



REVEILLE'S GPS WEEKLY SCRIPTURE GUIDE

Explore scriptures and daily devotionals that reflect on this Sunday's sermon message. Sign up to receive the daily devotional email at www.bit.ly/devotional-rumc.

March 8, 2026

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Lenten Sermon Series: "Out of the Wilderness"

Sermon Title: "Thirsty For Something New" by Bishop Tom Berlin

Use the space below to reflect on the questions in this week's devotionals, make class and sermon notes, and write down prayers and concerns.

Questions for small groups and individual reflection:

1. Talk about the dangers of generalizing people and what we might miss by not having a conversation. What lessons are here for us and our potential interactions with those who are different from us?
2. Who do you think are the women at the well in our community?
3. This week, Bishop Berlin's sermon title is "Thirsty for Something New." What new thing are you thirsty for? What new thing do you think others might be thirsty for?

Monday, March 2: Read John 4:1-9

Any of us who have found ourselves out in the wilderness and out of water knows the desperate feeling of extreme thirst. Finding water is all we can think about. We don't crave Diet Coke, a hot fudge sundae, or riches. We want one thing – *water*. We may know this feeling when it comes to physical thirst; have we ever felt spiritual "thirst"? Have we ever felt that desperate, singular desire for something pure, something life-giving, something...new? This week, we explore this concept of spiritual thirst and its relationship to wanting something new in our lives – something only Christ can give. In today's Gospel reading, we see how water plays a dual role – one of baptism and one of quenching thirst. Life and new life. When have you craved each? What are you thirsty for now?

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Discuss what you believe to be the difference between the concept of spiritual "hunger" and spiritual "thirst." Have you ever thought of this concept?*

Tuesday, March 3: Read John 4:10-15

John 4 reveals a fascinating conversation between Jesus and the woman at the well. The disciples simply saw her as a Samaritan woman...end of story. Yet Jesus had a conversation with this “outsider” – a woman not only ostracized by Jews but ostracized by her own people, as evidenced by her unusual practice of drawing water on her own in the middle of the day. While he was physically thirsty, Jesus recognized the spiritual thirst in this woman and, in turn, helped her find new life and a new purpose as a powerful witness for Christ.

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Discuss what you believe to be the relationship between being an “outsider” and having a spiritual thirst. Have you ever experienced this phenomenon yourself?*

Wednesday, March 4: Read Exodus 17:1-7

Finding water was a constant worry for the Israelites as they wandered through the wilderness after their exodus from Egypt. Their physical thirst was only one of the reasons they grumbled against God and repeatedly lost their faith, but it often seemed the most urgent. Today, we read of God bringing forth water from a rock – a most unusual and impossible place, but one made possible through God’s power and brought forth through Moses’s obedience. Where might we find God’s living water where we least expect it? Has this ever happened to you?

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Reflect on times when you found spiritual renewal and living water where you least expected it. What lesson is there in this?*

Thursday, March 5: Read Isaiah 43:16-19

There is no shortage of water symbolism in the Bible, underlying its life-giving and sometimes life-taking importance in our world. In today’s scripture, we read first read of seas and mighty waters – powerful forces that can kill, save, or disorient. Then, we get to streams and something tiny...unexpected...a little something springing up...a “new thing.” In today’s turbulent, turgid waters, it can be difficult to see the purity and peace of the stream and the promising spring of the “new thing” God is creating for us and in us. How can we notice the “new things” being created around us? Are we thirsty for it?

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Take a walk outside and notice the small, new creations around you.*

Friday, March 6: Read Psalm 42

Countless generations have found comfort and understanding in today’s psalm, and today’s generation is no different. We are all thirsty for hope, love, comfort, joy, belonging, and assurance, and we have all struggled with the “downcast soul.” Today’s scripture gives voice to our world’s current state and humanity’s historical state. It also gives the present and eternal promise of God’s living water as a constant source of renewal, redemption, and life. Let us all come to the flowing waters of God and help others do the same.

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Create a practice of noticing and highlighting God’s living water.*

Saturday, March 7: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: John 4:13-14

“Jesus answered, ‘Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.’” (NRSVUE)

Sunday, March 8: Let us prepare our hearts and minds with our Prayer of 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. Amen. - Written by Rev. Gord, and posted on *Worship Offerings*. <http://worshipofferings.blogspot.ca/>

<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2014/03/prayer-of-confession-god-of-living-water.html>