

Sunday Worship on March 8, 2026

(CCLI: License Number #3156883) (Welcoming Elder: Anne Neuman)

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Responsive Call to worship
- Praise song BOP 412 Come, let us sing to the Lord our song (Vs. 1-4)
- Prayer for Worship and the Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song When Israel Was in Egypt's Land
- Prayer for children

We listen

- Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)
- First reading: Exodus 17:1-7
- Second reading: Psalm 95 (Refrain 1)
- Third reading: John 4:5-42
- Sermon: **Living Water for the Thirsty**
- Praise song BOP 671 I heard the voice of Jesus say (Vs. 1-3)
- Prayer for people

We Respond

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 830 Praise God from whom all blessings flow) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey BOP 274 Crown him with many crowns (Vs. 1, 2, & 5)

We Serve

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

Responsive Call to Worship

God's Truth opens our eyes on the world.

God's Spirit shatters our prejudice.

God's Truth nourishes our hearts.

God's Spirit encourages us in the face of fear.

God's Truth frees us from past mistakes and misunderstanding.

God's Spirit moves us to find new purpose in life.

So let us worship God in Spirit and in Truth.

Praise song – BOP 412 Come, let us sing to the Lord our song (Vs. 1-4)

Prayer of Adoration

Creator, Christ and Holy 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 this day and always.

Prayer of confession (Unison)

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 we 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, God, when we are not listening for you.

Heavenly Father, hear us, as we offer the Prayer that Jesus taught us: (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

While it is true that we have sinned and gone our own way, 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 Christ be with you. *(Let us bless each other with the peace of the Lord.)*

Praise song When Israel Was in Egypt's Land

Prayer for the children

Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)

- 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: Living Water to the Thirsty

It was about noon. The sun was high and the air was heavy.

A woman come to the well to draw water.

She came at unusual hour. Most women came in the cool of the morning. But, at noon, this woman came alone.

We are not told directly why. But the story makes it clear that she was avoiding people.

And sitting by the well, there was Jesus.

Jesus was tired and thirsty. Jesus was waiting for the woman.

Jesus began the conversation with a simple request. "Give me a drink."

The Creator of heaven and earth asked a Samaritan woman for water.

Immediately, boundaries were crossed.

Jew and Samaritan.

Rabbi and woman.

Holy man and morally complicated life.

Knowing everything, but not showing any fear.

Jesus was not afraid of crossing boundaries.

He was not afraid of thirst. He was not afraid of broken stories. Jesus was not afraid of awkward conversations. Jesus was ready to give what the woman needed.

Jesus said, v10, **"If you knew the gift of God, ... you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."**

Living water.

Not stagnant water. Not borrowed water. Not water that satisfies for a moment and leaves you thirsty again. But, Jesus offered LIVING WATER.

The woman misunderstood at first. **V11, "Sir, you have no bucket."**

Like Nicodemus last week, she heard only at the surface level. Jesus was speaking about something deeper.

V13, "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."

Never be thirsty again.

Now, we must be careful. Jesus is not saying believers never struggle.

He is not saying that we never go through dry seasons.

He is saying that in him, there is a spring. There is a source that does not depend on circumstances.

There is a well that does not run dry when life becomes complicated.

Let us face our reality. We are thirsty people. We thirst for approval. We thirst for love, security, control, and distraction.

We draw from many wells.

We try the well of career, reputation, relationships, or possessions.

And again and again, we discover what Jesus says is true.

We drink and we thirst again.

In the wilderness, Israel complained to Moses because there was no water.

Exodus 17:7 says, “He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, ‘Is the Lord among us or not?’”

Thirst exposes what we trust.

Also, Psalm 95 warns us, **V8, “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.”**

Because of thirst, they tested the Lord. Because of what they need, they turned around from the Lord. Thirst can soften us or harden us.

The Samaritan woman does something remarkable. She stays in the conversation. Even when Jesus bluntly exposes her story, even when Jesus reveals her broken relationships

Jesus does not shame her. Jesus tells the truth in love.

At the same time, mysteriously, she does not take Jesus' words as condemnation. **John 3:16-17, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”**

Drawn to Jesus more closely, in conversation, the woman asked the deeper question.

“Where should we worship?”

On this mountain? In Jerusalem?

