

### Isaiah 55:1-13

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Together, let us praise God's greatness  
**LET THE HUMBLE LISTEN AND REJOICE**

*The service of philosophy, of speculative culture towards the human spirit, is to rouse, to startle it to a life of constant and eager observation. Every moment some form grows perfect in land or face; some tone on the hills or the sea is choicer than the rest; some mood or passion or insight or intellectual excitement is irresistibly real and attractive to us---for that moment only. Not the fruit of experience, but experience itself is the end. How shall we pass most swiftly from point to point and be present always at the focus where the greatest number of vital forces unite in their purest energy? To burn always with this hard, gemlike flame, to maintain this ecstasy, is success in life.*

Walter Pater 1839-1894

As you may know, the common lectionary usually provides four readings for each Sunday. The preacher's job is to pick and choose which reading to use. So a few weeks ago I looked at the readings for each Sunday in Lent and made my selections for those Sundays and that was that. I had no particular theme in mind necessarily. I just sort of followed my heart as I looked at the readings.

I was telling the Men's Bible Group this week that a theme for Lent seems to be emerging in our readings, somewhat to my surprise. In week 1 of Lent we considered the classic story of Jesus in the wilderness. And we considered the possibility there that Satan's temptations were not all that tough to resist for Jesus, who, as the text tells us, was full of the Holy Spirit in his 40 days in the wilderness. Last week we read Psalm 27 which was written by a person who understands that it's crucial not to let the adversities of our lives distract us from a focused and disciplined life of prayer. The theme emerging here so far is not the typical Lenten theme of asceticism and sacrifice. The theme emerging so far seems to be about the abundance of grace and wisdom available to us as we live these days of Lent. The theme is not so much about giving something up for Lent as it is about taking something in...namely, more of what God is always seeking to offer us.

And sure enough, the theme shines forth in our reading for today, Sunday #3 in Lent.

I want to begin our look at this passage from Isaiah by reading something I came across this week. This week I began reading a very highbrow work of theology by a writer I recently came across named Raimon Panikkar. Panikkar, who died in 2010, was one of the most ground breaking theologians of our time. Why had I not heard of him until recently? I have no idea except to say that it must be about God's timing. Sometimes God waits until we are ready for the right book or the right writer to cross our path. The time seems right for me to be reading Panikkar, because I am really appreciating his book, as long as I read slowly enough to absorb his challenging thought process.

The passage I want to share is from Panikkar's book but it's a quote from someone else. Walter Pater.

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This quote is offered in the book to reinforce an idea the theologian Panikkar is wanting to express...the idea of (Latin here) "creatio continua," which is about the radical newness of each moment. Reality, God, Panikkar says, "flashes forth ever new and vital."

Every moment is sacred and the sacred is everywhere to be seen, heard, experienced.

Now let's look at our text:

Listen. Incline your ear. Listen. I am offering you something priceless says the Lord. I am offering you a feast no money can buy----the feast of my presence in every moment, the feast of my care and concern and provision for you in every moment says the Lord. Pay attention.

These lines from Isaiah 55 are addressed to the Hebrews who have been in exile in Babylon for about 50 years. 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE. The Hebrews, as would any community, any population in exile, have lost sight of their mission, lost sight of their purpose, lost sight of their unique experience of the Divine, their spirituality. The prophet writing here is doing what all great prophets do, he is rousing his beloveds to attend once again to the presence of God in every moment, the presence of God flashing forth for them, among them.

Listen! Incline your ear! Listen! Feast on the sacredness of God's care and concern and intentions for you! And then this line:

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;

There is an urgency being expressed here-----wake up! God's presence is given to you here and now! Seek after it. Awaken to it! God is near---call upon him! Don't wait!

In what sense might your spirit be in exile today, thirsting for the waters, hungry for the rich food of God's ever new and fresh presence flashing forth? How famished is your spirit by all the shallow distractions and amusements served up to you by consumer culture, by media spin doctors, by self-serving so called public servants? How starved are you for a vision of your life that you can disappear into-----a vision you could not possibly imagine for yourself, a vision emerging from a higher place than you can ever hope to imagine? How does your heart long to live with a sense of the holy all around you... ..pure experience of the sacred burning in a gemlike flame?

Ho! Says the prophet. Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters!

For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands!

# ...COME TO THE WATERS

NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

March 24, 2019 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

In Jesus' Name, Greetings!

