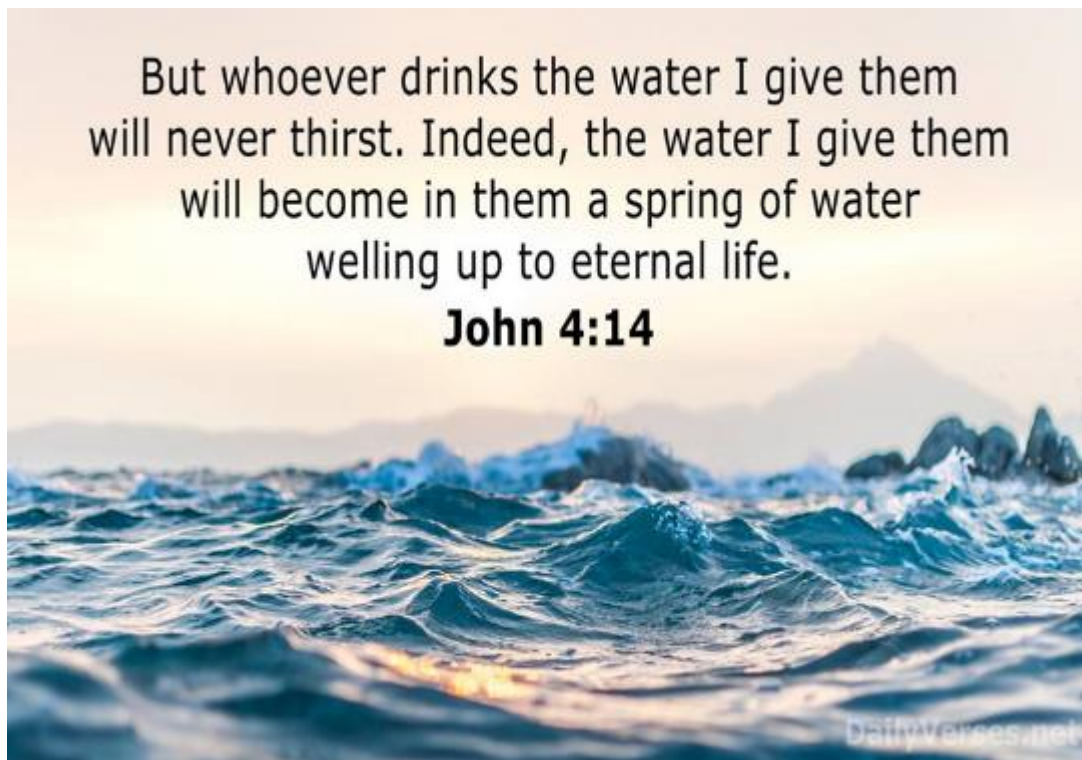


Dear Beloved,

I went to Clergy Retreat this week and so that I could actually 'retreat' Steve very kindly agreed to preach this Sunday.

I had a lovely time at Retreat, walking around the grounds, listening to some good teaching and reading. Each day I read one of Paul's letters, starting from Romans and it only took me an hour or so but it was great to read the letters in their entirety and see again the overall theme of each letter and how the gems that we usually see in isolation fit into the greater context. I recommend it to you.

Our Gospel reading this week is Jesus talking to the Samaritan woman and giving her the life giving water which changed her life.



Blessings

Wendy

AGMS

Jerangle 26th March

Parish 2nd April

--

Morning Tea after the Service every 2nd and 4th Sunday
please volunteer for the roster.

--

Wendy has Lent Study Books for group or private use. They are \$12 each
Please see Wendy

--

No Lent studies in Rectory this year
but please join an existing group or form your own.

PTO →

Autumn Open Garden Day
16th April
Please pot plants up now
and tell Nella how you can help

--

Midweek Services
every Wednesday at 9.30
all Welcome

--

Please volunteer
for the roster,
well in advance.

--

Prayer and Praise

Wendy

Edith and Colin Mayhew

--

Glenn Fletcher .. for his recovery

our wardens and Parish Councillors

--

Scott's wife Jennie.

Beattie Russell
and Jenni Roberts
in Yallambie.

--

Leanne Lowery

Mary Mitchell

--

Peter & Julie Harris from Bredbo

all congregations in Bredbo

--

The New Catholic priest
Father Mark Croker
as he ministers from Bombala
through to the mountains

--

for each other
that we may be
salt and light
in this community

--

People everywhere
who are living
through war or disasters
of every kind.