Jesus answered, **V24, “God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”**

It is not about location. It is not about rivalry, on this mountain or Jerusalem. It is not about religious superiority.

Worship is all about spirit and truth.

Living water produces living worship.

Here is the turning point. **V25, “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 answered, **V26, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”**

It is one of the clearest self-revelations in the gospel.
To this revelation of Jesus’ true identity, what did she do?
She left her water jar.

Why did she come to the well?
She came to the well for water, but she left the well without her water jar. WHY? Because she found something greater than her thirst.

She ran back to the town and said, **v29, “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done!”**

This was not some fancy theological discussion.
This was not a structured testimony.
It was simple. “Come and see.”

Living water does not stay contained. It overflows.

The woman who avoided people now ran toward them. The woman who came alone to the well became the first witness to her village. Through her, many came to Jesus.

This is the grace of God.
Jesus meets us at the well, in our pain, in our need, in our ordinary life.
At noon. In our avoidance, in our quiet shame.

Jesus asked for a drink and he offered a spring.
The question is not whether we are thirsty or not. We have to admit that we are.
The question is, “from which well are we drinking?”

Some of us are exhausted from drawing water that does not satisfy. Some of us are tired of pretending that we are not thirsty.
Jesus does not despise our thirst. Jesus invites us to bring our thirst to him.

This is the promise of Jesus to us.
The water he gives becomes a spring of water gushing up to eternal life. He didn’t say a puddle, but a spring.

Not a temporary relief, but eternal life beginning at this moment.

In this Lenten season, perhaps the Spirit is gently asking to all of us, **“Where have you been drawing your water?”**

And Jesus is inviting us gently, “Come and see.”

We do not need a better bucket. We need a deeper source and Jesus is that source. Let us come and see the goodness of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, we confess that we are thirsty. Have mercy upon us for drawing from empty wells. Lead us to the living water that only you can give. Soften our hearts, and make us true worshipers in spirit and truth. In Jesus’ precious name, we pray. Amen.

Praise song BOP 671 I heard the voice of Jesus say (Vs. 1-3)

Prayer for people:

Gracious God, we come before you as thirsty people in a thirsty world. We pray for those who feel alone, like the woman at the well. There are people who carry quiet shame, hidden grief, or unspoken questions. Meet them in their ordinary places and speak words of life to them.

We pray for those in physical need, those lacking clean water, food, safety, or shelter. Be their provider and protector. Stir our hearts to compassion and action.

We lift before you our troubled world. As tension rise between Iran and the United States and Israel, and as violence spreads fear across nations, have mercy. We grieve especially the loss of more than 160 Iranian elementary school children whose lives were taken. Lord, you welcomed little children and blessed them. Hold them in your eternal care. Comfort their parents, their teachers, and their friends. Stop the hands of those who make war. Turn the hearts of leaders toward wisdom, justice, and peace. Where hatred grows, plant seeds of reconciliation.

We pray for those who walking through dry seasons of faith. Where hearts have grown hard, soften them. Where hope feels distant, renew it. Let your living rise again within your church.

God of power and might, make us peacemakers in a divided world and this time. keep us from despair and from indifference. Teach us to pray faithfully, to act justly, and to trust deeply.

Make us a people who do not store your grace in our hearts alone, but let us share it. Send us back into our neighbourhoods with simple courage to say, “Come and see.”

Thank you for your love. Hold our hands and walk with us always. Through Jesus Christ, the Giver of living water, amen.

Invitation to the offering:

Freely we have received the gift of living water. Freely we respond with gratitude. Let us offer our gifts to God, trusting that he will use them to bring life to others. As we give our offerings, let us glorify God.

(BOP #830, Praise God from whom all blessings flow)

Offering prayer:

Gracious and loving God, every good gift comes from you. receive these offerings and use them and us for your kingdom. May they become channels of your living water in a thirsty world. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Song for the Journey – BOP 274 Crown him with many crowns (Vs. 1, 2, & 5)

Now, it is our time to be sent to the world where God called us to be.

You have met Christ at the well. You have heard his invitation. As you go back into the routines of your week, remember the source of life you have. You do not walk into dry places alone. The Lord, who is your keeper, watches over your coming and going. Drink deeply from his grace. In your home, workplace, and community, where you see thirst, carry the simple courage of the Samaritan woman. Say, “come and see.” The spring of eternal life is always with you.

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