Music for Gathering

Give us eyes to see your wonders around us

**GIVE US HEARTS TO LIVE INTO YOUR RISKY MIRACLES**

Give us tongues to praise you beyond our doubt

**FOR IT IS TO YOU, ONLY YOU, THAT WE TURN ON BEHALF OF THE WORLD**

That waits in its deathliness

**FOR YOUR ACT OF LIFE**

Lighting of the Candles

“Christ Jesus we welcome your inner light...” Brother Roger of Taize

**75 I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry**

Sharing Christ's Peace

**259 Spirit of the Living God 2X**

The Morning Prayer and Musical Response

Silence

“Descend into silence and worship the Father in secret.” Thomas Merton

Children's Circle

All children thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to come forward. A small outreach offering will be collected for our money jar. Following this time of sharing and prayer, children may attend their very own

“Worship and Wonder” time together in our classroom annex. Child care is offered for infants and toddlers but they are also welcome in the sanctuary.

Prayer for Illumination

Light from light, creation from chaos, life from death, all your gifts, all your love, all your power

**ALL FROM YOUR WORD, FRESH FROM YOUR WORD, SAVING GOD. AMEN.**

THE LESSON ISAIAH 55: 1-13

The Meditation “The Radical Newness of Each Moment” Rev. Rob Carr

**Awaken us Holy One! Too long have we been asleep! Have mercy on your people!**

**Help us to wait in silence, listening for your gentle voice.**

**Let your love be known to the nations, your glory to our children's children.**

**Increase the light within us, O Beloved, hear our prayer. Amen**

Silent and spoken personal prayers of thanksgiving confession, intercession

Piano Solo Jeff Nunn

The Offering

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below**

**Praise God above ye heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost**

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.  
As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

**430 Lo I Am With You**

If we claim to be sinless, we are self-deceived

**AND STRANGERS TO THE TRUTH**

If we confess our sins, God may be trusted  
**TO CLEANSE US FROM EVERY KIND OF WRONG**

Welcome to the Table  
The Words of Institution

Praise and glory to you our Savior Jesus Christ  
**YOU RENOUNCED THE WAY OF EASE FOR THE WAY OF TRUTH AND LIFE**

You do not call the righteous, but sinners to repentance

**A CONTRITE HEART, O GOD, YOU WILL NOT DESPISE**

Create in us clean hearts O God

**RENEW A RIGHT SPIRIT WITHIN US**

The Communion Prayer

**The Lord's Prayer**

**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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, amen.**

Following the Lord's Prayer, please come forward by rows to receive the loaf and the cup.

The cup is non-alcoholic by choice of the congregation

Gluten free crackers are available on the table for those who prefer this option

Children also celebrate communion weekly as part of "Worship and Wonder"

**The Trees of the Field**

We are marked as Christ's own, held in God's constant love

**LIVE YOUR YEARNING IN US O GOD, FOR LOVE IS STRONG AS DEATH. AMEN**

**TO OUR GUESTS----WELCOME!**

**SHAPED BY GOD'S WORD AND GRACED AT CHRIST'S TABLE**

**WE WALK HUMBLY, LOVE DEEPLY, LIVE SIMPLY, AND SERVE JOYFULLY**

We are delighted to include you today. Your presence and participation is a gift to us all. We hope you experience among us the warm spirit of our family of faith and the gracious touch of Christ upon your life. Refreshments and welcoming conversation are available after worship in the Community Room just down the hall. More information about NOCC and the Disciples of Christ is available via

Facebook and these websites

[www.nocckc.org](http://www.nocckc.org) [www.kcdisciples.org](http://www.kcdisciples.org) [www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org)

## OUR LIFE TOGETHER

### THIS WEEK

Today 5PM Northland Youth  
Monday 6PM Troop 900  
Tuesday 945AM Men's Bible Group  
Tuesday 1230PM Women's Bible Group  
Tuesday 6PM Pack 900  
Wednesday 6PM SOUP SUPPER  
Wednesday 7PM Music Ministry

### UPCOMING

POT LUCK! SUNDAY MARCH 31

APRIL 1 LAST DAY TO SIGN UP FOR EASTERTIDE RETREAT!

SERVICE OF PRAYER FOR HEALING AND WHOLENESS APRIL 7 5PM

REZOUND BELL CHOIR IN CONCERT APRIL 14 3PM

EASTERTIDE RETREAT APRIL 26-28 MARILLAC CENTER

YOU, ME AND THE ENNEAGRAM MAY 11, 16, 23

JULY 22-23 DISCIPLES GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN DES MOINES

Keep these items in mind as you consider the remarkable ministry of our friends at CHERITH BROOK with those experiencing homelessness. Blankets Blankets Blankets! Tennis Shoes, Cold Meds, Band-aids, Bike Locks, Gloves, Hats, Chapstick, Belts of any size, men's and women's undergarments. Cherith Brook Local Honey for Sale! Contact Eric 816-241-8047

We are seeking an NOCC person to serve as a liaison between the church and our Scout Troop and Pack. This person would offer occasional presence at their meetings and extend NOCC hospitality to our Scout friends to assure a healthy working relationship. Contact Rob or Elzene if interested.