

March 15, 2020, Faith Mennonite Church

Lent 2: Show us your living water

Scripture: *Ex 17:1-7; John 4:5-42*

Our Lent theme is **"Slow down and breathe in the life of Jesus."**

Focus statement: God calls us out of familiar and comfortable places in our lives and invites us into new challenges, new ways of being, thinking, and doing. As we respond to this invitation, God shows us a deeper experience of Divine Presence.

Gathering Song:

*Gathered here, in the mystery of this hour,
Gathered here, in one strong body.
Gathered here, in the struggle and the power,
Spirit, draw near.*

Opening ritual:

Chimes/lighting of Christ candle/pause for silence

Call to worship

Leader: Come, let's sing out loud to the Lord!

People: Let's raise a joyful shout to the Rock of our Salvation!

Leader: Come, you who are thirsty and can find no water in the desert.

People: We bring our questions, our complaints, to the Rock of our Salvation.

Leader: Come and see the One who speaks to us of living water.

People: Show us who you are and who we are, O Jesus.

All: Let's raise a joyful shout to the Rock of our Salvation!

Welcome

We welcome all to worship, those who come often, occasionally and those who may be here for the first time. If you're a regular, please introduce yourself to guests and help them to circle time. Everyone is invited to the shared meal which is a continuation of our worship. We will introduce visitors in our circle time before we sit down to eat.

Opening prayer

Songs of praise

HWB 495 O Let All Who Thirst

HWB 514 Lord, I Am Fondly, Earnestly

Offering Song:

Offering Prayer

First Scripture reading

Song: *Listen to the Word*

Genesis Exodus 17:1-7

Exodus 17:1-7 Inclusive Bible

The Israelites left the desert of Sin to travel by stages, as YHWH had directed them. They camped at Rephidim, but found no drinking water. Again they turned on Moses, saying, "Give us drinking water."

Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test YHWH?"

But the people were thirsty, and complained even more to Moses.

"Why did you bring us out of Egypt only to make us and our children and our livestock die of thirst?"

Moses appealed to YHWH, "What am I to do with these people? They are ready to stone me!"

YHWH answered Moses, "Take some of the elders and move to the front of the people.

Take with you the staff with which you struck the Nile. Go! I will wait for you there by the rock of Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink."

And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders.

Moses named the place Massah, "Testing," and Meribah, "Quarreling," for the Israelites tested YHWH when they said, "Is YHWH with us or not?"

Song: Let the Children Come

Children's story

Story: Jesus was on his way from Judea to Galilee and the shortest route went through Samaria. The Jews, the group Jesus came from, disliked the people from Samaria so much that they would walk the whole way around this country to get somewhere even though it took longer. (*Enlarge a Bible map to show the distance between these two countries.*) Jesus not only walked through Samaria but he also talked to a woman who lived there. He stopped at a well to rest while the disciples went to find food. (*Show a picture or replica of a well.*) The Samaritan woman was thirsty for what Jesus had to say. She wanted to hear more and more. It was like wanting more and more water when you're on a hike on a really hot day. She couldn't get enough. The joy that Jesus offered her, if she chose to believe in him as the Messiah, would never run out. It would be like the water in a fountain flowing all of the time. The joy was bubbling up inside of her and had to overflow into what she did and said. The woman went running back to her town very excited to tell people about the conversation she just had had. Because of what she said, they asked Jesus to stay and talk to them. Many people that day decided to believe that Jesus was the Messiah.

Lesson: Give each child a small bottle of water to symbolize that when it is empty they will want more. If they ask, God is always with them, ready to fill their minds (what they think) and their hearts (how they feel, what is important to them). God cares about and loves them all of the time, forever.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for always taking time to stop and talk to us and explain who you are. Help us to keep learning more about you and to be filled with your joy. Amen.

Song before Confession: HWB 515 Jesus, Rock of Ages

Confession and reconciliation

God of living waters, we confess that we have often turned from you and wandered in our own wildernesses of fear and doubt. Our thirst mounts daily, and we turn to many things we believe will satisfy us. In the silence of this moment we name those things.

