



Order of Service



19th February 2023

Worship led by Rev Dr André Groenewald
Music from Martin Petty and the Choir

INCLUDED

Gathering of God's People

Time when we greet one another and prepare for worship.
Those who are able please stand for the entry of the Bible.
Words of welcome and announcements.

Good morning and welcome to our service of worship.

We had an excellent time away and we feel well rested. I was delighted to hear about our generous offering to Compassion UK. They send an email expressing their sincere thanks for all our support.

The funeral service for Valerie Veitch will take place at the Warriston crematorium on Friday the 24th February at 1:30. She was the widow of David Veitch an elder who recently died.

Please read all the intimations.

Let us worship God through our call to worship

Worshipping God Together

Call to worship (Psalm 95.6-7)

Minister: Come, let us worship and bow down:
let us kneel before the Lord, our
maker.

**ALL: For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture.**

**Beloved, I greet you in the Name of God the Father, the Son
and the Holy Spirit. Amen**

CH4 738 Glorious things of thee are spoken.

Opening prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Let us pray:

Lord of the living water.

We celebrate and confess together that you
are the living water.

We give praise to you, because you know us
and love us.

Enter our worship,

Lord of the well.

Enter our hearts, Lord of all knowledge.

Enter our lives, Lord of all love,

that we might meet you at the well

and draw deeply of your living love.
Help us always to know you.
Help us to follow you.
Help us to bring others to you,
for you are the Saviour of the world and the
source of the Living water

We ask this in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray:

ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

Reflecting on God's Word

Reading: John 4:1-26

Reader: David Booth

CH 547 What a friend we have in Jesus.

Reflection

OUR reading can be called a “story of healing”.

Healing between two opposite enemies
Israel and the Samaritans... healing
between clashing cultures Judaism against
Samaritism ... healing between opposite
clashing religious views about God and His
Holy Place, about God’s Word ... healing
between genders male and female ...
healing for an unnamed individual who was
marginalised and pushed out to get water
when no one else would be seen for a mile

in the hottest time of day ...truly someone who had a reputation...

Healing from a God who LOVES unconditionally... from Jesus who looked into her beautiful soul ... who was not blindsided by her past but saw her in the present with her self-awareness honesty and spiritual thirst...

It is also a story of living water quenching the most severe spiritual thirst ...

If you have ever been in a desert, any desert you will know what being THIRSTY really means ... If you do not believe me. Speak to the John and Gill Burnside .. they have been in the Namibian desert with the heat almost taking every moisture out of your body. It is a thirst that comes from deep within that really struggles to go away even after drinking water...

Our story is one where the woman was spiritually thirsty and although going to the well several times, was still thirsting for healing, comfort and understanding.

Jesus spoke words of healing to her when He said: “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.”

Jesus healed her of any religious prejudices when He explained to her that God is not interested in who worships where or in different human perceptions of religion –

He is a God of Spirit and TRUTH and looks at the hearts of all people who seeks HIM...

In faith the nameless shameful Samaritan woman reacts when she realises that Jesus is speaking words that only the Messiah can explain.... And hence it becomes so true when Jesus admits that HE is the Messiah...

Jesus met the woman in a foreign context all alone by HIMSELF making himself vulnerable and suspectable of gossip ...

AND just like then Jesus still meets people in different places.

He meets you and me here in Sunday worship. He meets us each and every time we talk to God and read from His word, the Bible. He meets us in hospitals, in sitting rooms, in bus stops, in refugee camps, in crematoriums, in buses and when we drive home from work. He meets us when we come to Him like the nameless woman who was despised and ignored; He meets us when we have no other way to go. He

embraces us when we are alone and gives us hope.

He comes to us in the middle of long nights of crying over a loved one that is gone and wipes away our tears. He comes to us and holds our hands when we are left speechless and alone. He even comes to people who do not have faith – and sometimes He uses us to reach out to them. He still comes to us...the question is, do we recognise Him?

Do we hear HIS words of healing as we blame and chastised ourselves for things we have done or said in the past?

Jesus changed the nameless Samaritan woman's life forever. He changed the lives of many Samaritans in that village. He changed our lives forever, when He died for our sins. He gave us all the living water of Hope that we are free to drink from.

