

**SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
*12 High Street, Brookeville, Maryland 20833*

*March 15, 2020*

*Third Sunday in Lent*

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Sue Shorb-Sterling

Music Director: Dr. Harry Dunstan

Internet Technician: Brandon Savage

**Glorifying God**

*Prelude—Music Before Worship*

**Welcome**

**Opening Song—"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"**

Verse One

Guide me, O my great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but you are mighty;  
hold me with your powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore,  
feed me now and evermore.

Verse Two

Open now the crystal fountain,  
where the healing waters flow.  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through.  
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,  
ever be my strength and shield,  
ever be my strength and shield.

Verse Three

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside.  
Death of death, and hell's Destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever sing to you,  
I will ever sing to you.

### **Call to Worship (L: Leader; P: People)**

L: We come to the well of fear and doubt.

**P: We have drawn deeply of those waters.**

L: We come to the well of anger and hate.

**P: These waters flourish in all the land.**

L: Lord, bring us to the water of peace and hope.

**P: Lord, bring us to the well of salvation. Amen.**

### **Giving Thanks For Our Blessings**

#### **Prayer of Thanksgiving (In Unison)**

**God of Healing Power, we give thanks that when we wander in our wilderness of fear and doubt, you remind us of the power of your redeeming love. When our thirst mounts and we reach for anything to quench it, you remind us that only you have the water that can quench all thirsts. We thank you that in the midst of self-quarantine and illness, you are constantly with us. Heal our sick souls when we think only of our own needs. Heal us, merciful God. Wash us again in the living water. Help us to be your faithful servants. We pray this and the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, "Our Father".....**

#### **Song of Preparation—"Heal Us, Emmanuel, Hear Our Prayer"**

##### Verse One

Heal us, Emmanuel, hear our prayer;  
we wait to feel thy touch;  
deep-wounded souls to thee repair,  
and Savior, we are such.

##### Verse Two

Our faith is feeble, we confess  
we faintly trust thy word;  
but wilt thou pity us the less?  
Be that far from thee, Lord!

##### Verse Three

Remember him who once applied  
with trembling for relief;  
"Lord, I believe," with tears he cried;  
"O help my unbelief!"

##### Verse Four

She, too, who touched thee in the press  
and healing virtue stole,  
was answered, "Daughter, go in peace:  
thy faith hath made thee whole."

Verse Five

Like her, with hopes and fears we come  
to touch thee if we may;  
O send us not despairing home;  
send none unhealed away.

**Introducing Jesus Christ (as well as God the Father and the Holy Spirit!)**

Hebrew Lesson—Exodus 17:1–7 (Common English Bible)

The whole Israelite community broke camp and set out from the Sin desert to continue their journey, as the Lord commanded. They set up their camp at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people argued with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.”

Moses said to them, “Why are you arguing with me? Why are you testing the Lord?”

But the people were very thirsty for water there, and they complained to Moses, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt to kill us, our children, and our livestock with thirst?”

So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What should I do with this people? They are getting ready to stone me.”

The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of Israel’s elders with you. Take in your hand the shepherd’s rod that you used to strike the Nile River, and go. I’ll be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Hit the rock. Water will come out of it, and the people will be able to drink.” Moses did so while Israel’s elders watched. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites argued with and tested the Lord, asking, “Is the Lord really with us or not?”

Psalter—Psalm 95

**Choral Response for Lent—“Harden not your hearts: listen to God’s voice”**

L: O come, let us sing to the Lord;

**P: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**

L: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

**P: Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

L: For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

**P: The sea belongs to God who made it, and the dry land, because God formed it.**

**Choral Response for Lent—“Harden not your hearts: listen to God’s voice”**

L: O come, let us worship and bow down,

**P: Let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!**

L: For the Lord is our God,

**P: And we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.**

L: Hear the voice of the Lord today! Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness, when your forbears tested me, and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

**P: For forty years I loathed that generation and said, “They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they do not regard my ways.” Therefore in my anger I swore, “They shall not enter my rest.”**

**Choral Response for Lent—“Harden not your hearts: listen to God’s voice”**

Gospel Lesson—John 4:5–42 (New Revised Standard Version)

So he 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."

### **Scripture Song "You Who Are Thirsty"**

You who are thirsty, come to the well and drink from waters flowing.  
You who are hungry, come to the bread and eat of his holiness.  
You who are tired, find rest.  
You who are weak, find strength.  
You who are thirsty, come to the well and drink. (Repeat)

He will freely feed all of them who are weak.  
He will quench the righteous thirst of all who humbling seek.

### **Growing in Faith and Knowledge**

Lenten Worship Series: Christ Acts For Us  
Sermon Title: "When the Going Gets Tough"

Time of Reflection

### **Growing in Love and Service**

**A Prayer of Hope During this Pandemic (by Rabbi Naomi Levy)**

**We are frightened, God, worried for our loved ones, worried for our world. Helpless and confused, we turn to You seeking comfort, faith and hope. Teach us God, to turn our panic into patience, and our fear into acts of kindness and support. Our strong must watch out for our weak, our young must take care of our old. Help each one of us to do our part to halt the spread of this virus. Send strength and courage to the doctors and nurses in the front lines of this battle, fortify them with the full force of their healing powers. Send wisdom and insight to the scientists working day and night across the world to discover healing treatments. Bless their efforts, God. Fill our leaders with the wisdom and the courage to choose wisely and act quickly. Help us, God, to see that we are one world, one people who will rise above this pandemic together. Send us health God. Watch over us. Grace us with Your love. Bless us with Your healing light. Hear us God. Heal us God. Amen.**

### **Offerings**

*Please set aside your offering and bring it when we are able to gather again. Or mail it to Salem United Methodist Church, 12 High St., Brookeville, MD 20833.*

Offertory

**Closing Song—“God Be With You Till We Meet Again”**

Verse One

God be with you till we meet again,  
By His counsels guide, uphold you,  
With His sheep securely fold you,  
God be with you till we meet again.

Chorus

Till we meet, till we meet,  
Till we meet at Jesus' feet;  
Till we meet, till we meet,  
God be with you till we meet again.

Verse Two

God be with you till we meet again,  
'Neath His wings protecting hide you,  
Daily manna still divide you,  
God be with you till we meet again.

[Chorus]

Verse Three

God be with you till we meet again,  
When life's perils thick confound you,  
Put His arms unfailing round you,  
God be with you till we meet again.

[Chorus]

Verse Four

God be with you till we meet again,  
Keep love's banner floating o'er you,  
Smite death's threatening wave before you,  
God be with you till we meet again.

[Chorus]

Sending Forth Blessing

**Congregational Response**

**“God Be With You Till We Meet Again” (chorus only)**

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