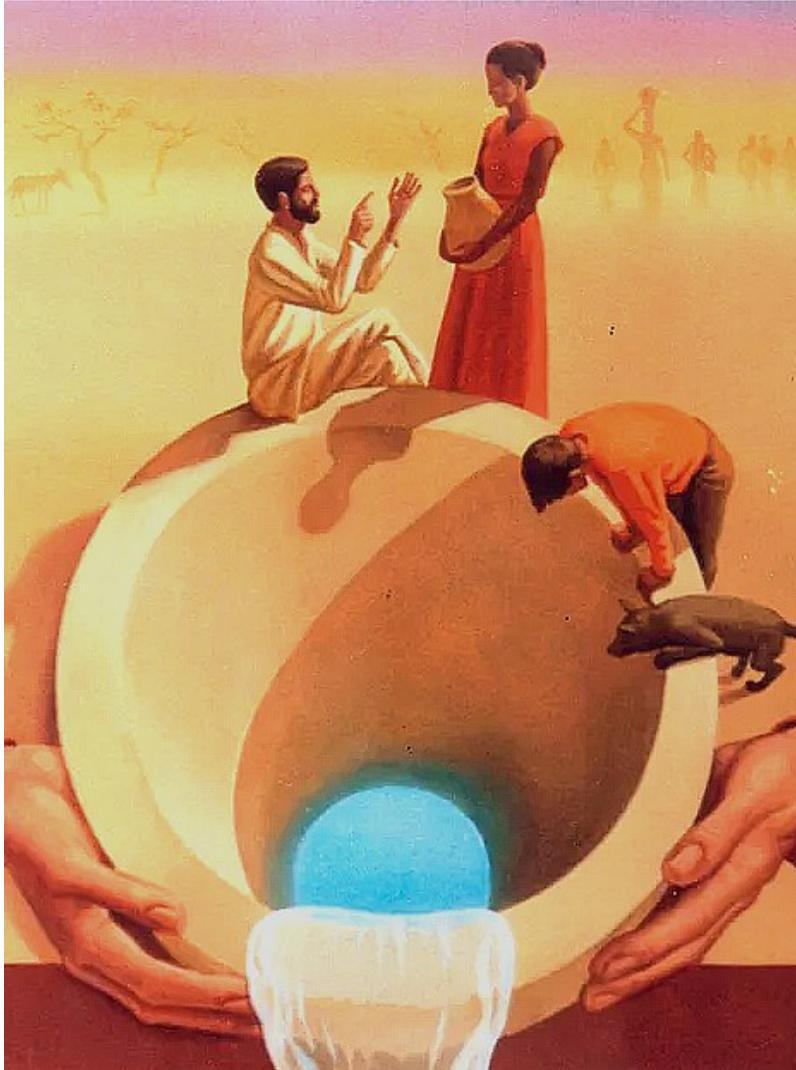


# WELCOME TO THE BANQUET

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 8, 2026

11AM



Koenig, Peter. *Christ at the Well*,

from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

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## PRELUDE

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## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## OPENING ACCLAMATION

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Let us, this day, return to the Lord our God.

**For God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

## KYRIE

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Lord, have mercy,

**Christ have mercy,**

Lord, have mercy

## CONFESSION

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*Let us begin this season on our knees*

God, you have called us to be Love in the world:

**We do not always recognize our belovedness;**

**We do not always recognize the belovedness of our neighbor;**

**We know we harm our relationship with you**

**And our relationships with each other**

**With words said and unsaid**

**With deeds done and undone**

**We ask for your unreserved forgiveness.**

**We ask for your unconditional love.**

**Help us to forgive without reservation.**

**Help us to love without condition.**

**In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## ABSOLUTION

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May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

**For God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

Worthy of every song we could ever sing  
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring  
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe  
We live for you  
Jesus, the name above every other name  
Jesus, the only one who could save  
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe  
We live for you  
Oh, we live for you, holy  
Holy, there is no one like you  
There is none besides you  
Open up my eyes in wonder  
And show me who you are and fill me  
With your heart and lead me  
In your love to those around me  
And I will build my life upon your love, it is a  
firm foundation  
And I will put my trust in you alone, and I will  
not be shaken

## PRAYER

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Let us pray: **Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear what the Lord Jesus Christ says: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and the greatest commandment. And the second is like it: love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

*Said by all**Hosea 6:1-3*

Come, let us return to our God,  
Who has torn us and will heal us.  
God has struck us and will bind up our wounds,  
After two days revive us,  
On the third day restore us,  
That in God's presence we may live.  
Let us humble ourselves, let us strive to know the Lord,  
Whose justice dawns like morning light,  
Its dawning as sure as the sunrise.  
God's justice will come to us like a shower,  
Like spring rain that water the earth.

## CHORUS

## TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

*As we sing, the reader comes to the middle of the room, just as Christ comes among us. All turn in toward the reader.*

Take up your cross, the Savior said,  
if you would my disciple be;  
take up your cross with willing heart,  
and humbly follow after me.

