



## AT HOME SERVICE

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026

*compiled by Alison Morgan - Local Preacher*

Let us come together, each of us known and loved as a child of God.

We come to worship him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

### Hymn: 132 MP

1] Father, hear the prayer we offer:  
Not for ease that prayer shall be,  
But for strength, that we may ever  
Live our lives courageously.

2] Not for ever in green pastures  
Do we ask our way to be:  
But by steep and rugged pathways  
Would we strive to climb to Thee.

3] Not for ever by still waters  
Would we idly quiet stay;  
But would smite the living fountains  
From the rocks along our way.

4] Be our strength in hours of weakness,  
in our wanderings be our guide;  
through endeavour, failure, danger,  
Father, be Thou at our side.

5] Let our path be bright or dreary,  
storm or sunshine be our share;  
may our souls, in hope unwearied,  
Make Thy work our ceaseless prayer.

*Maria Willis (1824-1908)*

### Let us pray

Your love, which breathed this world into being, established a covenant people, bringing them out of captivity and into a promised land. Hallelujah!

Your love, which from the moment of our birth has known and called us by name, leads us out of this world's slavery into the kingdom of God. Hallelujah!

Your love, poured into the heart of Jesus who endured the nails of our sin, defeated death to rise again and causes our hearts to sing. Hallelujah!

We are impatient, Lord, a demanding people, particularly when we pray, thinking our time more precious, and our needs much greater than anyone else's.

Forgive us, Lord;

Teach us patience, unselfishness and humility to accept the truth that you do answer prayer, in your way and in your time, which is always the right time.

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

Come, all who are thirsty, says Jesus, and with thanksgiving we draw close to the living water, and find our souls refreshed. Amen

## **Let us pray the prayer Jesus taught his disciples**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name, Thy  
kingdom come,  
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

## **John chapter 4 verses 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 for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

## Reflection

Quite a long passage to read today, but what a beautiful story. With so many meanings.

Nobody goes to the well at noon. The sun is high, the air is dry and dusty, and usually people come in the cool of the morning or evening. Then you can sit and chat with friends, neighbours or relations, you can listen to the news from others, share hopes and fears, like a community gathering.

Nobody goes to the well at noon, which is why she did. It was quiet, no one to stare at her, to judge or whisper gossip when they thought she wasn't listening. Over the years, she had thought it was better to bear the hot sun rather than being the subject of gossip and feeling of shame.

But today when she goes, someone is there. A man, by himself. She doesn't know who he is and wonders, is he safe, should she stay.

Nobody goes to the well at noon. Perhaps this man didn't want to be there either, she thought.

After a long morning of walking, Jesus had sat by the well, sending his disciples away to get food in order that he might have a few moments of peace.

As the woman approaches, Jesus looks up and asks her for a drink. Usually, it's the other way round. People asking him for something. But him asking gets her attention, and she looks at him now. Seeing the features of his face she suspects he is not a Samaritan which would at least save her from getting the water from the well for him. A fact she quickly reminds him of. But that doesn't put him off and Jesus speaks again, not dismissively, nor angry at her questioning his request.

From a simple request, a conversation begins; back and forth, filled with questions and challenge and words that fill the woman with hope. Jesus tells her of a living water, that brings life, and that means she would never be thirsty again. But, perhaps more important than the words he uses is the conversation itself. It is that which brings true life; as Jesus listens and engages and treats her as someone truly worthy of having opinions about God and faith. As the discussion draws to a close, Jesus even shares with her his own truth; he tells her something he hasn't yet acknowledged to anyone. 'I am he,' he whispers.

Knowing that, was all she needed. Though the conversation starts with a request, by the end of their encounter we find that nobody has got what they thought they'd come for. Jesus' drink never materializes, and the woman now leaves her water jar behind. She runs back to the city, suddenly seeking the company she had previously shunned, ready to tell everyone; 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?'

Nobody goes to the well at noon; but that day, two people did and the conversation that followed was transformational.

We may not meet around wells today, but there are places we do meet up in the community, where conversations might be started and stories might be heard. Are there places you want to be or are you there by necessity? Who will you speak to and is there perhaps someone whose story you are being called to hear?

Wherever you end up having unexpected conversations this week, may you discover in them a well of life-giving water, which encourages others to come and see. Amen

## Let us pray to God who knows the secrets of all hearts

May the Lord who gives the living water to all who come to him in faith, give grace to the Church, so to drink of that water that she may bring life to many.

May he lift our eyes to see when the time is ripe for harvest and seek to be worthy labourers for the coming of the Kingdom.

Give the word of truth to the world, where there is strife between nations and races, where faiths can be hostile and gender divisive.

May honesty overcome all shame and deceit, so that wrongs that have been hidden may be brought to light healed.

May our Lord be with us in our homes and in all the homes of this community, to teach us by his word, to sustain us with the food of loving obedience and lead us to worship in spirit and in truth.

Make us honest in our dealings with one another and repentant for our sins.

Have mercy on all whose lives are distressed by broken relationships, by misunderstandings that have turned to bitterness, by the suppressed anxiety that eats away the heart.

May those who have passed from this world and now drink of the living water that flows from the throne of God, rejoice in the eternal worship which is beyond all place and time.

May we by grace come to the same rejoicing.

We pray in the name of Christ, the Messiah of all who worship in spirit and truth. Amen

## Hymn: 67 MP

1] Breathe on me, breath of God,  
Fill me with life anew,  
That I may love what Thou dost love,  
And do what Thou wouldst do.

2] Breathe on me, breath of God,  
Until my heart is pure,  
Until with Thee I will one will,  
To do and to endure.

3] Breathe on me, breath of God,  
Till I am wholly Thine,  
Until this earthly part of me  
Glows with Thy fire divine.

4] Breathe on me, breath of God,  
So shall I never die,  
But live with Thee the perfect life  
Of Thine eternity.

*Edwin Hatch (1835-1889)*

## Prayer

Lord, thank you that you choose to reveal yourself to us and that you know us, love us, and sustain us. Help us to return to you again and again, to be refreshed and renewed by your living water. Amen

And may the blessing of God the Father,  
God the Son and God the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore. Amen

