

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ

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Rev. Danielle E. Neff, Senior Pastor

Rev. Amy Northridge, Transitional Minister

Mr. Denny Daugherty, Adult Choir Director & Tech Director

Mr. Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church Administrator

Ms. Donna Gross, Custodian

Third Sunday of Lent

8:00 & 10:30 AM

Hold Fast: You Are Worthy¹

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

POEM¹ (read by Deb Herlocker/Vanessa Bicher)

What I Forgot

*Sometimes I wish I was the fig tree.
No fruit here, just soaking up the sun, growing roots, turning green, stretching out my branches until
I can hug the horizon.
Sometimes I wish I was the fig tree, because she doesn't produce,
and she's not exhausted,
and she probably gets eight hours of sleep at night.
And her branches, unlike my shoulders,
are not heavy with work— pulled toward the ground, threatening to break.
And her trunk, unlike my spine,
is not fighting to stand tall while holding it all together.
Sometimes I wish I was the fig tree because she knows
what I forgot many years ago.
You are still worthy even if
you don't produce.*

PRELUDE

It's Love

by Combs

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Come, all who are thirsty.

P: Come, all who are seeking.

L: Come, all who are waiting.

P: Come, all who labor.

L: Come, all who need rest.

P: Come, all who dream dreams.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

L: Come—whether you're young or old, confident or curious, lonely or hopeful.

P: This is God's house. All are welcome here. Let us worship holy God.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 237** (BH, see p. 4)

In the Garden

***TIME OF CONFESSION**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: Holy God, we treat our self-worth like something that can be bought at a store; but you know this even better than we do. Instead of trusting that we are made good, instead of trusting that we are loved exactly as we are, we stockpile our value in earthly things—in trophies and awards, in likes and follows, in wealth and power. Forgive us for creating our own measuring stick. Heal our open wounds and tell our hearts that we won't be forgotten if we slow down. We won't be forgotten if we rest. Gratefully we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Friends, take a deep breath. Release the tension in your jaw. There is good news here. For even when we stumble, even when we take the easy way out, even when we forget our own self-worth, even when we lose our way—we belong to God. Say it with me--

P: We are loved. We are claimed. We are under God's wing. We are worthy of grace. We belong to God. Amen.

ACT OF PRAISE NO. 780 (BH, see p. 5)

Doxology

ALL SING: Praise God from whom all blessing flow. Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above you heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

(10:30 AM) **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

L: God of fig trees and foxes, of today and tomorrow, we would like to ask that you scoop us up... We long to be close to you. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

1 Thessalonians 5: 19-22

Luke 13: 1-9

MESSAGE

HYMN NO. 196 (BH, see p. 5)

When, Like the Woman at the Well

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

L: Together let us join in the Affirmation of Faith

P: We believe that the God of the cosmos is at work here. We believe that God is fertilizing the soil. We believe that God is planting roots. We believe that God is growing fruit that is yet to be tasted. But until that promised day when the fig tree stands tall and swords are beaten into plowshares, we believe: when our work does not bear fruit, God still loves us. When our soil grows dry and cracked, God still longs for us. When all seems hopeless here on earth, God holds hope for us. The God of the cosmos is at work here. We believe. Help our unbelief. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

(8:00 AM) **MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

(10:30 AM) **WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM** *Come to the Water* by Choplin

JOYS & CONCERNS

HYMN NO. 2215 (FWS, see p. 6)

Cares Chorus

ALL SING: I cast all my cares upon you, I lay all of my burdens down at your feet, and anytime that I don't know what to do, I will cast all my cares upon you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: 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.

HYMN NO. 2215 (FWS, see p. 6)

Cares Chorus

ALL SING: I cast all my cares upon you, I lay all of my burdens down at your feet, and anytime that I don't know what to do, I will cast all my cares upon you.

