

Wednesday Worship
10th March 2021

Opening prayers and lighting of a candle

Be with us, Spirit of God
All **Nothing can separate us from your love**

Breathe on us, breath of God
All **Fill us with your saving power**

Speak in us, wisdom of God
All **Bring strength, healing and peace**

Sovereign God we come to celebrate that you are always among us.
Help us to always remember your presence with us
and to put you at the centre of everything we do and say.
Great is your name
All **And greatly to be praised**

Hymn: Praise to the holiest in the height

Ist Reading: Exodus 17.1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

Prayer of response

Lord, it is easy to complain and quarrel,
harder to give thanks.
Forgive us when we forget your goodness to us
and give us grateful hearts.
All **Amen.**

Psalm 95.1-2, 6-end

O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.
O that today you would listen to his voice!
Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,
when your ancestors tested me,
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.
For forty years I loathed that generation
and said, 'They are a people whose hearts go astray,
and they do not regard my ways.'
Therefore in my anger I swore,
'They shall not enter my rest.'

Prayer of response

Lord God, the maker of all,
as we bow down in praise this day,
make us attentive to your voice
and do not test us beyond our enduring;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

2nd Reading: John 4.5-26, 39-42

So [Jesus] 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 worshipped 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 worshippers 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.'

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 for 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 Saviour of the world.'

Prayer of response

O Almighty God,
whose most blessed Son revealed to the Samaritan woman
that he is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the World;
grant us to drink of the well that springs up to everlasting life
that we may worship you in spirit and in truth
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Hymn: I heard the voice of Jesus say

Reflection

A performance poem by Chris Kinsley & Drew Francis 2007

I am a woman of no distinction
of little importance.
I am a woman of no reputation
save that which is bad.

You whisper as I pass by and cast judgmental glances,
Though you don't really take the time to look at me,
Or even get to know me.

For to be known is to be loved,
And to be loved is to be known.
Otherwise what's the point in doing
either one of them in the first place?

I WANT TO BE KNOWN.

I want someone to look at my face
And not just see two eyes, a nose,
a mouth and two ears;
But to see all that I am, and could be
all my hopes, loves and fears.

But that's too much to hope for,
to wish for,
or pray for
So I don't, not anymore.

Now I keep to myself
And by that I mean the pain
that keeps me in my own private jail
The pain that's brought me here
at midday to this well.

To ask for a drink is no big request
but to ask it of me?
A woman unclean, ashamed,
Used and abused
An outcast, a failure
a disappointment, a sinner.

No drink passing from these hands
to your lips could ever be refreshing
Only condemning, as I'm sure you condemn me now
But you don't.

You're a man of no distinction;
Though of the utmost importance.
A man with little reputation, at least so far.

You whisper and tell me to my face
what all those glances have been about, and
You take the time to really look at me.
But don't need to get to know me.

For to be known is to be loved and
To be loved is to be known.

And you know me.
You actually know me;
all of me and everything about me.
Every thought inside and hair on top of my head;
Every hurt stored up, every hope, every dread.

My past and my future, all I am and could be.
You tell me everything,
you tell me about me!

And that which is spoken by another
would bring hate and condemnation.
Coming from you brings love, grace,
mercy, hope and salvation.

I've heard of one to come
who could save a wretch like me
And here in my presence, you say
I AM He.

To be known is to be loved;
And to be loved is to be known.

And I just met you.
But I love you.

I don't know you,
but I want to get to.

Let me run back to town
this is way too much for just me.
There are others: brothers,
sisters, lovers, haters.

The good and the bad, sinners and saints
who should hear what you've told me;
who should see what you've shown me;
who should taste what you gave me;
who should feel how you forgave me.

For to be known is to be loved;
And to be loved is to be known.
And they all need this, too.
We all do
Need it for our own.

Intercessions

God of all peoples,
just as Jesus and his disciples journeyed through
Samaria to reach their appointed destination;
teach us to how to walk through strange, foreign places,
how to meet people different from ourselves,
know them and love them—
that we might say to them "come and see".
You bypass no one; in this may we follow you.
God of love

All **Hear our prayer**

May we also be like the Samaritan woman:
willing to examine our lives in Jesus' presence
that we may worship the Father in spirit and in truth,
that we may share with those we know
what it is like to meet with Jesus.
The truth liberated the unnamed woman.
This Lent, may your truth reveal us to ourselves
and set us free in you.
God of love

All **Hear our prayer**

God of the nations, lead and direct
so that truth and truthfulness may direct our leaders,
inform our nation, govern our business
and our everyday lives,
that we may live in justice and peace together.
God of love

All **Hear our prayer**

Give us and all who thirst for you
that living water of your Spirit:
water of refreshment, water of healing,
water of cleansing, water of life.
God of love

All **Hear our prayer**

God of mercy,
All **you know us and love us
and hear our prayer:
keep us in the eternal fellowship
of Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.**

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray as our Saviour taught us

All **Our Father, who art in heaven...**

Hymn: Lead us heavenly Father lead us

Closing prayers

O Trinity of Love,
you have been with us since the world's beginning
All **Be with us until the world's end**

You have been with us at our life's shaping
All **Be with us at our life's end**

You have been with us in our weeping and in our laughing
All **Be with us in all the changes of our lives**

You have been with us in all our working
All **Be with us in our times of rest**

You have been with us at the sun's rising
All **Be with us till the day's end**

May God, who in Christ gives us a spring of water welling up to eternal life,
perfect in us the image of his glory;
and the blessing...