

**January 30, 2022**

**John 4:1-42**

**The Woman at the Well-Taizé**

**Rev. Kelley L. Becker**

### **Welcome**

Good morning! Welcome to Disciples Christian Church. I am Rev. Kelley Becker, the Senior Minister. We are exploring a new worship style this morning. Taizé worship comes from a monastic community in Taizé, France. This style of worship is quiet, repetitive, and reflective. As is the case with all spiritual practices, some of us will be more comfortable with this type of worship than others. I believe God connects to each one of us in different ways, so some of us are going to love this and some of us will long for something different. All of us have the opportunity to experience God in a new way. And I hope you will give God the opportunity to connect with you this morning, even if you are someone who struggles to “Be still and know that God is God.” Thank you all for being here!

In a bit, we will light the large candle at the center of the communion table to welcome the Holy into our midst, so be sure you have a candle to light too. And later, we will have communion, so be sure you gather your communion elements. And as always, if you have highs and lows to share this morning, please share them in the comments of this broadcast or by private messaging the DCC FB page. The prayer group prays for all of us each week and having your requests in the comments helps the whole DCC community to pray for each other in the days to come. Let us [re]are our hearts for worship.

### **Prelude**

Every week, we gather to celebrate that darkness cannot extinguish light, and to remember that love will always be more powerful than fear.

We gather to be reminded of what it means to be called people of God. This candle symbolizes God’s presence and steadfast love in our homes, in our lives, and in our world. It reminds us that the light of God’s love is not confined to a church building, it is everywhere.

Let us bring in the Light.

### **Invocation-Come and Fill**

## **Call to Worship**

Let all who yearn for connection,  
all who hunger for justice  
and thirst for bodily renewal  
come and be replenished.  
With hope and expectation,  
we bring all that our soul's desire.  
Let everyone weary from isolation  
or overwhelmed by life's challenges  
come and find rest in God's care.  
All the ones who come seeking community  
be received in Holy Embrace.  
May the presence and provision of God  
be manifest among us  
that all may have what they need.  
We come to give,  
we come to receive,  
we come to grow in love.

## **Songs: This Is the Day**

### **Psalm 42**

As a deer longs for flowing streams,  
so my soul longs for you, O God.  
<sup>2</sup> My soul thirsts for God,  
for the living God.  
When shall I come and behold  
the face of God?  
<sup>3</sup> My tears have been my food  
day and night,  
while people say to me continually,  
"Where is your God?"  
<sup>4</sup> These things I remember,  
as I pour out my soul:  
how I went with the throng,

and led them in procession to the house of God,  
with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving,  
a multitude keeping festival.

<sup>5</sup> Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you disquieted within me?  
Hope in God; for I shall again praise God,  
my help <sup>6</sup> and my God.

My soul is cast down within me;  
therefore I remember you...

<sup>7</sup> Deep calls to deep  
at the thunder of your waterfalls;  
all your waves and your billows  
have gone over me.

<sup>8</sup> By day the Lord commands steadfast love,  
and at night God's song is with me,  
a prayer to the God of my life.

<sup>9</sup> I say to God, my rock,  
"Why have you forgotten me?  
Why must I walk about mournfully  
because the enemy oppresses me?"

<sup>10</sup> As with a deadly wound in my body,  
my adversaries taunt me,  
while they say to me continually,  
"Where is your God?"

Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you disquieted within me?  
Hope in God; for I shall again praise God,  
my help and my God.

### **Song: In the Lord**

#### **Prayer**

We have come to a time of community prayer.

Please respond to each spoken petition, by singing the words on the screen. Let us pray:

Holy One,

It is a gift to pray together this morning. We know that no matter where we are, you are there too, we are never out of your reach. You hear every longing of our souls and every cry of our hearts. Hear us now as we pray:

Awaken us anew to the damage we have done and continue to do to your world. Compel us to be good stewards of the land, air, sea, and all the creatures with whom we share this earth. Remind us that the choices we make about what we drive, what we wear, what we eat, and how we live affect our neighbors down the street and around the world.

### **O Lord Hear My Prayer**

Cultivate a spirit of humility and compassion in the world's leaders. Give them wisdom to create opportunities for peace and reconciliation. Inspire them to refuse to see war as an option. Grant them courage to work on the root causes of war: poverty, religion, and greed. Make peacemaking a priority in our nations, our communities, and our homes.

