

From *stillspeaking* Daily Devotional (dailydevotional@ucc.org) March 7, 2018

Living Water and Leaky Containers

Richard L. Floyd

"My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can hold no water." - Jeremiah 2:13

When you live in the desert you know the difference between green and brown, between wet and dry. In the parched lands from which we get our Bible, water was not only a precious resource, but also an important metaphor for life itself.

In our passage for today the prophet Jeremiah speaks God's judgment against the nation for seeking life where there is no life. He employs the metaphor of water, saying the people had turned away from God, the source of living water, and had built for themselves leaky cisterns, to try to catch whatever limited rain might fall. But however much rain came, the cisterns had cracks in them and could hold no water.

It is a vivid image. God has offered them a life with God's own life-giving resources, instead they have attempted to fashion a life for themselves apart from God.

If we imagine this season of Lent as a wilderness time, where is the dryness in our own lives? Where are the parched places that long for living water? And where have we foolishly looked to our own resources for life and turned away from God, the source of life, the fountain of living water?

Prayer

We are a dry people, O God, living in a dry land. Turn us back to you, the fountain of living water, that we may drink deeply and live fully. Amen.

About The Author

Richard L. Floyd is Pastor Emeritus of First Church of Christ (UCC) in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. A writer and author, his most recent publications are [Romans, Parts 1 and 2](#) (with Michael S. Bennett), new titles in the "Listen Up!" Bible Study Series He blogs at richardfloyd.com.



Mission Statement:

***God calls us to live our faith as disciples
Sharing the love of God revealed through Christ
In the community and the world.***

Pilgrim United Church of Christ Staff

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Acolyte: Thank You!

Altar Flowers: In loving memory of Alice & Carol Gordon. John & Kathie Richards

Greeters: Everyone present today!

Ushers: Thank You!

PowerPoint: Cheryl Bruce

Liturgist: Kurt Spenoso

Fellowship: Thank You!

Steeple Lighting: In Memory of Dawn Gage
Girl Scout Troop #520 of the Western Reserve
Girl Scout Council

Pilgrim United Church of Christ

A Caring Church for Thinking People

130 Broad Blvd † Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221 † 330.928.4847

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Sunday, March 11, 2018



What Seeds Are You Sowing?

Rev. Kirk Bruce

Pilgrim United Church of Christ
A Caring Church for Thinking People
Sunday, March 11, 2018 † Fourth Sunday in Lent

THE PRELUDE *Take Me to the World* Stephen Sondheim

*HYMN (Red Hymnal) *O Jesus, I Have Promised* No. 218

OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 107)

One: Let us gather and give thanks to the Lord for He is good.

All: The Lord has gathered us in from the East and West, North and South and made us His own.

One: He satisfies the thirsty and satisfies those who hunger with good food.

All: Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God for His unfailing love.

*THE INVOCATION, OUR LORD'S PRAYER (Unison) Kurt Spenoso

Gracious God, we gather to remember your goodness. We come into your house to see the blessing of life that you place upon us. We gather close to you because, with you life works, it is whole and complete. Come now into our midst. Come as we celebrate together your gifts of life and love. Come as we pray the prayer your Son taught us, "Our Father . . ." [debt, debtors]

*THE GLORIA PATRI (Red Hymnal) No. 513

OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD AND EACH OTHER

*GREETING EACH OTHER IN CHRIST

OUR LIFE TOGETHER Rev. Kirk W. Bruce
Mission Moment - One Great Hour of Sharing - Kelly Gerstenberger

CHILDREN'S SERMON Rev. Kirk W. Bruce
Faith Focus *Jesus the Good Shepherd - Psalm 23, Part 3*

ANTHEM: *Forty Days and Forty Nights* Harrison Oxley
Pilgrim Choir

***all who are able may stand**

WE GIVE TO GOD

AN OFFERTORY INVITATION

THE OFFERTORY *When You Fall* Kirk Franklin

*THE DOXOLOGY (Red Hymnal) No. 515

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CALL TO PRAYER
(Red Hymnal) *Abide With Me (verse 1)* No. 209

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide; the darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide; when other helpers fail, and comforts flee, help of the helpless, O abide with me.

