

OPENING PRAYER — Lin

Loving and caring God, we come this morning in hope—hope that will sustain us in our trying times, our lonely times, our doubting times. Refresh us this morning with the living water of your presence and love. Open us to the possibilities of friendship, of encountering you in unexpected ways, and of seeing the miraculous in everyday life. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC — Closer Walk

HYMN

TFWS #2233 “Where Children Belong”

CHILDREN’S STORY — Sharon Goldade [Michelle will bring a lamb for the kids to see]

SCRIPTURE: John 4:5-42 — Suzanne Gallagher, Wayne Vinson, Megan Vinson, Lin Cheek

Narrator 1: 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,

Jesus: “Give me a drink.”

Narrator 2: Jesus was alone because his disciples had gone to the city to buy food.

Narrator 1: The Samaritan woman said to him,

Woman: “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?”

Narrator 2: Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.

Narrator 1: Jesus answered her,

Jesus: “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.”

Woman: “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: “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.”

Woman "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus: "Go, call your husband, and come back."

Woman: "I have no husband."

Jesus: "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!"

Woman: "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: "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."

Woman: "I know that Messiah is coming."

Narrator 2: The Messiah is the one who is called Christ.

Woman: "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."

Jesus: "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Narrator 1: 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,

Woman: "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?"

Narrator 1: 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,

Jesus: "I have food to eat that you do not know about."

Narrator 1: So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them,

Jesus: "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.”

Narrator 1: Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony,

Woman: “He told me everything I have ever done.”

Narrator 1: 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,

Narrator 2: “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.”

MESSAGE

“New Life”

Rev. Lin Cheek

Subject: Be reconciled, work together with God, do not accept the grace of God in vain!

Focus: NEW LIFE. Jesus offers a new concept of water and bread — and a new kind of life!

• SAMARITAN

1. centuries old rift over: scripture, leadership, place of worship
 - a) harkens back to ancient north vs south
 - b) marriage with heathens creating a mongrel race
 - c) Samaritans offered to help rebuild Jerusalem temple but were sent packing
2. are they Jews or not?
 - a) Jews say no until they renounce mt. Garizim as a holy place
 - b) Samaritans consider themselves Jews
3. two points of interest:
 - a) dead sea scrolls support Jewish scripture over Samaritan;
 - b) genetically, Jews and Samaritans share the same roots,
 - c) so verse 9 may be off (Jews and Samaritans have nothing in common)
3. Jesus is there! In a place Jews would go out of their way to avoid

• WOMAN

1. described in commentaries as a prostitute, disparaged as immoral and shameful
2. I read her as a victim
 - a) passed from man to man

- b) no children
 - c) Poor
 - d) No options
3. read that way, Jesus is compassionate rather than critical
 4. keep in mind, she encounters Jesus in the light (Nicodemus was in darkness)
 5. Jesus is there! reaching out to her with her truth, allowing her to see him as he saw her

- THE WELL

1. this is Jacob's Well
2. it connects both of them to their common history
 - a) in Genesis Jacob bought the land, pitched a tent and built an altar
 - b) the 12 tribes of Israel named after Jacob's sons
from which Samaritans descend
3. even today it is an undisputed Biblical site
4. Spring water + rain water + the living water,
all at the same place: how holy can you get?
4. Jesus is there! Waiting for a chance to cross several social boundaries

- NEW LIFE

1. Jesus is offering the Samaritan woman a new kind of water
2. Jesus is offering the disciples a new kind of bread
3. Jesus is offering all the world a new kind of life
 - a) Life where we take opportunities to bridge chasms that divide us
 - b) Life where we reach out with compassion to our enemies
 - c) Life where we work at building community on common ground
instead of fracturing community over our differences
 - d) Life where we hunger and thirst for God's Kingdom, not ours

- May we all have the faith of the Samaritan Woman at the Well

1. To hear the good news, even when it flies in the face of all we've been taught
2. To proclaim the good news, even if we fear people will not listen
3. To keep at it until all who hear of Jesus will say:
"we know that this is truly the Savior of the world!"

RESPONSIVE HYMN

TFWS #2152 "Change My Heart Oh God"

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.
You are the potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Cambia mi corazón, hazlo fiel a ti. Cambia mi corazon, qiero estar en ti.

You are the potter (tu el alfarero), I am the clay (yo el barro soy)
Mold me and make me (hazme de nuevo), this is what I pray (te lo pido hoy)

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

OFFERTORY — Brendan Krueger***DOXOLOGY**

UMH #94

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** — Suzanne Gallagher

All: Life-giving God, we offer you ourselves and our resources. Use us and our gifts, that we may be water bearers to a world thirsty for love and meaning, and offer sustenance to a world hungry for justice and hope. May all your people who hunger and thirst encounter fullness of life through the love of Christ, which lives within us. Amen!

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER — Lin [are there any joys or concerns today?]

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

UMH #159 "Lift High the Cross"

REFRAIN: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim,
till all the world adore his sacred name.

1. Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign.

The hosts of God in unity combine. REFRAIN

2. Each newborn servant of the Crucified

bears on the brow the seal of him who died. REFRAIN

3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,

as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee. REFRAIN

4. So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! REFRAIN

***BENEDICTION** — Lin

POSTLUDE — Brendan Krueger

Prelude/Postlude—Brendan Krueger
Offertory — Brendan Krueger
Organ — Betsy Foushee
Liturgist — Suzanne Gallagher
Special Music: Closer Walk

Accomp.— Brendan Krueger
Song Leader — Janice Bachmann
Violin — Rae Ann Norell
Children's Message— Sharon Goldade