## READING

## JOHN 4:5-42

*Please sit.*

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground 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 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." 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 in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor 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 the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." 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 to her, "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 to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and 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."

## CHORUS

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## TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

**Take up your cross, then, in his strength,  
and calmly every danger brave:  
it guides you to abundant life  
and leads to victory o'er the grave**

*We are convinced that the wisdom and image of God is present equally in all people. Thus, after the homily and a brief time of pause and Lenten reflection, the floor will be opened for a discussion and sharing around the themes of the text. There is space provided in your bulletins or the art notebooks for you to take notes or reflect in any way that would be meaningful for you. All we be welcome to share.*

## HOMILY

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## TIME OF REFLECTION

## YOU HOLD IT ALL TOGETHER

*Please feel free to use the space below to reflect on what words or images might be emerging for you this morning.*

## CONVERSATION

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*We welcome now a time of sharing and conversation. There is so much wisdom here, we invite you to share what is coming up for you or what you have drawn or what questions you may have. All are welcome to share. All are welcome to disagree. Please raise your hand and a microphone will come to you.*

# BAPTISMAL COVENANT

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*This is a statement that we repeat in order to remember who we are, who God is and how we want to live in the world.*

*Leader* God is One God,

*All* **the almighty, creator of heaven and earth, of all that is - seen and unseen.**

God is Jesus Christ,

**the eternal Son, divine and human, our Savior. His life, death, and resurrection reveal to us that God is love.**

God is The Holy Spirit,

**at work in the world. Speaking through prophets past and present, inspiring us, holding us accountable, leading us to grow into the full stature of Christ.**

With God's help,

**We will continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers.**

With God's help,

**We will persevere in resisting evil, and when falling into sin, we will repent and return to God.**

With God's help,

**We will proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ.**

With God's help,

**We will seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourself.**

With God's help,

**We will strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.**

# PEACE

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The Peace of Christ be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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All are invited, to follow with us on the path of the cross and find the nourishment at the table of God's love.

Come, **Let us walk in love, as Christ loves us.**

*As the music plays, the congregation will gather around the altar on the for communion. Please bring your bulletin with you.*

## SONG

## LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS

LEVAS #196

1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning,  
safe and secure from all alarms;  
Leaning, leaning,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

2 O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
O how bright the path grows from day to day,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]

3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,  
[Refrain]

## COMMUNION PRAYER

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*Celebrant* God is here.

*People* **The Spirit is with us!**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* Creator of the universe, you speak in the darkness, bringing song out of silence, dance out of stillness, life out of death. Your life fills us now and gives us the power to praise you and bless you.

*All* **We praise you, we bless you.**

*Celebrant* Sustainer of the covenant, you send us messengers to give voice to your love. You speak through hungry women, outcast men, the poor and impure. You choose what is despised to make us whole. A homeless girl bears Jesus, your blessing, who turns the whole world upside down. He smashes the temple, laughs at the powerful, kisses sinners, and heals the unclean. He breaks open the prisons, frees slaves and captives, feasts with the starving, and breaks bread with strangers; loving each body as God's own, he teaches us to walk in the way of compassion.

*Intercessor* Pray for the hungry and sick and afraid.

*Free prayers from the people.*

*Intercessor* Pray for prisoners and those without homes.

*Free prayers from the people.*

*Celebrant* Beholding your holiness in all our human lives we praise and bless you:

*All* **We praise you. We bless you.**

*Celebrant* Forgiving Father, you make a feast for us in the midst of our shame; you cover us with your garment of love. Running past our violence and terror, you bring us home and give us new life.

On the night before his friends betrayed him and enemies took him away to be killed, Jesus shared supper with his friends. He blessed bread, broke it, gave it to them and said, "This bread is my body, making covenant with you and all humankind. Whenever you eat it, remember me."

Then he blessed the wine and said, "This is the cup of life, my blood poured out for all, making covenant with you and all humankind. Whenever you drink it, remember me." Now whenever we share this holy meal, Jesus rises in us and makes us one body.

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

*Intercessor* Pray for enemies and for friends.

*Free prayers from the people.*

*Intercessor* Pray for the violent and for those who suffer at others' hands.

*Free prayers from the people.*

*Celebrant* Seeing in your love the end of our divisions, we praise and bless you.

*All* **We praise you. We bless you.**

*Celebrant* Life-giving Mother, you raised Jesus in glory from the tomb. Now show us his body alive in your children. Open our hearts to your Spirit enlivening us. Heal us, inspire us and give us your power so we may live as Jesus lives and love as Jesus loves.

*Intercessor* Pray for the dead and for mourners.

*Free prayers from the people.*

*Intercessor* Give thanks for God's work among all of her people.

*Free prayers from the people.*

*Celebrant* We pray that all our lives may find in your embrace communion with Mary, Jesus' mother, with friends and strangers, the hurt and the hurting, and with all your holy people in every time and place as we pray together the words Jesus taught us:

**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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## FRACTION

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Let us, this day, return to the Lord our God.