12 3 23 second order, second thanksgiving

Hymn 225 My heart and voice I raise,

Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **And also with you.**

Sentence

Return to the Lord your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Joel 2.13

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and one another: call forth our penitence and acts of love, and strengthen us to face our mortality, so that we may look with confidence for your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Exodus 17.1-7

¹ The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, travelling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² So they quarrelled with Moses and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses replied, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?' ³ But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, 'Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?' ⁴ Then Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me.' ⁵ The Lord answered Moses, 'Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶ I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.' So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarrelled and because they tested the Lord saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

Psalm 95

¹ O come, let us sing out to the Lord: let us shout in triumph to the rock of our salvation. ² Let us come before his face with thanksgiving: and cry out to him joyfully in psalms. ³ For the Lord is a great God: and a great king above all gods. ⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth: and the peaks of the mountains are his also. ⁵ The sea is his and he made it: his hands moulded dry land. ⁶ Come, let us worship and bow down: and kneel before the Lord our maker. ⁷ For he is the Lord our God: we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. ⁸ Today if only you would hear his voice— 'Do not harden your hearts as at Meribah: as on that day at Massah in the wilderness; ⁹ 'When your forebears tested me: put me to proof, though they had seen my works. ¹⁰ 'Forty years long I loathed that generation and said: "It is a people who err in their hearts, for they do not know my ways"; ¹¹ 'Of whom I swore in my wrath: "They shall not enter my rest."

Romans 5.1-11

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. ⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰ For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

John 4.5-42

⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. ⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Will you give me a drink?' ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, 'You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?' (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.' ¹¹ 'Sir,' the woman said, 'you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?' ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?' ¹³ Jesus answered, 'Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' ¹⁵ The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.' ¹⁶ He told her, 'Go, call your husband and come back.' ¹⁷ 'I have no husband,' she replied. Jesus said to her, 'You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.' ¹⁹ 'Sir,' the woman said, 'I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.' ²¹ 'Woman,' Jesus replied, 'believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.' ²⁵ The woman said, 'I know that Messiah' (called Christ) 'is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.' ²⁶ Then Jesus declared, 'I, the one speaking to you – I am he.' ²⁷ Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, 'What do you want?' or 'Why are you talking with her?' ²⁸ Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ²⁹ 'Come, see a man who told me everything I've ever done. Could this be the Messiah?' ³⁰ They came out of the town and made their way towards him. ³¹ Meanwhile his disciples urged him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' ³² But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you know nothing about.' ³³ Then his disciples said to each other, 'Could someone have brought him food?' ³⁴ 'My food,' said Jesus, 'is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. ³⁵ Don't you have a saying, "It's still four months until harvest"? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. ³⁶ Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. ³⁷ Thus the saying "One sows and another reaps" is true. ³⁸ I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labour.' ³⁹ Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I've ever done.' ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. ⁴¹ And because of his words many more became believers. ⁴² They said to the woman, 'We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Saviour of the world.'

Sermon

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

the prayers

Let us pray for the world and for the Church. Challenge our values again. Jesus and in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Jesus said: Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11.28
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and inviting them to the Lord's table.

Confession

Christ the Son of God has been revealed as a light to the nations.

Let us bring our darkness to his light, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Merciful God, our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent and are sorry for all our sins. Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith: pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.** The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Hymn TIS 518 For the bread and for the Wine

OFFERTORY

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.

Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Thanksgiving 2

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.** It is right to praise you, faithful God, always and everywhere, for with your only begotten Son and life-giving Spirit, you are the one true God from everlasting to everlasting. At the dawn of time you wrought from nothing a universe of beauty and splendour, bringing light from darkness and order from chaos.

You formed us, male and female, in your image, and endowed us with creative power. We turned away from you but you did not abandon us. You called us by name and searched us out, making a covenant of mercy, giving the law, and teaching justice by the prophets.

And so we praise you, joining with your faithful people of every time and place, singing the eternal song:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

When the fullness of time was come, you sent your Son to be born of Mary.

