

**Worship on March 12, 2023** (CCLI: License Number #3156883)  
(Welcoming Elder: Edwin Webster)

### **Sunday Order of worship**

#### **We Gather**

- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 671 I heard the voice of Jesus say
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Time for our children and youth
- Praise song – BOP 25 As longs the hart

#### **We Listen**

- Prayer for illumination
- First reading: Exodus 17:1-7
- Second reading: Psalm 95 (refrain 1)
- Third reading: John 4:5-42
- Sermon: Give me a drink
- Prayer for the people of God

#### **We Respond**

- Offering, Doxology & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – BOP 670 Amazing grace

#### **We Serve**

- Benediction

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As we come into the presence of our God, let us open our hearts and minds,  
and focus on our Lord and King.

#### **Responsive Call to Worship**

L: Just as the Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness,

**P: the Spirit sends us into places of uncertainty where we confront our weakness and insecurities.**

L: Here we are taught to pay attention to those whom others discard.

**P: Jesus insists that God is revealed in unlikely people.**

L: Jesus offered living water to the Samaritan woman at the well who was the wrong religion, the wrong gender, and had the wrong marital status.

**P: We, too, are a gathering of nobodies, yet Jesus claims us as somebodies who all have a place.**

L: In Christ, there is neither insider nor outsider invited nor shunned, accepted nor rejected.

**P: We, too, are called to see beyond outdated categories and to offer living water to the thirsty.**

L: It is those who have been rejected who most need to know acceptance.

**P: Let our gatherings be a place for those who have been told they don't belong.**

**Praise song – BOP 671 I heard the voice of Jesus say**

### **Prayer For Adoration and Confession**

Creator, Christ and Spirit, you provide what we need to live, from the bounty of creation.

God of mercy, you know us through and through and you love us.

God of hope, you have an everlasting purpose for us.

God of wisdom, you open our minds and teach and guide us.

So we come to worship you, Source of Wisdom, Son of Mercy, Spirit of Hope, offering you our prayers and our praise, trusting you to offer us the gifts we need to thrive and to serve you in the world you love.

God, our Redeemer, we are not proud of all you hear in our thoughts and prayers. We complain when we want things to change but don't know what to do. We justify ourselves when you call us to change but we don't want to. We blame others when things change and upset our expectations. Forgive us, O God, when we are not listening for you.

**This time we come to you in prayer that you taught us how to pray:** (The Lord's Prayer:)

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **Words of Assurance**

Friends in Christ, While it is true that we have sinned and gone our own ways, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. All who humbly seek the mercy of God may trust that in Jesus Christ our sin is forgiven, Be at peace with God, with yourself and with one another.

May the peace of the Lord be with you. Let us take few moments to greet each other and share our peace.

### **Prayer for children and youth**

Creator and Ruler of the whole universe, thank you for calling us here to pray for our precious children and youth. As we pray for them, help us know that it's not us who love them the most, but it is you who love and care for them the most. Gracious God the Father, thank you for sending them to us. Thank you for the time we share with each other. Help us show your love through our daily lives. We are weak. We fall. We expose our selfishness. Teach our children and youth that the only foundation is you. When we spend time together, help us guide our children and youth in your truth. We are just walking with them toward you. Lord Jesus, you are the truth, the life, and the way. Come into the hearts of our children and youth and walk with them all through their lives. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

### **Praise Song: BOP 25 As longs the hart**

### **Prayer for Illumination:**

Jesus Christ, we turn to you this day to be refreshed by God's living Word in the Scriptures. Let the Holy Spirit open our eyes to your truth and shine truth on the way you set before us. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

**First reading: Exodus 17:1-7**

**Second reading: Psalm 95 (refrain 1)**

**Third reading: John 4:5-42**

**“This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God.”**

**SERMON: Give me a drink.**

Today’s sermon title is **“Give me a drink.”**

This is the first word Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman by the well. “Give me a drink” is important for her to transform her life. We are going to have a close look.

First, who is the one who has a need? **Who’s the needy one** in this story? Jesus. Jesus was tired and thirsty. The walk through Samaria is long and tiring. Jesus sits down by the well while his disciples go to buy food in the village; this is where he and the woman meet. It ought to be easy for a thirsty man to get a drink at a well, but notice that Jesus cannot do this by himself. He asks the woman to give him a drink. **Jesus is in need. He is asking for a help to the woman.**

When we pray, we ask God for help. God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are always in helping position. They have, we don’t. They know, we don’t. They are powerful, but we are not. They can, but we cannot. That’s our usual understanding of God.

But, today, Jesus is in need. **For thirsty Jesus, we are standing in front of him with the bucket to get some water for him from the well.**

I titled today’s message **“Give me a drink”** because Jesus is approaching us for our help. Through asking us for a favor, Jesus is inviting us to work together. **This little cup of water becomes the beginning of a salvation journey for her. What do we have in our hands?**

This Samaritan woman was not a very favorable person. At noon, when the sun is at the highest point, no one wants to be in the sun in the middle east. It is too hot. The sun is too strong. This implies that the woman wants to avoid other people. But, Jesus asks that woman for a drink. At that time, Jews did not talk to non-Jewish people. At that time, male did not talk to female in public. But, Jesus was a Jewish male. The Samaritan woman is a non-Jewish female. Jesus had two important reasons not to talk to her.