**For God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

*The bread is broken.*

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

All are welcome to gather at the table of God's love.

*If you would like to receive the sacrament, please come forward.*

*Once you have received the bread, you are invited to dip it in the cup or drink from the cup if you would like.*

*If you would like gluten free, please let us know.*

*After, you are invited to return to your original seat.*

## COMMUNION MUSIC

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SWEET COMFORT  
SANDRA MCCRACKEN

Whatever my God ordains is right  
His holy will abide  
I will be still, whatever He does  
And follow where He guides

Sweet comfort, sweet comfort  
Yet shall fill my heart  
Sweet comfort, sweet comfort  
Sorrow shall depart

Sweet comfort, sweet comfort  
Yet shall fill my heart  
Sweet comfort, sweet comfort  
Sorrow shall depart

This bitter cup, I take it  
My fainting heart restored  
So here I stand, unshaken  
I trust upon the Lord

Whatever my God ordains is right  
He makes my feet to stand  
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine  
He holds me in His hand

He is my God, though dark my road  
He holds me, I shall not fall  
Whatever my God ordains is right  
To Him, I leave it all

## PRAYER OF SAINT FRANCIS

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*Said by all, please turn to face the open doors of the nave, as we prepare to go into the world.*

**Lord, make us instruments of your peace.**

**Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.**

**Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

## A SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

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Look mercifully upon this your family, Almighty God, that by your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

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*Deacon* Show our hearts your way,

*All*      **and we will follow.**

# PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN

Welcome to The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer!

We love the sound of kids in our service.

Here are some ideas to keep them engaged:

**Relax:** It's OK for kids to be kids. We offer coloring pages, worship bags, and books they can use during the service.

**Sit Close:** Consider sitting up front where it's easier for kids to see.

**Explain:** Kids are curious! Explain what's happening in the service.

**Participate:** Kids learn by mimicking what you do. So sing, pray, respond, etc. and kids will follow your lead.

**Wander:** It's OK to move around. Sometimes it's easier to let fidgety kids wander.

**Need to Leave?** No problem, there are spaces to take a break - kids need that sometimes. Come back when you're ready!

**Ask:** Questions or need help? Just ask our ushers.

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

**Matthew 19:14 NRSV**



**NEW TO CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER?** - Ready to learn more about our ministries? Considering membership? Use the QR code at the left to join our Newcomer group and receive information about ministries, events, membership and access to our CoR App.

**TODAY'S OFFERING** - We encourage you to give your offering electronically today through our CoR App. (Search Redeemer Cincy in your app store.) Or you may choose to give online via our secure online system using the QR Code at right. There are also two collection spots in the narthex (look for the Give Here signs) where you may deposit your offering securely.



**YOUR NAME**  
Here

**REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR NAMETAG** - As we gather together for worship today it is important to wear your nametag to help us all remember names or just meet for the first time. Don't have a nametag yet? Sign-up for one in the narthex/lobby near the entrance to the chapel. It will be ready for you next Sunday in the nametag cabinet.

## CALENDAR

Look for more details on at [redeemer-cincy.org/connect/event-directory/](https://redeemer-cincy.org/connect/event-directory/)

Church of the Redeemer offers a variety of worship, education, and fellowship events for all ages. A quick glance at our Events Page provides a look at both our recurring opportunities, as well as those special events we have throughout the year. You can access the church Events Page on our website under the Connect tab, on our CoR App using the Events button, and by using the QR code.



*We strive to share our mission of radical welcome and hospitality with the world through photos and video. From time to time we document church events for use in publications, website, and social media. By your presence, you grant Redeemer unrestricted rights to use and publish, transmit or telecast images, and or likenesses that may be taken of you for use in communications related to the church. Please contact Mireya Medina, Communications Minister, with any questions at [communications@redeemer-cincy.org](mailto:communications@redeemer-cincy.org).*

## PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

*Celebrant*..... The Rev. Dr. Herschel Wade  
*Preacher*..... The Rev. Joyce Keeshin  
*Deacon* ..... The Rev. Gary Lubin  
*Sacristan*.....Julie Knapton  
*Scripture Reading*..... Maria Cole  
*Intercessor* .....Amy Spitzer  
*Chalice Bearers* .....Andrew Cole, Elise Allred  
*Ushers* ..... Andrew Cole, Maria Cole  
*Altar Guild*..... Andrea Rogers, Emily Esslinger, Lisa Senter, Missy Darling  
*Bread Guild*.....Ryan Andrews

*Flowers in our worship spaces are a beautiful gift to God, those who attend worship, and those being honored or remembered. A contribution to the Flower Fund is a meaningful way to honor or remember a loved one for special life events such as birthdays, anniversaries, baptisms, confirmations, in thanksgivings for, in memory of, or to beautify our spaces.*

*If you would like to make a donation of \$50.00 please use our online form under the give tab on the website, [www.redeemer-cincy.org](http://www.redeemer-cincy.org), or scan the QR code at right.*



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