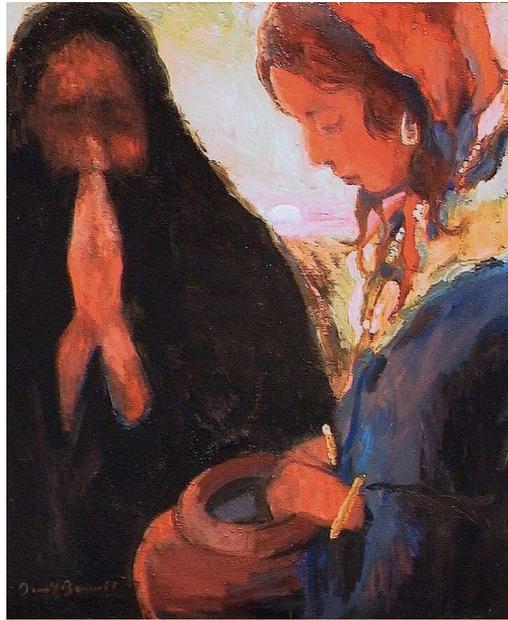


Sunday, March 12, 2023

## THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

First Presbyterian Church, Petaluma CA



“Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep.  
Where do you get that living water?”

John 4:11

### PRELUDE

Jenny Smith

### WELCOME

Pastor John

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

### LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLES (at FPC and in our homes)

Kate Glose

We light these candles to remind ourselves of God's presence,  
not only in this place, but in all places. Amen.

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Pilgrim God

Striking water in the desert

**Refresh us and quench our thirst.**

Revealing God  
Sitting by the side of the well

**Refresh us and teach us truth.**

Dancing God  
Moving over the waters

**Refresh us and bring us life.**

## **PRAYER AND SILENT LISTENING TO GOD**

Let us pray.

Lord, here we are. We have come to church, seeking you and your will for us. We are here searching for you, seeking meaning for our lives, hoping to discover purpose and direction.

Yet today we discover, in the reading of and reflection upon the Scripture, that it is more accurate to say that we are here because you have been searching for us. You have been seeking us, before we got around to looking for you. We are here because we have been called, convened by your working in each of our lives. We are here as those who have been addressed.

So here we are, not because we have been so wise as to look for you, but rather because you have been so loving as to seek us.

Here we are. At last you have our attention. In this time of silence, we await your word.

## **HYMN**

*Gather Us In (vs. 1, 2, 4)*

Here in this place the new light is streaming;  
now is the darkness vanished away;  
see in this space our fears and our dreaming  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;  
gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken;  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery.  
We are the old who yearn for your face.  
We have been sung throughout all of history,  
called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;  
gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;  
give us the courage to enter the song.  
Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven, light years away:  
here in this place the new light is shining;  
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever;  
gather us in and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

## CONFESSION AND PARDON

Kate Glose

God's love has been poured into our hearts  
through the gift of the Holy Spirit.  
Trusting in God's overflowing grace,  
let us confess our sin.

**Lord, you know who we are.  
You know everything we have done.  
We thirst for things that will never satisfy us.  
We commit ourselves to things that will never last.  
We worship things that will never bring salvation.  
Still, you offer us the gift of living water.  
Still, you offer us the gift of eternal life.  
Forgive us, O Lord,  
and give us this living water,  
so that we never thirst again.**

*Silence, a time for personal confession.*

Amen. Hear the Good News of God's grace:  
Though we were sinners, Christ died for us.  
Though we were enemies of God, God loved us.  
Once we were lost and dead—  
now Christ has become our life and salvation.  
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM** *Jesu, Priceless Treasure* Choir  
*Accompanists: Lillian Brinkman, Petri Alva, Tomas Mazeika*

**DISCOVERY TIME** Grete Hansen

**THE OFFERING** Pastor John

**DOXOLOGY** *(or in your preferred version)*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**GOSPEL** John 4:5-42 Kate Glose

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water

gushing up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.” Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!”

The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.” Many

Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## REFLECTING ON THE WORD

Pastor John

### HYMN

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;  
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

## OUR PRAYERS TO GOD

Let us pray for the needs of the world, saying,  
Wellspring of mercy, hear our prayer.

Saving God,  
you are the giver of living water, the source of deepest compassion, the  
fountain of eternal life. Therefore we pray to you: Wellspring of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

For all who are thirsty—thirsty for a life of meaning, thirsty for a word  
of grace, thirsty for a drink of water. Wellspring of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

For all who are weary—weary from life’s long journey, weary from quarreling and testing, weary from pain or grief. Wellspring of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

For all who are broken—broken by sin and suffering, broken by hard disappointment, broken by acts of violence . . .Wellspring of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Living God, through your Spirit, pour your love into our hearts, your grace into our lives, your healing into our world, until the earth is filled with your glory as the waters cover the sea; through Jesus Christ we pray.

### **THE LORD’S PRAYER** *(or in your preferred version)*

**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.**

### **CHARGE**

#### **CLOSING RESPONSE**

Let us go now,  
to meet all who are thirsting for God.

**We will share the living water  
with everyone we meet.**

Let us go now,  
to listen as Jesus does with us.

**We will hear the stories and hearts of all  
who are considered voiceless by our world.**

Let us go now,  
to bring the Spirit’s wholeness to others.

**We will bring peace and healing to the broken and lonely,  
even as they offer us hope and grace by their lives.**

## BLESSING

### CLOSING SONG

### *Go Now In Peace*

Go now in peace, never be afraid.  
God will go with you, each hour of every day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,  
Know he will guide you in all you do.

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Worship Leaders: Pastor John Chase, Kate Glose, Music Director Jane Shelly,  
Accompanist Jenny Smith, Student Ministries and Events Coordinator Grete Hansen,  
Flutists: Lillian Brinkman, Petri Alva, Tomas Mazeika

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#### Credits

Art: Daniel Bonnell, *The Woman At The Well*, 2012.

Call to Worship adapted from *Eggs and Ashes: Practical & Liturgical resources for Lent and Holy Week*, Wild Goose Publications, 80.

Opening Prayer adapted from William H. Willimon, Pulpit Resource, March 7, 1999.

Confession and Pardon adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Year A, Vol. 1*, p. 136-137.

Closing Response adapted from Thom M. Shuman, <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/search?q=John+4%3A5-42>

Music: *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*, TEXT: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.

Music: *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart*, TEXT: Omer Westendorf, 1976; © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia (Published by International Liturgy Publications)

Music: *Go Now In Peace*, TEXT: Don Besig and Nancy Price, MUSIC: Don Besig, © 1988, Harold Flammer Music, a Division of Shawnee Press, Inc.