

Sunday 15th March 2020

The Third Sunday in Lent

This short act of worship has been produced for you if you are unable to attend church. If you are well enough why not spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

Call to Worship:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hymn: All my hope on God is founded

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here
www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3LCGh02Vew

I All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

- 2 Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray our trust;
what with care and toil we fashion,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power,
hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.
- 3 God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom passing thought;
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of nought.
Evermore
from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.
- 4 Daily doth the almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.

5 Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call
one and all
ye who follow shall not fall.

*Robert Bridges (1844-1930) (alt.)
based on Joachim Neander (1650-1680)
Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 455*

Let us pray together

**Lord, you are steadfast in your love
and infinite in your mercy; I praise you for what you have
done in my life ...***(take a few moments to name the good
things)*

**Thank you for the gift of Jesus who shows us what you are
really like.**

**You welcome sinners and invite them to be your guests.
Forgive me when I have felt myself to be better than other
people.**

**I confess my sins,
trusting in you to forgive me.
God always forgives those who trust in him.**

Read today's Gospel Reading: John 4: 5-42 *(at end of booklet)*

Time to Reflect

Take a moment to think about:

The woman had something very simple that might enable Jesus to flourish. What do you have that God might be asking you to use in his service?

Jesus encouraged the woman think beyond the norm, when he asked for a drink from someone outside his cast. What in our society is preventing us sharing the gift of life in all its fullness?

When 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....’ he demonstrated that he knew the woman better than she knew her self – even the intimate details! Yet he did not use this to condemn her. What thing do you prefer to hide from the world? God knows it all.... And still he love you!

When the disciples returned they were astonished that Jesus was speaking with a woman. When did you last do something that you know other would disapprove of – but you knew in your heart was the right thing to do?

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

God of all hope I call on you today.

I pray for those who are living in fear:

Fear of illness,

fear for loved ones,

fear of other’s reactions to them.

May your Spirit give us all a sense of calmness and peace.
We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty:
For those people who are worried about attending worship.
For those needing to make decisions in order to care for
other
For those who will feel more isolated by not being able to
attend.
Grant us your wisdom., grant your peace
I pray for the afflicted and sorrowful and for all who need my
prayers.

I especially want to pray for

Holy God,
I remember that you have promised that
Nothing will separate us from your love – demonstrated to
us in Jesus Christ.
Help us turn our eyes, hearts and minds to you.

Eternal God,
through your Son you have filled each person's life with your
presence.
Help us in our sufferings and trials and strengthen us in our
weakness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father

Hymn: Listen to

www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvLxZEU02ul

or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

A prayer of blessing

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now, and for evermore.

Amen

John 4: 5-42

So he 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.' 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?' 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?' They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' Jesus said

to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do 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. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.'

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 it for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'