

MCCC Sanctuary Worship Order 2022

Feb 6, 2022

Living Waters

COLORING PAGE:

THEME PICTURE:

Prelude

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
[Lloyd Larson (tune: Kingsfold)]

Jan Green

Welcome

Rev. Chad Delaney

Welcome to the Mantua Center Christian Church

We are a community seeking to have open minds, open hearts, and open arms, building community in a fragmented world.

- We want to **welcome** everyone who is in the house today, everyone online, and everyone downstairs watching our live telecast. We are grateful for all the many ways you can join us for worship on this Lord's Day.
- **Announcements** will be on one sheet at the back of the sanctuary.
- Let's prepare our hearts and minds for worship with our Opening Scripture Reading...

Opening Scripture

Psalm 42:1-5

¹ As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.

² My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.

When shall I come and behold
the face of God?

³ My tears have been my food
day and night,
while people say to me continually,
'Where is your God?'

⁴ These things I remember,

as I pour out my soul:
 how I went with the throng,
 and led them in procession to the house of God,
 with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving,
 a multitude keeping festival.
⁵ Why are you cast down, O my soul,
 and why are you disquieted within me?
 Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
 my help ⁶and my God.

***Response - Weave**

Weave, weave, weave us together,
 Weave us together, in unity and love.
 Weave, weave, weave us together,
 weave us together, together in love.

***Call to Worship**

Roger Cram

ONE: Come, all who are thirsty says Jesus, our Lord,

**ALL: come, all who are weak, taste the living water
 that I shall give.**

ONE: Dip your hands in the stream, refresh body and soul,

**ALL: drink from it, depend on it, for this water will
 never run dry.**

ONE: Come, all who are thirsty says Jesus, our Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

By John Birch

Opening Hymn

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

#25

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation.
 O my soul, worship the well-spring of health and salvation.
 All ye who hear, now to God's temple draw near.
 Join me in glad adoration

Invitation to Generosity

Roger Cram

Generosity is a wonderful thing. It often eases the lives of the poor and gives the providers special feelings of warmth and self-worth. Most of us think generosity is always good.

But generosity needs to be interlaced with research and wisdom, for generosity can be harmful, believe it or not, and can cause hardships.

(INSERT PICTURE 1 - CITY DUMP)

Leave projected for 10 seconds, then go to Picture 2

Pictured is the city dump of Chinandega, Nicaragua. It goes on for miles.

(PICTURE 2) – GIRL ON DUMP - Marina 1

Leave projected for 10 seconds then remove

This is Mariana, a 7-year-old girl living with her family on the city dump. Her house is made of cardboard and other items of trash found on the dump. Her job is to wait for arriving garbage trucks and search the fresh garbage. She uses a large stick to look for food and items she can recycle.

When our missionary group found Marianna on the dump, she was sick. We decided to take her to a doctor. We located her mother and cleaned her up for the doctor's visit. We were amazed at what was underneath all that dirt.

(INSERT PICTURE 3) – GIRL CLEANED UP - Mariana 2

Leave projected for 10 seconds then remove

After the doctor treated her, our group decided to all pitch in and buy her mother a house. Could such generosity be better placed? Taking a family off a filthy garbage dump and putting them into their own house—perfect decision! A cement-block three-room house in Nicaragua cost \$2,500. Everyone in our missionary group chipped in and bought Marina's parents a house. But we forgot to do one thing first. We forgot to ask Marina's mother if she wanted a house.

Returning to Nicaragua one year later, we found Mariana and her mother back on the dump. The house we supplied had been taken apart, block by block, and sold for scrap. Mariana's mother didn't want a house. She wanted to live on the dump gathering recyclables. It was her job. It was her husband's job. It was Mariana's job. It gave them purpose. It gave them self-esteem.

In Nigeria, we found a village that did not have any water. Women walked each morning to a muddy water hole four hours away. They filled pots with the dirty water, place them on their heads, and then walk four hours back to their village. It was obvious that this village needed a water well. Being generous people, we hired a drilling company to install a water well. Our generosity filled us with contentment and self-esteem. But we forgot to do one thing first. We never asked the village women if they wanted a water well. One year later we started getting reports that some women had committed suicide. They were no longer spending eight hours per day bringing water; they were home with their abusive husbands. They had lost their social network with the other women. They lost their purpose and self-esteem. Some felt they had lost their identity.

