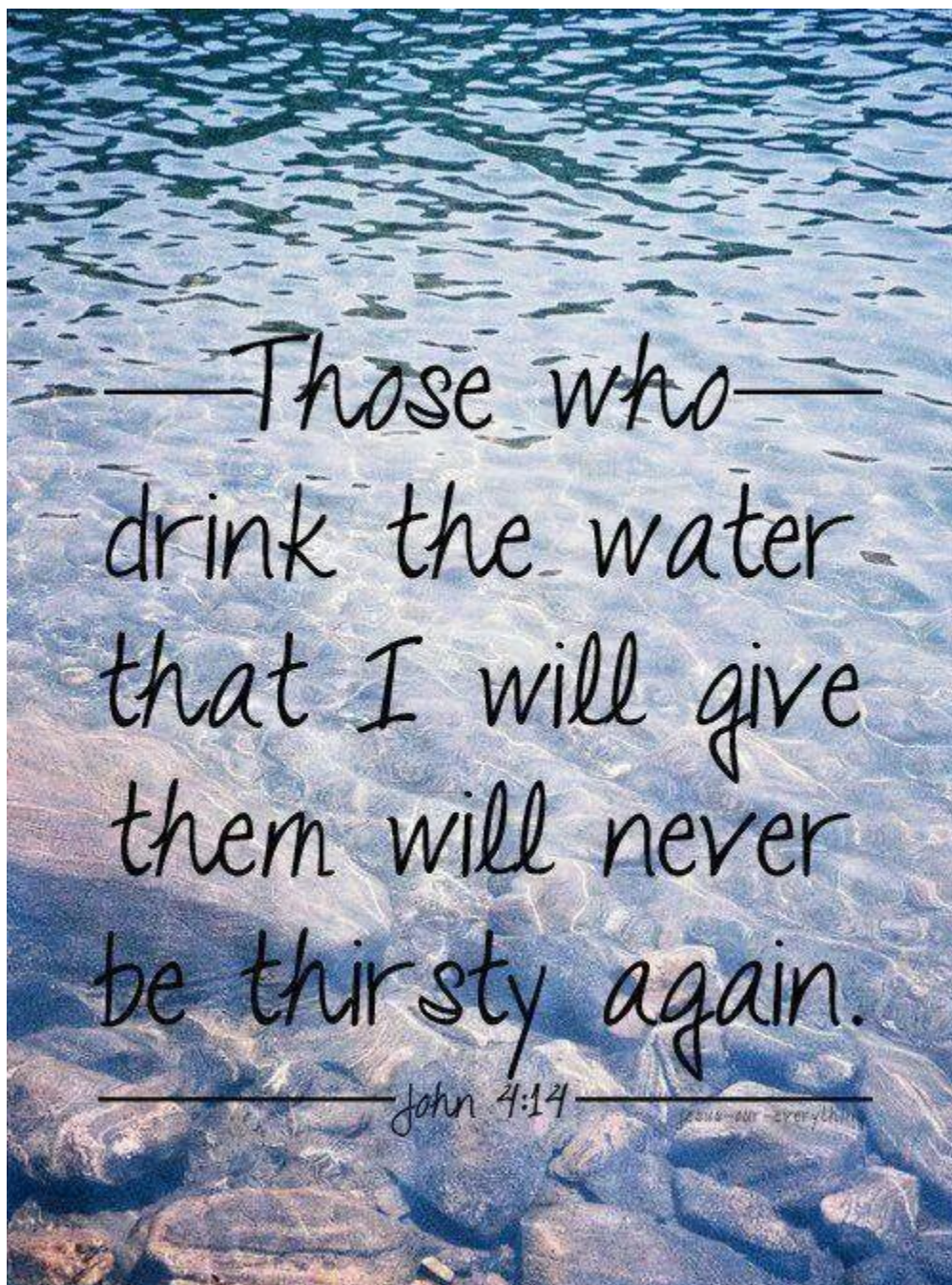


# PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, March 19, 2017



## The Shadowland of Lent

Reflection: "Living Water"

Rev. Meg Grieve



**PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH**  
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**Sunday, March 19, 2017**

**LARGE PRINT** Bulletins, Voices United Hymn Books and Bibles are available from the ushers.

**BULLETIN NOTATIONS:**

★ Signal to stand, for those who are able.