### **O Lord Hear My Prayer**

Reveal your love and care to all who are sick. Comfort them and bring them healing. Remain with the ones who are caring for them. Give strength to the healthcare workers who, day after day, face COVID patients who did not have to be as sick as they are. Open the eyes and ears of the ones who refuse vaccines and continue to go about their lives as if we are not having a pandemic.

### **O Lord Hear My Prayer**

For all the ones who are struggling with mental health, give them hope. Show them a way back to health and wellness. Give them a vision of a future story so bright that they cannot resist walking toward it. Give them second chances, safe places to land and process, and surround them with professionals who understand trauma and people who know what love looks like.

### **O Lord Hear My Prayer**

Help us see the people in our communities who are especially vulnerable...the ones who are unsheltered, addicted, hungry, and alone. Make us compassionate and kind. Show us how we can ease their suffering and bring wholeness to a world that is broken.

### **O Lord Hear My Prayer**

And for each one of us, for the ones grieving, lonely, overwhelmed, and feeling like we are not enough, remind us that you are near and that we are reflections of you in this world. Teach us to be gentle with ourselves, to care for our bodies, minds, and souls, not as a last resort or a reward, but out of necessity. Remind us that we do not have to earn rest. Thank you, God, for loving us right where we are and loving us into who we were created to be. Amen.

### **O Lord Hear My Prayer**

**Today's text is from the Gospel of John, it is the story of a Samaritan woman's encounter with Jesus. As the story is read, there will be breaks in which we will have the opportunity to silently reflect.**

#### **This is John 4:1-15**

**4** Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, "Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John" <sup>2</sup> —although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized— <sup>3</sup> he left Judea and started back to Galilee. <sup>4</sup> But he had to go through Samaria. <sup>5</sup> So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. <sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> 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.) <sup>10</sup> 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." <sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" <sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in

them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

**Slide:**

**Time of Silence-John 4:1-15**

**3 minutes**

**What does the woman’s voice sound like?**

**John 4:16-26**

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.”<sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’;<sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!”<sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet.<sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.”<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.<sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.<sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.<sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”<sup>25</sup> 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.”<sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

**Slide:**

**Time of Silence-John 4:16-26**

**3 minutes**

**What does Jesus’ voice sound like?**

**John 4:27-42**

<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?”<sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,<sup>29</sup> “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?”<sup>30</sup> They left the city and were on their way to him.

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” <sup>32</sup> But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” <sup>33</sup> So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. <sup>35</sup> Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. <sup>36</sup> The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

**Slide:**

**Time of Silence-John 4:27-42**

**3 minutes**

**How did the disciples sound? What about the Samaritans?**

**Song: Bless the Lord**

**Communion-**

At Disciples Christian Church, communion is open to everyone, whether we are worshiping in person or virtually. You don’t have to pretend you believe things you aren’t sure about or be a member of the church. No matter who you are, what you have said or done, if you seek to love and be loved, you are welcome at this table where every week we remember the story of the last night Jesus spent with his friends. That night, they gathered around a table for a meal.

All these years later, we gather around this table to get a glimpse of that moment. For when we do, we remember that God welcomes all of us and there is a place set for every one of us. At the table, Jesus took the bread, blessed it, and broke it. He gave some to all of them and there was enough for everyone. He took the cup,

blessed it, and passed it around, and again, there was enough for everyone. Let us pray.

Holy One,

In these moments, draw us close to you, help us connect with your love and your light. Use these elements to create a sense of community between each one of us and you. Hear us now as we pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Eat and Drink!

### **Communion Music: Eat This Bread**

### **Song: Go Now in Peace**

### **Benediction**

### **Postlude**

Family Promise Meal Sign-Up (2/6-12) is on the Outreach page of the website.

Watch the "Home for the Night" Facebook page for details about the emergency winter shelter. Like, follow, and share it.

Youth Connections is not meeting due to COVID. In the meantime, Callie Rivera is available to teens and parents. Her email is [callie@dccbville.org](mailto:callie@dccbville.org).

New staff emails:

Rev. Kelley Becker: [revbecker@dccbville.org](mailto:revbecker@dccbville.org)

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