



ST. JOHN'S

A United Methodist Congregation

March 5, 2025



10% of our giving will be given as a Lenten Offering for our "LIVING WATER" outreach.

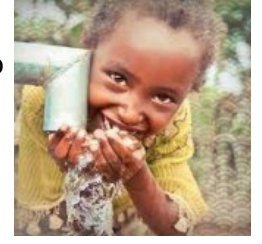
LIVING WATER FOR A THIRSTY SOUL

This year, St. John's is joining people across the United States in taking the **10 Day Challenge** by giving up all drinks except water for 10 Days and donating the money we would have spent on drinks to provide safe water to communities around the world. Living Water's mission is to provide water, for life, in Jesus' name and serves over 7 million people every day. This year, we challenge you to join us by drinking only water for 10 days! And encourage your family & friends to join us also!



WHY?

Across the globe there are at least 703 million people who lack access to basic clean drinking water. By joining the 10 Day Challenge we can support Living Water International in their life-saving work, in the name of Jesus, across the entire world.



Message Notes

1. What is your definition of true religion? _____
2. What are some ways we could fast that could truly benefit others? _____
3. If all the people of God who were able to practice regular fasting each week, and not just during Lent, how might that positively impact the environment? _____

Lord hear our prayers...

- 2-9 Lupe Aguilar, Yvette Arrendo, Nezzie Blair, Linda Cooper, Liz Cooper, Roger Hawkins, Jim Jakubik, Jay Johnson, Dean Jones, Billy Jack Rife, Pam Scoggin, Betty Wilson
- 2-16 Richard Alvarado, Bruce Austin, Bobby Edrozo, Rick Harman, Joan Hutchinson, Leslie Jobe, Trinity Johnwell, Allison Morgan, Sheri Reznicek, Gary Scoggin, Melvin D. Senegal, Jr., Elgin & Joyce Vyvial, Anna Walker, Janis Wright
- 2-23 Lyndsey Ball, the family of Bill Bartholomew, Alan Bonuelos, Suzanne Bowron, Stefanie Campbell, Ron Collins, Riley, Kelsey & Levi Cooper, PJ Cowan, Cheryl Dewey, Aaron Doss, Tammy Dawson, Terry & Joquetta Eierdam, Mercedes Harris, Breeze Hunter, Heather Lopez, Linda Masters, Mike Miller, Noah, P.S. Potter, the family of Wayne Rochell. Tammy Wilson, Sid & Marlene Young
- 3-2 Debbie Collins, Gary and Liz, Kelsey Grubbs and her unborn child, Teresa Haak-Benigar, Barb & Denny Holt, Dan Koster, Robert Kurtz, Marika Simpson, Jason Wilson

Those in Care Facilities: Richard Alvarado (Bayou Pines), Dorothy Blankenship (Regal Estates), Grace Boyd (The Forum at The Woodlands), Mary Jenkins (Sodalis), Carol Spealman (Magnolia Crossing), Pam Syers (La Vita Bella)

Those Who are Homebound: Alice Blanton, Dannie & Edna Day, Mozelle Lubojasky, Mildred McLemore, Marvin Roehl

Our church, nation & those serving in our military. Those recovering from natural disasters. Our schools.



Address: 8200 25th Ave N, Texas City 77591

(409) 655-5348 · Fax (409) 655-5810

<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsUmcTexasCity>

Website: <https://stjohnsumctc.org/>

Church office hours: Monday -Thursdays 9 AM - 4 PM

- Pastor - Rev. Stephanie Hughes
- Minister of Discipleship & Connections - Rev. Cindy Riddick
- Director of Missions and Administration - Ingrid Clark
- Director of Traditional Worship - Dr. James Heffel
- Praise Band Leader - Natalie Mendez
- Accompanist - Sophie Chapman
- MDO Director - Melissa Patrick
- Administrative Assistant - Terri L. Mills

Prelude

Call to Worship (based on Joel 2:12-14)

“Even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning. Rend your hearts, and not your garments.” Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and filled with compassion and love.

Behold, now is the acceptable time. Today is the day of God’s salvation.

We tremble in fear and anticipation at the nearness of a God so great and powerful.

Return with all your heart, with weeping, fasting, and mourning.

God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Be reconciled to God, through Christ Jesus, and receive a new and right spirit within.

We will fast and pray as an inner discipline, preparing ourselves for faithful discipleship.

Hymn *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* UMH # 286

Scripture Isaiah 58:1-12

Homily “The Fast that I Choose”

Hymn *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* UMH # 269

The Ashes — from *A Liturgy for Ash Wednesday*, on the Rex A.E. Hunt website

Thanksgiving Over the Ashes

The Lord’s Prayer

Imposition of the Ashes

Confession and Pardon

Pastor: God speaks to us through the prophet Isaiah, “Is this not the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?” God of mercy, we confess to you our faulty fast.

Reader 1: Instead of setting the oppressed free, we buy cheap without asking who pays with poor wages and abuse.

Reader 2: Instead of inviting the homeless poor into our houses, we erect fences and gates to keep them out.

Reader 3: Instead of breaking the yoke, we continue consuming until the earth cries out its pain.

Reader 4: Forgive us when we humble ourselves as an alternative to actually changing.

Reader 5: Forgive us when our spiritual disciplines turn us in on ourselves and away from our neighbors both near and far.

Reader 6: Forgive us when we hide ourselves from our kin: the hungry, the naked, the poor, our sisters and brothers in Christ.

Everyone: **Forgive us and turn us to the fast you desire through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

All offer prayers of confession and silence.

Special Music *Lamb of God* Dr. James Heffel

Reflection John Chrysostom’s Lenten Fast

Isaiah reminds us that our prayer, fasting and pious ritual must be lived out in compassion and justice. When we forget the fast you desire— To do justice, and stand up for the powerless: **Lord, have mercy.**

When we forget the prayer you love— To show compassion, and care for those in need: **Christ, have mercy.**

When we forget the rituals you require—To create relationships of righteousness and peace: **Lord have mercy.**

Words of Assurance:

Friends, the love of God revealed in Jesus forgives us, heals us and sets us free to rebuild, restore, and raise up foundations for new generations. With thanksgiving, let us offer one another a sign of Peace.

Commission and Benediction

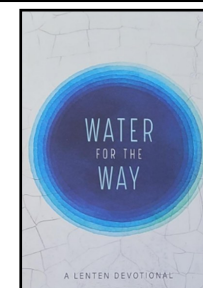
Hymn *Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle* UMH # 296

Depart in Silence



Convenient ways to give are:

Give online on our website at <https://stjohnsumctc.org/giving/>
Text “GIVE” to (409) 226-0450 and then follow prompts.
“Thank you for your generosity!”



Water for the Way: A Lenten Devotional Begins Wednesday, March 5th

Join a small group.
Gather your own group and/or family.
Read the devotions on your own.

Sign up in the lobby. — Study books are \$10 each.

**5TH SUNDAY WORSHIP/BRUNCH/HYMN SING
March 30, 2025**

9:30am - 10:15am Praise & Worship

10:15am - 11:15am Fellowship Potluck Brunch. Everyone invited!
(Bring a dish to share-drinks will be provided.)

11:15am - 12:00pm Old fashioned Hymn Sing