**VU**~Voices United Hymn book **MV**~More Voices Hymn book

*Welcome Visitors! We're glad to have you worshipping with us at Parkminster and would like to make sure you feel connected. Please take a few minutes to fill out one of the white information envelopes found in the pews and place it on the offering plate, or put it in the mail slot outside the office. Whether you'd like more information about Parkminster's programs, want to request offering envelopes, or have a question about becoming a member – or whatever else is important to you, we'd love to hear from you! Welcome!*

This morning we thank Annette Dekker for her art and wisdom, and to the members of “Celtic Crossing” for their music leadership. Celtic Crossing Members: Barbara Hull, Celtic Harp; Rob MacQueen, Guitar; Geralyn Miller, Viola and Fiddle; and Debbie Miethig, Hammered Dulcimer

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**Thirsting for Living Water**

Prelude: “Si Bheag Si Mhor/Planxty Irwin”  
 (Turlough O’Carolan)

★ Introit: “Come and Find the Quiet Centre” 🎵 VU #374

Welcome

One: Today, we continue the season of Lent, that deep spiritual journey that will take us through despair to hope, through lost to found, through shadowy Good Friday depths to the sun rise on Easter morning.

Our main image for this Lent is ‘shadow.’ We will explore shadow in a variety of ways: personally and spiritually, as a culture, and as a church. In all these contexts, we are seeking wholeness and balance in the midst of the shadows of fear and pain.

One of the shadows we live with is the shadow that falls over our relationship with First People. With gratitude and respect, we recognize the Six Nations tribes on whose traditional land we make our spiritual home. We acknowledge, with regret, that this history has not always been respectful. We commit to just relationship in the present.

**All: Seeking true community, we welcome all who have no church home, need strength, and are seeking deep meaning. Welcome to those who have doubts or who do not believe. Welcome to those whose faith is sure, and to those who believe, but who are asking large questions.**

One: Welcome to visitors and to familiar friends. Welcome to grandparents, to mothers, fathers, youth and children, couples, and single people.

**All: Welcome to people of all colours, gender identities, abilities, and sexual orientations.**

One: Welcome to each who is searching for meaning, who is seeking an understanding of community and what it means to accompany one another.

**All: As we come together as church, we turn to one another with gratitude and pray that we will be strong together, faithful together, and loving together. We seek the blessing as winter stubbornly hangs on and, as the days lengthen, we share the confidence that no matter how hidden we are in the shadow, the light of love shines.**

## Joys, Concerns, and Greeting One Another

*Today, as we begin our Lenten journey, we will pass peace to one another. Please remain seated. Those sitting on the aisle will receive the blessing of peace by holding their hands as if in prayer. The one passing the peace will place his/her hands around the “prayer” hands and say, “the blessing of peace be to you.” The person who has received the blessing will turn to the person sitting next in the pew, hold his/her hands and offer the same words of blessing. In this way, the peace will travel down each row and touch each of our spirits.*

★ Children’s Song: “Small Things Count”      🎵 VU #361

### Story Time

Following the story time, the children/youth will leave for their own learning time. Learn lots!

For babies and toddlers, there is the Family Worship Space at the back of the sanctuary. Each week, there will be an adult present so that the children can play and be cared for and parents can worship. Parents are free to come and go from that space, according to the needs of their children.

### Opening Our Hearts

Focus on Annette Dekker’s photograph of “Shadow” at the front of the church. What do you see?

Say that we could trade our bottles of water, or cups of water, or showers of water for living water. What might that living water mean for you, for our world, or for creation?

### Prayer by Meg

★ Hymn: (*sung 3x*) “Take, O Take Me as I Am”      🎵 MV #85

**Take, O Take me as I am;  
Summon out what I shall be;  
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

### Finding Living Water

Ministry of Music      “The Road Home”      (DeeDee Tibbits)

Scripture:      John 4: 3-19      (NT, pg.94)

#### About Scripture

Today’s story involves Jesus and a Samaritan woman who meet at Jacob’s well in the town of Sychar. The time is noon, and the hot Middle Eastern sun is beating down. There are several life-changing things about their time together. Some pertain to Jesus and others to the woman.

We know that Jesus is a Jew, and that Jews and Samaritans were not friendly. This cultural animosity did not stop Jesus from sitting at the well with the woman. Here we see another example of his non-judgmental and inclusive behaviour. He lived by the Holiness Code and many others, even friends, could cause a faithful Jew like Jesus to become unclean, or “unholy.” Illness, like leprosy, could make a person unclean. Those who did not follow the cleansing rituals, like Samaritans, could make a Jew unclean. Women who had had a child or were menstruating were unclean, and so men were very wary of the women around them.

Jesus knew all these things, but he did not shy away from others. He valued connection and compassion over the rules that separated people into “yes” and “no” groups. So when he saw the woman sitting alone at the well, he did not pass by on the other side. He sat with her and she became his companion.

The woman had her own story. She was ostracized by her community, the other women of Sychar. No one who could avoid the noon sun would show up in the town square to do the labourious work of

drawing water. Most women came in the cool of the morning to get their water for the day.

The woman whom Jesus met was not welcome in this group. She defied the cultural norms around intimate relationships. She had had several husbands, and was not married to her present partner. Her life style did not match the lifestyle of the majority, and she threatened them and the orderliness of their existence. In response, they marginalized her and made her unwelcome.