THE MORNING PRAYER AND CHORAL RESPONSE

*HYMN (Black Hymnal) *In the Bulb there Is A Flower* No. 433

GOD GIVES TO US

SCRIPTURES John 3:1 - 21 (page 81) Kurt Spenoso

SERMON *What Seeds Are You Sowing?* Rev. Kirk W. Bruce

WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH SERVICE

*HYMN (Red Hymnal) *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* No. 177

*THE BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Here I Am Lord (verse 3 with refrain)* Dan Schutte
(We invite you to join hands as we sing)

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame, I will give my life to them, whom shall I send? Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

POSTLUDE *Vadoro Pupile* G. F. Handel

SIGN-IN

There are worship pads on each pew in the sanctuary.
We joyfully welcome all visitors! Please join us again!
Please sign in to let us know you are worshipping with us today.
We are so glad You are Worshiping with Pilgrim United Church of Christ!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pray for:

Jessie for healing after a fall.

Amy, a co-worker, with hearing loss from an ear infection. Pray for restoring some of her hearing.

Sister who needs help and guidance with addiction problems.

Mark Poling, step-son of Dr. Don, recovering from a stroke.

Jane (92), a friend, in the hospital dealing with several medical issues.

A friend with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), & the family, who are struggling.

Friends Carole and Jed.

Kelly K., so she gets her transfer back home closer to her parents.

My family to be healed and reunited together. To keep us close to God and allow his grace to work out a miracle for our situation.

Rev. Stephen Szilagyi for the skill of the surgeon's for his carotid surgery next week & positive outcome for his cancer diagnosis.



Easter Lilies for April 1, 2018

Sign-up for Easter Lilies in the social hall. Cost: \$ 12.00. Check payable to: Pilgrim UCC

Pilgrim will take the ***One Great Hour of Sharing*** offering on ***March 18, 2018!***

"One Great Hour of Sharing is the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports disaster, refugee, and development activities. We are called by God to be in community to practice love and compassion. We need to care for those around us, wherever they may be. When we give our loving legacy we become a blessing to people we don't know and bless them in ways we can't expect and make a difference beyond what we imagine." Paraphrased from information at http://www.ucc.org/oghs_worship_resources

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, May 26, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

One (1) load of mulch will be delivered to the church and needs to be spread.
Bring your wheel barrel, shovel, garden rake and gloves. Many hands will make lighter work.
If you have questions, see one of the trustee board members, Dan G., Chuck S., John H., Joel S. or Carol L.
Thank you!

Faith Formation Board - Breakfast with the Easter Bunny & the activities & crafts.

To help now, please bring wrapped candy in and place in the donation box in the Social Hall.

To help on March 30, 2018 to fill the plastic eggs with the donated candy and set-up for the event, OR

To help the day of the event, March 31, 2018, contact Mitzi, Evelyn, Marilyn or the church office at 330-928-4847.

The fliers are posted at the main entrances & bulletin boards!

Please share with your neighbors, family and friends! Thank You!

CALENDAR

Sunday, March 11, 2018

9:00 a.m. Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal, Heritage Room
10:30 a.m. Worship Service - Rev. Kirk Bruce, Sanctuary
11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour-Free Community Lunch (FCL), Social Hall
11:30 a.m. Music Committee meeting, Rev. Green Room
2:45 - 5:15 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #501, Adult Library
3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Akron Area Actors Guild (AA) - Rehearsal, Social Hall
6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #169, Adult Library

Monday, March 12, 2018

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #840, A.T.T.I.C.
6:30 p.m. Trustee Board meeting, Adult Library

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

10:30 a.m. Bible Study, Adult Library
6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Akron Area Actors Guild (AA) - Rehearsal, Social Hall
8:00 p.m. Fellowship of the Spirit Alcoholics Anonymous (FOTS AA), Heritage Room

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

2:15 - 9:00 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School - Violin & Cello Lessons,
Adult Library, Children's Library, & Nursery
3:45 p.m. Hand Bell Rehearsal, Music Room
7:00 p.m. Bible Study, Heritage Room

Thursday, March 15, 2018

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Cub Scout Den Meetings, Adult & Children's Library, Nursery
7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Emotions Anonymous, Heritage Room

Friday, March 16, 2018

5:00 p.m. Deadline for the April Spire, Church Office

Saturday, March 17, 2018-Saint Patrick's Day

11:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School - Cello Lessons,
Children's Library
8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Social Hall

Sunday, March 18, 2018-One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

9:00 a.m. Pilgrim Choir Rehearsal, Heritage Room
10:30 a.m. Worship Service - Rev. Kirk Bruce, Sanctuary
11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour, Social Hall
11:45 a.m. Faith Formation meeting, Adult Library
3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Akron Area Actors Guild (AA) - Rehearsal, Social Hall

Monday, March 19, 2018

5:30 - 8:00 p.m. Summit County Teen Institute, Social Hall
6:30 p.m. Community Connections Committee meeting, Adult Library
7:00 p.m. Council meeting, Heritage Room