

## Prayers for Others

Flow the living waters of your creative life around us, among us and within us, O God.

Help us to draw from your gift and to make a faithful commitment to share it with others, filling up the empty cups around us with overflowing rivers which carry with them the waters of change towards the world which you planned.

Give us a new vision of a world in which people trust the kindness of others, in which leaders are not corrupted by power, in which violence does not prevail not lies hold the world to ransom as the poor lie dying and needy before us.

*Silence*

Be near to us, Jesus Christ.

Flow your living water over us, O God, that our hearts and hands may be made clean, and that our lives may arise in freshness to inspire all around us with hope that things can be changed.

Hold close to you these people and situations for which we now pray ---

Guide them close to the wells of your nourishment, O God, and the springs of living water which will lift up their lives in energy and courage.

These prayers we pray in your name, O Christ.

**Amen.** 1.

## Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [Our Father in Heaven](#)

© A Pocketful of Smooth Stones, released May 20, 2020

Written, performed and produced by Malcolm Gordon

<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/our-father-in-heaven-w-forest>

## Closing Responses & Blessing

May the wells of God's life be found beside the road, Christ Jesus meet us in unexpected places and the Spirit be with us on every hill and in every valley. 1.

Bless us and the people we meet along the way

Father,

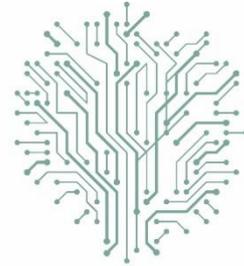
Son

and Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

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1 © 2006. D. McRae-McMahon. pages 59-61. Liturgies for High Days. Media Com. Unley



# SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

## Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

*A Holy Communion video led liturgy is available at*  
<https://vimeo.com/572335335>

John 4: 5-42  
Lent 3

## Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

## Responses & Gathering Prayer

God's deep heart of life is like a well of infinite love. It flows towards all creation in living waters of grace. Christ sits beside our life, inviting us to open ourselves, body, mind, heart and soul to the flowing newness of eternal life.

Be known to us in this place and wherever we pause to be near you, O Christ.

Take us by surprise if we cannot believe that you would visit us.

Meet us wherever you will so that we may receive the wonder of your living water for this day and all that lies ahead.

This we pray. 1 **Amen.**

## Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [Dig a well of stillness](#)

© John Coleman/Davis/Wood [Shade Tree Place](#), 2016

<https://johncoleman.bandcamp.com/album/shade-tree-place>

## Passing the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

You are invited to turn to those around you and offer them a word of greeting and peace.

# The Word around the Bush

## John 4 5-42

<sup>5</sup> So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. <sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> 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.) <sup>10</sup> 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.' <sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?' <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' <sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> 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.' <sup>15</sup> 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.' <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' <sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; <sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' <sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' <sup>25</sup> 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.' <sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.' <sup>27</sup> 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?' <sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, <sup>29</sup> 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' <sup>30</sup> They left the city and were on

their way to him. <sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' <sup>32</sup> But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' <sup>33</sup> So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. <sup>35</sup> 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. <sup>36</sup> The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that Sower and Reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.' <sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. <sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup> 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.'

## The Message

From your Scattered Community Minister or another leader within your gathering.

## Questions for conversation

- What did you hear in the Word today?
- How might you turn everyday conversations, like Jesus at the well into conversations about exploring faith and life?
- How might your Christian community respond to Jesus' life-giving water?

## Silence in Two Ways

Spend some time in silence sitting still (suggested 5 minutes). Close your eyes lightly. Sit relaxed but alert.

● You may like to say the prayer phrase "Mar-an-ath-a" (which means come Lord). Say this as four syllables. Do not try to think or imagine anything. If thoughts or distractions come simply return to saying the word.

● Or you may like "sitting with God" — a silent time in which we focus all our mind, heart and soul on the presence of God without trying to create it. Simply be still and open to God.