

John 4:5-42

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, which was near the land Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus was tired from his journey, so he sat down at the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me some water to drink." His disciples had gone into the city to buy him some food. The Samaritan woman asked, "Why do you, a Jewish man, ask for something to drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" (Jews and Samaritans didn't associate with each other.) Jesus responded, "If you recognized God's gift and who is saying to you, 'Give me some water to drink,' you would be asking him and he would give you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you don't have a bucket and the well is deep. Where would you get this living water? You aren't greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave this well to us, and he drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks from the water that I will give will never be thirsty again. The water that I give will become in those who drink it a spring of water that bubbles up into eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will never be thirsty and will never need to come here to draw water!" Jesus said to her, "Go, get your husband, and come back here." The woman replied, "I don't have a husband." "You are right to say, 'I don't have a husband,'" Jesus answered. "You've had five husbands, and the man you are with now isn't your husband. You've spoken the truth." The woman said, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you and your people say that it is necessary to worship in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the time is coming when you and your people will worship God neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You and your people worship what you don't know; we worship what we know because salvation is from the Jews. But the time is coming—and is here!—when true worshippers will worship in spirit and truth. God looks for those who worship him this way. God is spirit, and it is necessary to worship God in spirit and truth." The woman said, "I know that the Messiah is coming, the one who is called the Christ. When he comes, he will teach everything to us." Jesus said to her, "I Am—the one who speaks with you." Just then, Jesus' disciples arrived and were shocked that he was talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?" The woman put down her water jar and went into the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who has told me everything I've done! Could this man be the Christ?" They left the city and were on their way to see Jesus. In the meantime, the disciples spoke to Jesus, saying, "Rabbi, eat." Jesus said to them, "I have food to eat that you don't know about." The disciples asked each other, "Has someone brought him food?" Jesus said to them, "I am fed by doing the will of the one who sent me and by completing his work. Don't you have a saying, 'Four more months and then it's time for harvest'? Look, I tell you: open your eyes and notice that the fields are already ripe for the harvest. Those who harvest are receiving their pay and gathering fruit for eternal life so that those who sow and those who harvest can celebrate together. This is a true saying, that one sows and another harvests. I have sent you to harvest what you didn't work hard for; others worked hard, and you will share in their hard work." Many Samaritans in that city believed in Jesus because of the woman's word when she testified, "He told me everything I've ever done." So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. Many more believed because of his word, and they said to the woman, "We no longer believe because of what you said, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this one is truly the savior of the world."



Sunday March 8, 2026 9:00 am – Third Sunday of Lent

**Please stand if it is comfortable for you*

*GATHERING SONG

God of Wonders

WELCOME & GREETING

*SONG

Where the River is Flowing

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, all who thirst—Come to worship!

People: Christ meets us where we are and offers us living water.

Leader: Christ sees us fully and loves us deeply.

People: As the Samaritan woman ran to share her joy, so we gather to encounter the truth that sets us free.

Leader: Let us worship the One who seeks us.

All: Let us receive the life that only Christ can give.

SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 17:1-7

WITNESSING GOD'S LOVE TO OUR CHILDREN

Children Pre-K through fifth grade may go to Children's Church. Pre-K through 2nd grade go to the Nursery and 3rd through 5th grade go to classroom E-8

MINISTRY OF MUSIC *At the Foot of the Cross*

Lenten Theme
Place for a Purpose: Being the Hands & Feet of Jesus
in Your Neighborhood

SCRIPTURE READING John 4:5-42

SERMON *Meeting Christ at the Well Next Door*

*SONG *Jesus Walked That Lonesome Valley*

A TIME FOR PRAYER

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND OUR BLESSINGS

Invitation

Offertory

Song of Thanksgiving *Come to the Water*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Loving God, thank you for meeting us exactly where and as we are, with our burdens, our secrets and our thirst. You see the truth of our lives more clearly than we do and still you come near. We confess that so often we are short on hope and skeptical of how connecting with our neighbors can bring us closer to you and your steadfast love and care. Forgive us for the ways we have sought satisfaction in things that cannot give life. Renew our hearts so that we may know of your great love that leads us into the life you offer, as we make our silent confessions (*silent confession*).

SUNG RESPONSE *You Who Are Thirsty*

*CLOSING BLESSING

*CLOSING SONG *The River is Here*

During the Lenten season, our Prayer of Confession will be later in the service. As we take an inward look at ourselves during Lent, may this order of worship allow us to experience more of worship and open ourselves more fully to God before making our confessions.

Exodus 17:1-7

The whole Israelite community broke camp and set out from the Sin desert to continue their journey, as the LORD commanded. They set up their camp at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people argued with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why are you

arguing with me? Why are you testing the LORD?" But the people were very thirsty for water there, and they complained to Moses, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt to kill us, our children, and our livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What should I do with this people? They are getting ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of Israel's elders with you. Take in your hand the shepherd's rod that you used to strike the Nile River, and go. I'll be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Hit the rock. Water will come out of it, and the people will be able to drink." Moses did so while Israel's elders watched. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites argued with and tested the LORD, asking, "Is the LORD really with us or not?"

Participating in Worship:

Rev. Jenny Arneson, Pastor

RiversEdge, Readers

Terry Twedell, Children's Time

RiversEdge Praise Team, Music

INVITATIONS TO ACTION

Lent Collection

We are collecting New Socks and Gloves to donate at various places, in our community. All sizes and colors are needed. There is a display in the Narthex where you can bring your donations through Easter on April 5th!

Easter Egg Hunt Donations

We are hoping to stuff 10,000 eggs for our community

Easter egg hunt this year. Please consider making a donation of candy or small trinkets that we can use. A collection area for donations is set up in Fellowship Hall.

Sun Prairie Memory Cafe

Memory Cafe is a meeting place for anyone experiencing the beginning changes in memory and their caregivers. It can be a way to connect with others who are facing the same issues. The intent is for both the person and their family or friends to come together in a relaxed and social environment to connect with others. Our church will begin hosting a Memory Cafe for both church members and the greater Sun Prairie community this Tuesday, March 10th at 9:30 am. We will gather on the second Tuesday of each month and would love for you to join us. If you have any questions, would like to volunteer, or need more information, please reach out to the Director of Community Engagement, Amanda Hinthorn.

Lent Splash

Join us for intergenerational activities on Sunday mornings during Lent in the Chapel at 10:15am. This is designed for everyone of any age--Families with children, youth, and adults. This morning we will make a banner inviting and welcoming our neighbors to our Community Easter Egg Hunt in April. Next week, March 8, our focus will be "Stop Bystanding and Be Upstanding". We will have discussions on Bullying and Being a Good Neighbor.

Dinners with Daniel

On Wednesdays throughout Lent, we will have dinner together in Fellowship Hall at 6pm. The meal time will focus on dialogue and growing in our connection together as a church family and getting to know our Director of Family Ministry Daniel Taylor. This week's dinner will be a build your own sandwich bar. Dinners are provided by the church and a \$5 per person offering is appreciated. If you have questions let Daniel know. (familymin@sunprairieumc.org)