

First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan

Third Sunday in Lent • Sunday, March 15, 2020 • 10 a.m.
178 OENOKE RIDGE, NEW CANAAN, CT 06840 • 203-966-0002 • FPCNC.ORG
Creating a loving and just world by serving others.



"Desert Day" by Georgia O'Keeffe

GATHERING

Prelude

Intermezzo in A Major, Op. 118, No. 2
Johannes Brahms

Victoria Shields

**Call to Worship

Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

Minister: Let all who thirst come to the waters.

People: Let all who are hungry come and eat.

Minister: For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace. The mountains and the hills
before you shall burst into song, and the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

People: Let us worship God.

**Hymn

Come, Worship God

O QUANTA QUALIA

1 Come, wor - ship God, who is wor - thy of hon - or;
2 Ruled by your might are the heights of the moun - tains;
3 We are your peo - ple, the sheep of your pas - ture;
4 Now let us lis - ten, for you speak a - mong us;

en - ter God's pres - ence with thanks and a song!
held in your hands are the depths of the earth.
you are our Mak - er, and to you we pray.
o - pen our hearts to re - ceive what you say.

You are the rock of your peo - ple's sal - va - tion
Yours is the sea, yours the land, for you made them,
Glad - ly we kneel in o - be - dience be - fore you;
Peace be to all who re - mem - ber your good - ness,

to whom our ju - bi - lant prais - es be - long.
God a - bove all gods, who gave us our birth.
great is the one whom we wor - ship this day!
trust in your word, and re - joice in your way!

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Kathryn Kibbie Laird

Please register your attendance in the red pad and pass it down the row.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (unison)

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to show us the way, teach us the truth, and give us abundant life. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves as pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, Amen.

(Silent Prayer of Confession)

Assurance of Forgiveness

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Gracious God, as we wander in the wilderness, guide us. Help us to thirst for your living water and abundant life, so that we might become restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hebrew Bible Lesson – Exodus 17:1-7 (OT page 64)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Oculi Mei

Estêvão Lopes Morago

My eyes are ever upon the Lord: for he shall pluck my feet out of the snare.

Turn to me, and have mercy upon me.

Gospel Reading – John 4:5-26 (NT page 95)

Minister: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Thirsting for Life”

Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

** Hymn

Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

QUEBEC

1 Je - sus, thou joy of lov - ing hearts, thou fount of
2 Thy truth un - changed hath ev - er stood; thou sav - est
3 We taste thee, O thou liv - ing bread, and long to
4 Our rest - less spir - its yearn for thee, wher - e'er our
5 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay; make all our

life, thou light of all, from the best bliss that
those that on thee call; to them that seek thee
feast up - on thee still; we drink of thee, the
change - ful lot is cast, glad when thy gra - cious
mo - ments calm and bright. O chase the night of

earth im - parts we turn, un - filled, to heed thy call.
thou art good, to them that find thee, all in all.
foun - tain - head, and thirst our souls from thee to fill.
smile we see, blest when our faith can hold thee fast.
sin a - way; shed o'er the world thy ho - ly light.

Prayers of the People

Rev. Christopher G. Tate

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offertory*Hide Not Thou Thy Face*

Richard Farrant

Hide not thou thy face from us, O Lord, and cast not off thy servant in thy displeasure; for we confess our sins unto thee and hide not our unrighteousness. For thy mercy's sake, deliver us from all our sins.

SENDING**** Hymn***I Hear the Voice of Jesus Say*

KINGSFOLD

1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
 2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
 3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;

lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
 the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
 look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad; I
 I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream; my
 I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and

found in him a rest - ing place, and he has made me glad.
 thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
 in that light of life I'll walk till trav - eling days are done.

**** Charge and Benediction****** Choral Response***Be Still, My Soul*

FINLANDIA

**** Ringing of the Church Bell****** Postlude***Wo soll ich fliehen hin, BWV 646*

J.S. Bach