

## Homily - Third Sunday of Lent, March 15, 2020

*Gospel John 4:5-42*

We gather this morning to celebrate the source and summit of our faith, the Eucharist, where we are fed and nourished with the living bread and the living water.

We come to this celebration, this wellspring of life and love each weekend as a community of faith.

We usually gather with those of this faith community in flesh and bone, but today we gather in a different way, we come together united in prayer from the churches of our homes, the places where we break the bread of our everyday lives.

It is in the stuff of our everyday lives that our faith is lived out as we go about our daily activities.

It seems to me that everyday we stand at the well of our lives with not only the woman at the well, but with our families, friends and neighbors.

We all come to the well to be nourished and have our thirst satisfied together, we come to the well of the Eucharist, to have our hungers satisfied.

We are all, in a sense, the woman at the well.

### **We thirst.**

We thirst for love, or mercy, or understanding.

We thirst for justice or peace.

Our throats are parched by indifference and selfishness and cruelty.

And today our spirits are fearful and anxious about what the future holds and how we should respond.

We feel ourselves spiritually dry.

We thirst for wholeness. We thirst for grace.

And we find it, like the woman at the well, not in ordinary water from a deep cistern, but from Jesus.

# Pandemic

Rev. Lynn Ungar

What if you thought of it  
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—  
the most sacred of times?  
Cease from travel.  
Cease from buying and selling.  
Give up, just for now,  
on trying to make the world  
different than it is.  
Sing. Pray. Touch only those  
to whom you commit your life.  
Center down.

And when your body has become still,  
reach out with your heart.  
Know that we are connected  
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.  
(You could hardly deny it now.)  
Know that our lives  
are in one another's hands.  
(Surely, that has come clear.)  
Do not reach out your hands.  
Reach out your heart.  
Reach out your words.  
Reach out all the tendrils  
of compassion that move, invisibly,  
where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love—  
for better or for worse,  
in sickness and in health,  
so long as we all shall live.

the conversation project

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Among other things, this episode from the gospel and this prayer by Rev. Lynn Unger illustrates a recurring theme in the gospels.

Put simply: an encounter with Jesus changes everything, an encounter with love changes everything.

We hear it again and again.

The blind see.

The dead rise.

The lame walk.

The sinner is forgiven.

Fear and anxiety are calmed.

And we are able to reach out these days with all the compassion, love, mercy and healing that Jesus offers to us from the wells of our everyday lives.

Let us invite the Peace of Jesus into our hearts and the heart of the world.