REFLECTIVE MOMENT

OFFERING OF LEAVES

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERING

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 313** (BH, see p. 6)

Like a Tree Beside the Waters

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Power of Love

by Bullock

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Thank you to the worship team for planning the Lent services and decorating the sanctuary. The Lent team members are Lana Fritz, Cindy Hogentogler, Vanessa Bicher, Elaine Bevivino, Jim Shiffer, Deb Herlocker, Pastor Amy, Travis Pinci, & Denny Daugherty. Thank you to Denny Daugherty, Jack Herlocker, Deb Herlocker, & John Kollasch for serving on the tech teams. Thank you to Brenda Beyer, Paula Strayer, Braden Bicher, Barb Neff, Debbie Butcher, & Lana Fritz for serving on the praise team and to Barb Neff for reading Scripture. Thank you to Pastor Dani for playing flute today. Thank you to Carol Bair, Bob & Kathy Ensminger, Helen Burns, & George DeMers for serving on the welcome teams.

¹Liturgy and Poetry by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

<http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/year-c/p/pentecost-ordinary-time-9.html> and accessed on 2/14/2022

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In the Garden

C. Austin Miles

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

1. I come to the gar - den a - lone, while the
 2. He speaks, and the sound of his voice is so
 3. I'd stay in the gar - den with him, though the

4
 dew is still on the ros - es; And the voice I hear, fall - ing
 sweet the birds hush their sing - ing; And the mel - o - dy that he
 night a - round me be fall - ing; But he bids me go; through the

7
 on my ear, the Son of God dis - clos - es. And he walks with me, and he
 gave to me with - in my heart is call - ing.
 voice of woe his voice to me is call - ing.

11
 talks with me, and he tells me I am his own, And the joy we share as we


15
 tar - ry there, none other has ever known.

Doxology

Thomas Ken, 1674


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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$



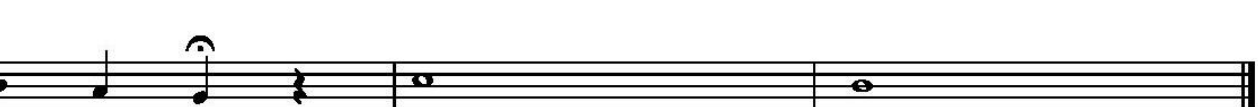
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures

5



here below; Praise God above, you heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and

9




Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

When Like the Woman at the Well

Edith Sinclair Downing, 1992


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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$




1. When, like the woman at the well, I lived with
2. Christ knew my heart, my wayward ways, yet gave me
3. I learned I could forever live and worship
4. Each day I lift my cup above, and I a -
5. Since now I am in grace immersed, set free, for -

7



bro - ken dreams, Christ came to me, good news to
hope, not fear. The God I once thought far a -
God a - right, Could trust the power the Spir - it
gain re - ceive The liv - ing wa - ter of God's
give - en, whole, I share with those who are a -

13



tell, of ev - er - liv - ing streams.
way, I could ap - proach draw near.
gives to guide me in truth's light.
love, re - vealed for my be - lief.
thirst the well - springs of my soul!

Cares Chorus

Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

I cast all my cares up-on you, I lay all of my
 7 bur-dens down at your feet, and an-y-time that I don't know what to
 13 do, I will cast all my cares up-on you.

Like a Tree Beside the Waters

James F. D. Martin, 1992

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. Like a tree be-side the wa-ters, nur-tured by your lov-ing care, We, O
 2. Like a tree be-side the riv-er, draw-ing life from ho-ly streams, Fill us
 3. We, be-side the liv-ing wa-ters, drink from your e-ter-nal life. Give to
 6 God, your sons and daugh-ters, your en-dur-ing wit-ness bear. In each
 with your love for-ev-er; re-cre-ate our hopes and dreams. Through the
 all, your sons and daugh-ters, faith that ris-es o-ver strife. O
 10 pass-ing gen-er-a-tion may your voice of love be heard. Bless, we pray, this con-gre-
 storms of life sus-tain us by the wis-dom of your grace. May the chang-ing of the
 Liv-ing God, most glo-rious, strength-en us for life to-day. By the hope of time-less
 15 -ga-tion with your ho-ly, liv-ing Word.
 sea-sons find us in your warm em-brace.
 prom-ise guide your church up-on the Way.