Bright image of your glory, he learnt obedience to you in all things, even to death on a cross, breaking the power of evil, freeing us from sin, and putting death to flight. You raised him from death, exalting him to glory, and the new day dawned. On the night he was betrayed your Son Jesus Christ shared food with his friends, his companions on the way. While at table he took bread, blessed, and broke it, and giving it to them, said: 'Take, eat; this is my body.' He took a cup of wine, and, giving thanks, he gave it to them, and said, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Do this in remembrance of me.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, living God, as we obey his command, we remember his life of obedience to you, his suffering and death, his resurrection and exaltation, and his promise to be with us for ever.

With this bread and this cup we celebrate his saving death until he comes.

Accept, we pray, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and our celebration that all who eat and drink at this table may be strengthened by Christ's body and blood to serve you in the world. As one body and one holy people, may we proclaim the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, eternal God, now and for ever.

Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

As this broken bread was once many grains, which have been gathered together and made one bread:

so may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life.

Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for you and be thankful.

AFTER COMMUNION

God of the nations,

we thank you for nourishing us with this holy sacrament.

Guide us by your presence,

that we may bring your light to those who dwell in darkness,

and establish your justice in the earth.

Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

Hymn TIS 454 **Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,**

Blessing

May Christ the Son of God be manifest to you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord: **In the name of Christ. Amen**



This 4th chapter of John gives us a deep insight into Jesus' plans for the good news of the Kingdom of God. Let's start with a little bit of background history on Samaria. When King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon was conquering most of the Middle Eastern world, he used a tactic designed to keep his captives from uniting and rebelling. He played a kind of "Fruit Basket Turn-Over" by moving large populations of countries to different locations. So, when he took most of Judah to Babylon he resettled other people in their place.

Over the years, the Jewish people who were left in the northern kingdom of Israel intermarried with the imports and were no longer considered as a pure Jewish race although they were traditionally of Jewish descent. For a modern similar situation look at Northern Ireland where the protestants were originally descended from the Catholics. Jews would traditionally have nothing to do with Samaritans, and would go out of their way to avoid passing through Samaria.



Jesus, however, had a divine appointment in Samaria (v.4) he "had to go through Samaria" where he came to Jacob's well and waited, at about noon.

Normally the women of the town would come out early in the day while it was still relatively cool to draw water and take it back to the town. Why then, did this woman come alone to draw water in the heat of the day?. Because of her lifestyle and reputation, she would not be welcome among the other women of the town and would have to draw water by herself to avoid mixing with them.



Jesus broke with Jewish protocol in many ways by speaking to her.

1. A Jew would not speak to a Samaritan by choice.
2. A man alone would not speak to a woman alone.
3. A rabbi would not ask a woman of ill repute for anything.



Jesus was looking deeper into this situation because he saw the soul of this woman, and knew the impact she would have on the kingdom of God.

The woman responds, rather surprised at this breach of tradition. No doubt, she was surprised to see a Jew in Samaria, let alone asking her (a shunned woman) for help.



Jesus responds with a statement that has nothing but compassion for her ... not the criticism that she would have been used to. He offers her Living Water. She doesn't understand, but she is now comfortable enough to start asking questions. We should use this as an example of communication with strangers we come across in our lives where instead of looking down on someone as a lesser person, we see in them what God sees in them, and allow them to see Christ in us so that they will be comfortable asking us questions.

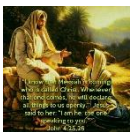


Jesus asks her to do something she is unable to truthfully do .. go, call your husband and come back here. (v.16)

She answers truthfully "I have no husband" (v.17)

Jesus states the truth to her: she has had 5 husbands, and she's now living in a relationship that is not held in respect, and is part of why she is treated as a lesser person in her community.

At this point, she recognises Jesus as a prophet, and challenges him about the religious differences between Jews and Samaritans. Jesus responds by pointing out that neither Jews or Samaritans have really grasped the reality of who God is..... but they will in time.



She now shows that she has faith, and is looking for the messiah. She knew ABOUT Christ.(v.25)

Jesus reveals himself to her as the messiah, and she now KNOWS Christ.



The result of this transformation in her life She leaves her waterpot, and starts back to her town to talk about Jesus. She is no longer concerned how people feel about her, she has *GOOD NEWS* to share with her community.



Many came back out of the town to listen to him, and then they invited a Jew to come and stay with them.

God can take the perceived lowest of the low, and make them a powerful witness to His love and forgiveness.

What can he do with you ?

Amen.