As a substitute teacher at Crestwood, I was going to play Trivia with my third-grade students. They were very excited. Each time they answered a question correctly, I was going to reward them with a bite-size Reese's candy cup. What fun! They said I was their favorite substitute teacher! That boosted my ego. But I forgot to do one thing first.

Another teacher entered my room with a message for me just as I was passing out my first Reese's cup. "No!" she shouted. That little boy has a severe peanut allergy, as do two other children in this room.

Dear Lord,

Please direct our generosity with wisdom so we may do your work without creating hardship; we pray our generosity will benefit others more than ourselves.

Lord, you have told us, "...whatever we do for the least of your brothers and sisters, we also do for you."

Wow! There is the true incentive for our generosity!

AMEN

Children's Moment

Ally Bozeka

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Chad Delaney

Prayer by Christina Longhurst and there is a response:

O healing river,

pour down Your waters, and heal Your people.

Holy God,

whose Spirit moved over the waters at the dawn of creation, hear our prayers for all who thirst today.

We pray for those who are spiritually thirsty, who long to know Your presence, but don't know where to find You. We pray for those who are alone and without hope, those who long to feel needed and loved, those who are searching for meaning and purpose.

O healing river,

pour down Your waters, and heal Your people.

We pray for all who are physically thirsty, who don't have enough water to drink, or feed their animals, whose fields are parched, whose crops have withered; those who have to walk long distances to find enough water to survive, or who have to be content with water that is unclean. We pray for those whose homes and villages are torn apart because of drought or famine.

O healing river,

pour down Your waters, and heal Your people.

We pray for those who are thirsty for justice, who long for an equal sharing of resources among peoples and nations; those who put their lives at risk to protect streams and rivers and oceans; those who are working to find clean water, and make it available to those who need it.

O healing river,
pour down Your waters, and heal Your people.

God, we ask that you would open our hearts to the needs of all who thirst.
 Give us courage to work together for justice,
 to stand alongside those who are thirsty,
 so that all people, everywhere, may live without want or fear,
 and may discover the abundant life You promise to each one.
 In the name of Jesus Christ—the source of living water—we pray.

Amen.

~ written by Christine Longhurst,

Communion

Meditation

Drema Herron

Communion Hymn

Fill My Cup, Lord

#351

1 Like the woman at the well
 I was seeking for things that could not satisfy;
 and then I heard my Savior speaking;
 “Draw from my well that never shall run dry”

Fill my cup, Lord, I lift it up, Lord!
 Come and quench this thirsting of my soul;
 Bread of Heaven, feed me ‘til I want no more -
 fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole!

Prayer & Lord’s Prayer

Drema Herron

Words of Institution

Rev. Chad Delaney

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture

John 4:1-42

Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, ‘Jesus is making
 and baptizing more disciples than John’— ² although it was not Jesus
 himself but his disciples who baptized— ³ he left Judea and started back to
 Galilee. ⁴ But he had to go through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a Samaritan city
 called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son

Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The 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.)

¹⁰Jesus 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.' ¹¹The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?' ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' ¹³Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but 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.' ¹⁵The 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.'

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' ¹⁷The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' ¹⁹The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' ²¹Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But 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. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' ²⁵The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' ²⁶Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

²⁷ 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?' ²⁸Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to

the city. She said to the people, ²⁹‘Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?’ ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, ‘Rabbi, eat something.’ ³²But he said to them, ‘I have food to eat that you do not know about.’ ³³So the disciples said to one another, ‘Surely no one has brought him something to eat?’ ³⁴Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵Do 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. ³⁶The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, “One sows and another reaps.” ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.’

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, ‘He told me everything I have ever done.’ ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They 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.’