But when we hear their conversation, Jesus is able to give her the living water. Immediately after she heard what it was, she wanted it. With the living water, she thought she would never be thirsty again, so she won’t have to come back to the well to get water.

When she asks for the living water, Jesus said to her to bring her husband. She simply said that she does not have a husband. Jesus knew her past. She was shameful of it and didn’t want anyone to know it. But, Jesus knew. **She was amazed and called Jesus the Messiah.**

The Samaritan woman was transformed by this. She realized that Jesus has the truth. She came to the faith trusting God through Jesus. She came to deeper understanding of Jesus and was fascinated by Jesus when Jesus came close to her, when Jesus broke the social customs not talking to a gentile woman, and when Jesus accepted her even though she has a shameful history. **The more she learned about the love of God through Jesus, she was amazed by the love.** She was transformed.

**V28, “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?”**

**“Come see a man who knew all about the things I did, who knows me inside and out. Do you think this could be the Messiah?” (MSG)**

Now, getting water is not an important issue for her. Why?

She was loved. She was accepted. Her focus is not her own needs any more. She was not able to keep quiet after experiencing the love of Jesus. Like the disciples left their everything behind, this woman left her water-jar behind and went back to the village to share the love of Jesus.

What a change! **She was a nobody. She was not considered as a significant person by others as well as by herself. But, to Jesus, she was not a nobody. She was cherished. She was adored. She was admitted. She was welcomed. She was embraced. She was well received by Jesus. She was loved!**

Was this the plan of Jesus? **Nobody became somebody, a special person, by the lavishing love of Jesus poured upon the nameless Samaritan woman. She realized her own unique preciousness. She was worthy now. She gained strength and confidence to speak out** to the people she was hiding from.

**How did it begin? “Give me a drink.”** Jesus came to her and stretched out his hand to her. By the well, with a bucket, was it too hard for her to give a drink to him? Well... maybe, maybe not. But only if she could listen to him and open her mind, then it's just a piece of cake.

Salvation work of God in us could begin like this. **She was an outcast in the beginning of the story, but she became a witness of the gospel at the end.**

**What about our lives? Is God inviting you as well? What are you able to do?**

God does not ask us something we cannot do. When God asks us something, he provides everything we need. This is how God transforms us from nobody to somebody.

**May the love of God be experienced as we come close to him in this season of Lent. Let us remember his love that changed our everything.**

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

### **Prayer for the people of God**

Loving God, thank you for your love. You called this Samaritan woman and showed your love. Your love has no bound. No one can hide from your love. Nothing can stop your love. Lord Jesus, almighty God, at this time, if anybody feel that they are separated from your love, talk to them your love. Like this woman, she did not love herself. She gave up her own worth. She lost her own self. But, Jesus, you came to her and you said your love, you embraced her. You loved her. And she gained her love for herself. She became confident. She became bold enough to stand up in front of the people she was hiding from with that love. You can change anybody. Thank you for the hope. Thank you for your love.

With the hope, we pray for ourselves. We come to you in silence. We remind ourselves of your love. You accept us. You cherish us. You welcome us. You embrace us. You love us. Let this sink in our hearts in this silence. Let us have a short moment of a silence. (20 second silence)

God of grace and love, we pray for Turkiye and Syria. In their difficult time, be with them. Help them. Provide their needs. Let them come to your love. Transform their hearts with your love. And we pray as well for Ukraine and Russia and the leaders. Love wins. Love will change. Let your love be in their hearts. God, make changes with your love. Save them from fear and sadness and hopelessness and their selfishness and violence. God, help them.

And we remember our church. We thank you that you are here with us. We thank you that we are able to worship you with one heart. We thank you for the desire we have for you. We long for the intimacy with you. We want to build close relationship with you. Gracious God, above all the things in our lives, help us put you in the first place in our hearts and live accordingly. We need your help. Look into our hearts and our situations and guide us. Thank you for being with us and loving us. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

**Invitation to the offering:** This is the time for offering. Having tasted the living water in Christ's love and forgiveness, we bring our gifts to God in gratitude for such refreshment and renewal. As we offer our gifts, let us praise God and glorify him.

### **The Doxology (BOP 830)**

#### **Offering prayer:**

Loving God, with our gifts, we offer you our very selves, knowing you receive us as we are. Bless all that we have to offer, so that we may become gifts to those who encounter us through the grace of Christ our Lord. In Jesus' wonderful and beautiful name, we pray. Amen.

### **Song for the Journey – BOP 670 Amazing grace**

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. God's love for us is amazing. God invites us in our daily lives. He says as simple as "Give me a drink." Let the love of Jesus be with you and let his love transform your life inside and out.

**Benediction:** May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with us all, now and always. Amen.