

Prayer of Thanksgiving: *The Lord is here. God's 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 thanks and praise. Loving and gracious God who surrounds creation with abundant love, we give thanks and blessings to you. We bless you for your love, made known to us through Jesus, which reassures and reconciles us to you, to ourselves and to one another. Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.* (Continue in prayer) *By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to the world, Come, Holy Spirit, upon us and what we do here that these your gifts of bread and wine may be for us the body and blood of Christ so that we may bring life, hope, and love to all your world. Through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honour and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever more. (Our Father...)*

Hymn: Here is bread, here is wine  
Communion

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Prayer following communion: Loving God, your word of life gives us a new birth. May we receive it with open hearts, share it with one another, live it with joy, and express it in love. In the spirit of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*We follow our faithful Lord. These times, they are troubling. This journey, it is hard... We follow our faithful Lord. It is God who sustains the journey, not the temptations of this world... We follow our faithful Lord. In the Lord is our trust, our protection from harm... We follow our faithful Lord. Come, let us worship the One whom we serve... We follow our faithful Lord.*

Hymn: Now let us from this table rise

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WELCOME TO...

The Presbyterian Church of  
*Saint David*

March 19, 2017

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THIRD SUNDAY IN  
LENT



**JOURNEY – IS THE LORD  
AMONG US OR NOT?**

**Gathering:** *We gather in the name of the living Christ to worship God. Surely, God is in this place and calls us to worship in spirit and in truth. God's love is for you and for all people everywhere. That we may share God's love and life, may we be renewed in the refreshing Spirit of the living Christ. The living Christ is with us. Praise the Lord!*

**Hymn:** Come let us sing to the Lord our song **412**

Confession: *God of Living Water, you call us to come and drink.*

**So why do we sit here and complain that there is not enough water?** *You call us to strike the rocks of our world and let your Living Water flow. But we do not trust enough that the spring is there. We want to find the water on our own, using our own wisdom. You call us to share the Water of Life with the world around us. But we believe that the water is limited, not abundant and so we are tempted to save it for ourselves. For all the times we turn away from your Water, for all the times we sully the Water by misusing it, for all the times we let others go thirsty instead of offering a drink, Forgive us we pray. ...time of silent prayer...*

Assurance: *The Water of Life flows with abundance to fill us with hope, to cleanse us of our guilt, to float us to a new life. Washed in the Living Water, we are forgiven and set free to live abundant life. Thanks and praise to God. Amen.*

Scripture: **Exodus 17:1-7**

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, **"Is the LORD among us or not?"**

“When things are going OK it is easy to “trust God”. But when the crisis comes the reality of our faith is exposed. For the Children of Israel that testing was to come regularly on their journey through the wilderness and almost never did they rise to the occasion. The crisis when it arose was serious, potentially life-threatening. They had travelled and arrived at camp but one essential ingredient was missing- water. To be without water in the desert is no joke and perhaps the sense of fear and panic precipitated their anger at Moses and implicitly also at God. All too easily the great events of their deliverance are consigned to history and an alternative reading is presented that confirms their original prejudice against Moses’ leadership. The mood is turning ugly and mob rule is not far below the surface. Moses, however, takes the problem to God. He is a person under orders and recognises something has to be done- and quickly. While it is a practical issue and there is an urgent need for it to be resolved, fundamentally it is a spiritual issue, reflecting their lack of trust in God. Moses acts decisively by first bringing the matter to God in blunt terms. Then he obeys the Lord’s clear directions which involve bringing the leadership on side with him. His act is to be simple yet spectacular. Moses strikes the rock and water flows out. The need is met but the underlying problem remains. If our default position is to doubt and to express that in grumbling and disunity, it is going to be a long hard road to get to the Promised Land.” (Colin Sinclair)

- **Water Reflection**

- **A prayer reflection: John Wamboldt**

**Invitation:** *Come, you welcomed and blessed come, all who thirst. Jesus calls us to the table, to the meal that nourishes our bodies and refreshes us with living water. Jesus calls us, here and now. Come to this table, you who are beloved in Christ. Come, not because you must, but because you may.*

**Hymn:** Jesus thou joy of loving hearts (1-3)

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**About Water** *There are two ways to look at water. We can look at what it is or we can look at what it means. One offers us an insight into how important it is for life on earth, the other how important water is for life in faith. Science tells us: roughly 70 percent of an adult's body is made up of water. Faith tells us: when Jesus was baptised he immediately came up out of the water and saw the heavens splitting apart and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. One tells us water gives us existence, the other tells us water gives us promise. Science tells us that there is much more fresh water stored under the ground in aquifers than on the earth's surface. And faith tells us: in the wilderness waters shall break out, and stream in the desert. The parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water. One tells us water is everywhere; the other tells us hope is everywhere. Science tells us: Somewhere between 70 and 75 percent of the earth's surface is covered with water. Faith tells us: Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures. One tells us about size, the other tells us about abundance. Science tells us: 1.4 million children die every year as a result of diseases caused by unclean water and poor sanitation. This is about 4,000 deaths a day. Faith tells us: When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue fails for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. One tells us about selfishness, the other about generosity. Science tells us: It takes about 1 gallon of water to process a quarter pound of hamburger. Faith tells us: whosoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. One opens up the facts, the other opens up the meaning. The fact is: Water from the tap washes us clean from germs that harm. The meaning is: Water from baptism washes us clean from our past that hurts.*

**Both describe God's world and the wonder it is. Both teach us how to be alive in the world. But one describes what it is, the other describes whose we are. Water: the wonder of science - Water: the wonder of faith.** *New Kilpatrick Parish Church*