Sermon

Living Water

Rev. Chad Delaney

The story of the Women at the Well is an intriguing one for would-be-disciples of Jesus Christ. It has some similarities and differences to the story of Nicodemus we just read about in chapter 3. Both Nicodemus and the woman at the well are unlikely would-be followers of Jesus. Nicodemus was a devout leader and had a reputation to keep up. The woman at the well was a Samaritan and did not have close association with Jewish folks like Jesus and she was a woman. Biblically speaking, people who meet at wells usually get married so this is getting awkward really fast for all involved.

But we also see some contrasts here between Nicodemus and the woman at the well. First off he's a big-wig from the Temple with a name for himself and this woman at the well is not named and seemingly a nobody.

Nicodemus comes to Jesus by Night...the woman at the well meets with Jesus at high noon in the light of day. Nicodemus seems kind of dimwitted and confused, where the woman at the well catches on quick and figures out where Jesus is going with everything. She gets it and we have much to learn from her.

The thing about her is that she gets it so much that she is way ahead of the other disciples and characters in the Gospel so far. Most are down catch on too fast, but she connects so deeply with Jesus that she becomes the very first evangelizer in the Gospel of John.

And in climax of the story, John--the Gospel writer--hits us with it in just a very small and odd detail. The woman at the well leaves her water jar there before she goes back to the city. Why does the Gospel of John even mention it? Why bring it up? Such details should give us pause to wonder what there is to learn.

What's different about the woman at the well than the other disciples is that she understands Jesus teaching. She listened to Jesus. He was deep, metaphorical, and spoke of heavenly things and her ears and heart was open to them. Jesus tells her that he WAS the Living Water...and she didn't hang for too long on the literal meaning. She caught what he was throwing. She put her jar down. She drank deeply of the Living Waters

and it was all she needed. She didn't need the jar. What would be essential for her going back to live and share the Good News with the world was that Jesus would be her sustaining power. The Living Water would always be with her and strengthen her.

Here God is reminding us of something. For all would-be Disciples of Jesus there is potential for uncertainty, confusion, and exhaustion. For all would-be Disciples there's something that can get in the way. When we feel that way we could seek alternative avenues to sustain us. We could think we can do it all ourselves and just press through it. We do and do and do or try to understand and wrap our brains around what God is doing...and we forget to go to the source. To touch something deeper within us and the community. To drink deeply of the Living Waters. .

The Woman at the Well was the first one in the story who understood she could put her jar down---because it was the Living Water--the word and spirit of Jesus Christ--that would sustain her, fill her as as she went back to share the Good News in difficult world.. A heart filled with love and a desire to serve was all she needed. With Christ within her and working through her...all things would be possible and so she put the jar down.

As we journey through life and ministry and service, may we remember what truly sustains us. To remember what truly matters, what is at the heart of who we are as God's people. To remember that the core of who we are and our mission lies in the Spirit of God which will always remain with us and sustain us. The root of our being who breathes life in and through us calling us to faith, hope, and love will guide us come what may. The only

essential is love. The living waters that flow from the Heart of God to call us to show compassion and grace, justice and mercy as we share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Come, all who are thirsty says Jesus, our Lord,
 come, all who are weak,
 taste the living water that I shall give.
 Dip your hands in the stream, refresh body and soul,
 drink from it, depend on it,
 for this water will never run dry.
 Come, all who are thirsty
 says Jesus, our Lord.

Closing Hymn

Where He Leads Me

#346 v. 1,3

1 I can hear my Savior calling, I can hear my Savior calling,
 I can hear my Savior calling, "Take my cross and follow, follow me."

3 He will give me grace and glory, he will give me grace and glory,
 He will give me grace and glory, and go with me, with me all the way.

Benediction

Rev. Chad Delaney

Go now from this service of worship to the service of God's people near and far, refreshed by the living water that Jesus offers to you.

Listen for the parched voices of the least of these; search out the dry places and the arid souls, and become for them a spring of living water.

And as you go, may the blessings of the God of life,
 the Christ of love, and the Spirit of grace
 be upon you this day and forevermore. Amen

Postlude

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Jan Green

[Lani Smith (tune: Royal Oak)]