The woman drank from it and it saved her life. She could taste the difference, no longer stale water, water filled with

bacteria and viruses, but pure living water! She discovered the Christ, the Saviour, she understood that He had set her free of her past. He enabled her to worship God in a true way – not bound to different cultural and religious rules – not bound to a historical place and ritual – but in spirit and truth.

If you are sitting in this Church this morning and you have a dark past which you try to hide away, if you are sitting in this Church and you feel like a prisoner because of your own personal circumstances, if you are

sitting in this Church and resisting the power of God to change you, God is telling you that you are important to Him.

AND if you are in the position to listen to other people speak about their pain, loss and guilt may you speak words of healing too.

I recently read a book where the author explains that we all stories some good and others painful – full of regret and blame. BUT sometimes our stories of pain can become a stumbling block for us to allow

God to change us for the better. The author said we need to sometimes hear words of healing in order to move on with our lives. In his case he tells his painful story of being abused by a friend of his family. He says: in one afternoon my innocence abruptly ended and a twenty year silence and deep hiding began. BUT then when he eventually sought help, his psychotherapist made him feel welcomed and listened to him, and then “pronounced the deepest of all benedictions: “I BELIEVE YOU”. The author says that in those three words, and in the

depth of compassion from which they came, his healing began.

ALL of us need words of healing

Do not hide away from Him or other people when your life story is also painful and full of blame and regret. Allow God to show you the way to someone who has a listening ear and a compassionate soul – open yourself and speak your words of truth .. tell your story of pain ... and ask God to send someone who can change your

past for the better by believing in your story...

AND if you are the ONE chosen by God to listen to people's stories of pain – do it and touch them by the words of Jesus' love, mercy and compassion. DO not judge or blame or tell them what to do – do not interrupt or try to change their stories ... just speak words of healing... and after you have spoken words of healing, forget about it... do not repeat it or gossip about it... afterall they are not your words but words given by God's Holy Spirit.

All of us need to drink from Gods well, the living water, believing that He is also our Lord and Saviour. It took the woman a while to get it. Maybe it simply sounded just too good to be true. We cannot blame her. We would probably have done the same.

Jesus, why me? I'm bad! I'm living at the edge of society. I'm a Samaritan of doubtful morals just wanting to mind my own business. Leave me alone! But He didn't.

God changed our lives this morning. When we go out of this Church, we need to go and share His living waters. We have the perfect “well” in our community namely the Mill café. May we use our time well and share words of healing from our Lord and Saviour... Let us start using our words of healing this morning after church when we drink coffee or tea.... Words of love, forgiveness and mercy ... words of encouragement ... words of reconciliation and peace ... We also have the Bridge club where people from all over the Pentlands

are coming into our space, may we use our words of healing there too so that the LOVE of Jesus can quench any Spiritual longing and thirst...

And let us all encourage each other to drink from the living water that can only be found from God – always and forever!

Amen

Choir sings “You’re the word of God the Father” by Stuart Townend and Keith Getty.

Responding to God’s Word

CH4 123 God is love: let heaven adore Him (tune Hyfrydol)

Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession: Margaret Black

CH4 167 Guide me o thou great Redeemer

Benediction

Receive the blessing of GOD AND GO IN PEACE

**We have heard for ourselves:
the great love of Jesus.**

**We have drunk for ourselves:
the living water of God.**

**We have seen for ourselves:
the new life of the Spirit.**

**May the great love,
living water and new life
go with us this week;
into our lives and the lives of others.**

And the blessing of God Almighty Father Son and Holy Spirit
be with you now and forever more.

Sung Amen, Amen, Amen



BALERNO PARISH CHURCH

Intimations

**Sunday, 19th February
2023**

WORSHIP SERVICES

26 February 2023 Worship Service at 10am

5 March 2023 Communion Services at 9 am, 10 am and 3pm

12 March 2023 Worship Service at 10am

19 March 2023 Worship Service at 10am

THE MILL CAFÉ

Open Tuesday – Friday, 9.30am – 2pm



h Balerno Parish Church of Scotland: Scottish Charity No 018012

Serving teas/coffees, home baking, snack lunches. We are a friendly group and are *always delighted to welcome new volunteers to our team*. Pop in and see what we are all about.

THANKS TO YOU... Thank you for all your generous contributions towards the ministry and mission of the Church. Gift Aid envelopes are available at the end of each row or from the Treasurer after the Service.

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Balerno Church of Scotland	