



Wednesday Prayer

3rd Sunday of Lent – International Women’s Day

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.” 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.”

John 4:6-10

Jesus not only asks this woman for water, he initiates a long conversation with a woman – a Samaritan woman – engaging with her to reveal his identity as the living water. He shares without judgement that he knows she has had five husbands and then follows with an invitation to worship God, who is he. “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.” John 4:24-26

Jesus trusts sharing this truth with the Samaritan woman, a woman he should not even be speaking with. Jesus breaks the barriers of separation between people, barriers that we continue to put up in our lives. Today is International Women’s Day, a day to celebrate and honor all the women and girls in our lives, and all who have come before us to break barriers of separation and work toward justice.

We work together as Cherish All Children to keep all God’s children safe from those who seek to harm. On this day, let us recognize how we can continue the good work that has begun, to break barriers, expose injustices, and walk together. Today we raise up the Samaritan woman and all women who have revealed your love throughout the ages and who continue to lead us.

Join in Pastor Ralen M. Robinson’s prayer from [“Here, I Stand”](#) in Women of the ELCA Bold Café:

Gracious Lord, you raised up Deborah, Mary, Elizabeth, and Ruth to be truth tellers, to lead, and to proclaim. Allow us to be reminded that we are called to declare your might and power through our actions and voices. Raise us up to be beacons of hope to the hopeless, comfort to the afflicted, and be daring and brave. We pray for all you have done and will do. Thank you for allowing us to stand with the orchestra of women of the Bible. Amen.

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.

Join us each week for our [Lenten Prayer series](#), to keep children and *all* who provide support to youth in our prayers as we journey through this season of Lent.