

**PREWORSHIP MUSIC**

**Mr. Cody Eckenrode, Piano**

**PRELUDE**

**Mr. Cody Eckenrode, Organ**

**GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP <sup>1</sup>**

*All: All-knowing and all-caring God, we gather this day drained by another week. We are like a parched desert, empty and in need of replenishment. Visit us with your presence, saturate us with your Spirit, and bathe us in your streams of living water, that our lives might acknowledge and worship you to the praise and honor of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

**HYMN**

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

**Hymnal, #476**

**PRAYER of CONFESSION**

*All: God of living water, we confess the dryness of our lives:  
the brittle words we have thought and spoken . . .  
the relationships that are crumbling . . .  
the arid perspective that centers on self . . .  
the cracked and jagged edges of our world . . .  
Hear our confession, O Christ, and rain down your mercy upon us.*

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS** (Based on John 4:13-14)

**Pastor:** Jesus says, “Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I give will become in them a spring of living water.” Jesus, the Living Water, cleanses us from our pride, our blindness, our stubbornness. Through God’s grace we are washed and forgiven.

*All: Thanks be to God! Amen.*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING – Genesis 21-24** (Overview)

**GOSPEL READING – John 4:7-15**

**STUDY SERMON**

**Rev. Laura C. Baker**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**Mr. Cody Eckenrode, Piano**

**PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE<sup>2</sup>**

**Pastor:** Creator God,  
whose Spirit moved over the waters at the dawn of creation,  
hear our prayers for all who thirst today.  
We pray for those who are spiritually thirsty,  
who long to know your presence, but don’t know where to find you.  
We pray for those who are alone and without hope,  
those who long to feel needed and loved,  
those who are searching for meaning and purpose.

*All: O Living Water,  
Pour out your water and heal your people.*

**Pastor:** We pray for all who are physically thirsty,  
who don’t have enough water to drink, or feed their animals,  
whose fields are parched, whose crops have withered;  
those who have to walk long distances to find enough water to survive,

<sup>1</sup> from *The Worship Sourcebook*, posted on the [Sojourn Music](http://www.sojournmusic.com/) website. <http://www.sojournmusic.com/>

<sup>2</sup> Longhurst, Christine. *Worship Resources for Lent & World Water Day, 2013*. Posted on the Canadian Foodgrains Bank website. [http://foodgrainsbank.ca/lent\\_worship\\_resources.aspx](http://foodgrainsbank.ca/lent_worship_resources.aspx)

or who have to be content with water that is unclean.  
We pray for those whose homes and villages are torn apart  
because of drought or famine.

**All:** *O Living Water,  
pour out your water and heal your people.*

Pastor: We pray for those who are thirsty for justice,  
who long for an equal sharing of resources among peoples and nations;  
those who put their lives at risk to protect streams and rivers and oceans;  
those who are working to find clean water,  
and make it available to those who need it.

**All:** *O Living Water,  
pour out your water and heal your people.*

Pastor: God, we ask for you to open our hearts to the needs of all who thirst.  
Give us courage to work together for justice,  
to stand alongside those who are thirsty: looking for places of refuge and safety.  
Help us to serve generously, so that all people, everywhere, may live without want or fear,  
and may discover the abundant life you promise to each one.

**All:** *In the name of Jesus Christ, our Living Water, the One who taught us to pray, saying:*

### 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 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 INVITATION

Liturgist: God has led us to prosperity. Let us return to God a portion of all that we have been given,  
gathering our gifts together and offering them to God in gratitude and prayer.

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**All:** *God, you have sustained us in lean times and led us to sources of living water. Take these gifts  
and multiply their blessings for those who are hungry, hurting and in need of your strength.  
Amen.*

### HYMN

*Rock of Ages*

**Hymnal, #217**

### BENEDICTION<sup>3</sup>

Pastor: Go now from this service of worship  
to the service of God's people near and far,  
refreshed by the living water that Jesus offers to you.  
Listen for the parched voices of the least of these;  
search out the dry places and the arid souls,  
and become for them a spring of living water.  
And as you go,  
may the blessings of the God of life,  
the Christ of love,  
and the Spirit of grace  
be upon you this day and forevermore.

**All:** *Amen.*

### POSTLUDE

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<sup>3</sup> adapted from the Ecumenical Water Network's Seven Weeks for Water campaign for World Water Day (22 March), and posted  
on *World Communion of Reformed Churches* <http://www.wcrc.ch/node/780>