Silence

Assurance of pardon

The wells of salvation are offered to you. Drink deeply and find healing, hope, and joy, for God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us! Amen.

Song of Assurance: O Lord have mercy *Sing the Journey #47*

Second reading: John 4:5-42

John 4:5-42 Inclusive Bible

Jesus stopped at Sychar, a town in Samaria, near the tract of land Jacob had given to his son Joseph, and Jacob's Well was there. Jesus, weary from the journey, came and sat by the well. It was around noon. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." The disciples had gone off to the town to buy provisions.

The Samaritan woman replied, "You're a Jew. How can you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?" (Since Jews had nothing to do with Samaritans)

Jesus answered, "If only you recognized God's gift, and who it is that is asking you for a drink, you would have asked him for a drink instead, and he would have given you living water."

"If you please," she challenged Jesus, "you don't have a bucket and this well is deep. Where do you expect to get this 'living water'? Surely you don't pretend to be greater than our ancestors Leah and Rachel and Jacob, who gave us this well and drank from it with their descendants and flocks?"

Jesus replied, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give them will never be thirsty; no, the water I give will become fountains within them, springing up to provide eternal life."

The woman said to Jesus, "Give me this water, so that I won't grow thirsty and have to keep coming all the way here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband and then come back here."

"I don't have a husband," replied the woman.

"You're right—you don't have a husband!" Jesus exclaimed. "The fact is, you've had five, and the man you're living with now is not your husband. So what you've said is quite true."

"I can see you're a prophet," answered the woman. "Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you people claim that Jerusalem is the place where God ought to be worshiped."

Jesus told her, "Believe me; the hour is coming when you'll worship Abba God neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you don't understand; we worship what we do understand—after all, salvation is from the Jewish people. Yet the hour is coming—and is already here—when real worshipers will worship Abba God in Spirit and truth. Indeed, it is just such worshipers whom Abba God seeks. God is Spirit, and those who worship God must worship in spirit and truth."

The woman said to Jesus, "I know that the Messiah—the Anointed One—is coming and will tell us everything."

Jesus replied, "I who speak to you am the Messiah."

The disciples, returning at this point, were shocked to find Jesus having a private conversation with a woman. But no one dared to ask, "What do you want of him?" or "Why are you talking with her?"

The woman then left her water jar and went off into the town. She said to the people, “Come and see someone who told me everything I have ever done! Could this be the Messiah?” At that, everyone set out from town to meet Jesus.

Meanwhile, the disciples were urging Jesus, “Rabbi, eat something.”

But Jesus told them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.”

At this, the disciples said to one another, “Do you think someone has brought him something to eat?”

Jesus explained to them,

“Doing the will of the One who sent me and bringing this work to completion is my food.

Don’t you have a saying, ‘Four months more and it will be harvest time’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields—they’re ripe and ready for harvest! Reapers are already collecting their wages; they’re gathering fruit for eternal life, and sower and reaper will rejoice together. So the saying is true: ‘One person sows; another reaps.’

I have sent you to reap what you haven’t worked for. Others have done the work, and you’ve come upon the fruits of their labor.”

Many Samaritans from that town believed in Jesus on the strength of the woman’s testimony—that” he told me everything I ever did.” The result was that, when these Samaritans came to Jesus, they begged him to stay with them awhile. So Jesus stayed there two days, and through his own spoken word many more came to faith. They told the woman, “No longer does our faith depend on your story. We’ve heard for ourselves, and we know that this really is the savior of the world.”

Blessing words:

Leader: We have seen the Rock of our Salvation,
and we have quenched our thirst for the living water
that gives our lives purpose and meaning.
Let us go now to meet all thirsting for God.

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

Leader: Let us go now to listen as Jesus does with us.

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

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

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

Closing songs

STJ 77 The Peace of the Earth Be with You

STS There Is a Well (Un Pozo Hay)