What happens when anyone is refused by their social group? That person feels unworthy, alone, not good enough, outcast. People on the margins tend to lie low, to hide, to fade into the background of life. They do this to turn down the heat on themselves. This is what we would have expected from the Samaritan woman in Jesus' presence.

Interestingly enough, she did not hide. When he asked about her, she told him her truth. Her life was in the light because she refused to bury it in the shadow.

Hearing her courageous truth, Jesus offered her a gift, the gift of living water. This living water was not like well water. It was the water of spirit that satisfies thirst and sustains our human being. It is the eternal spring that connects us to the holy. It is the holy. Jesus offers this to a Samaritan, to a woman, to an outsider, to someone the Jews would call a sinner.

Why? Why does Jesus count the Samaritan woman ready to receive God? Because she lives in the light, not the shadow. Not her shadow and not in the shadow of her community and culture. The same gift can be ours if we choose to draw what is shadow into the light. Amazing!

Reflection: "Living Water"

★ Hymn: "Like a Healing Stream" 🎵 MV #171, v4

### Living

Offertory: "Limerick Is Beautiful" (Traditional Irish)

Dedication: "Christ Has No Body Now But Yours" 🎵 MV #171, v.4

Offering Prayer, said by **all**:

**We are grateful for all that sustains us, and we return thanks. We are grateful for spirit life that is nurtured by our faith, for the living water that comes as gift and wells up in us, drawing us into the holy. We give thanks. Our gifts express our gratitude and make full life possible for others. They carry our thanks.**

Prayers for Living Water

★ Hymn: "By the Well, a Thirsty Woman"      🎵 MV #117

★ Commissioning and Blessing

★ Sung Benediction

**Peace I leave.  
My peace I give you,  
not the peace the world can offer.  
In each storm, in each confusion, I'll be with you.**

Postlude: "Eileen O'Riordan"      (Traditional Irish)

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**Thank you to everyone who has offered their gift of time to volunteer in various ways this Sunday:**

**Ushers:** ..... Heather Watts & Sandra Quehl and  
..... Don & Roxy Linkletter

**Greeters:**..... John & Marilyn Dippell

**Lay Reader:** ..... Elna Robertson

**Art:** ..... Annette Dekker

**Counters:**..... Jim Bowman and Bill Spall

**Musicians:** ..... Celtic Crossing

**Chancel Arrangements:** ..... Annette Dekker

**Coffee Hour Hosts:**..... Sue, Ron, Colleen & Dana Usaty

**Coffee Hour Dessert:** ..... John & Marilyn Dippell

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<b>The Ministry of Parkminster:</b> .....	All of us
<b>Ministry of Word &amp; Sacrament (Interim):</b> .....	Rev. Meg Grieve (ext. 23)
<b>Ministry of Pastoral Care (Interim):</b> .....	Rev. Elaine Beattie (ext. 22)
<b>Ministry of Christian Education:</b> .....	Kelly Moores (ext. 24)
<b>Music Director:</b> .....	Neil Murray (ext. 25)
<b>Office Administrator:</b> .....	Melanie Chisholm (ext. 21)
<b>Custodian:</b> .....	Allen Switzer (ext. 26)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ATTENTION SOUP MAKERS – IT’S TODAY!** All those who registered for “Soup Making – Take 2”, please join Laura Hamilton and the gang in the kitchen following worship. A delicious soup lunch will be served.

**WANTED for READERS’ THEATRE on Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>:** 8 people, adult, youth or children, who would be willing to be part of a readers' theatre of the story of the healing of the blind person. No memorizing. Scripts provided. One rehearsal of 30 minutes at 9:15 on March 26<sup>th</sup> in the Chapel.

**CALLING ALL MEN!** “The Men of Parkminster”, originally known as “Men’s Club”, will be having an informal Dart Tournament at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 530, 316 Marsland Drive in Waterloo. Because space is limited in the Dart Room, we **need RSVP’s by March 24<sup>th</sup>**. Please email Gerard Lang at [gerard.lang@rogers.com](mailto:gerard.lang@rogers.com) to let him know whether or not you are attending. More “Men of Parkminster” events will follow in a few weeks. Thanks, Bruce Mutton

**MARY’S PLACE DONATION UPDATE:** is grateful for the gently used items that Parkminster has delivered to them so far. We are off to a good start. Let's keep up the momentum! A second load was delivered to MARY’S PLACE this week. Thank you so much! The items listed on the blue bins in the upper hall continue to be needed. Twin sheet sets, in particular have been in short supply so far but all items are very much appreciated. A few mugs, bowls, sheets or towels when they come from many people, makes an impact. Thank You from your Outreach Committee.

**PASTORAL CARE: Rev. Meg & Rev. Elaine:** Elaine can be reached at **519-504-0935 (note tel # change)** or by email at [elainebeattie8@hotmail.com](mailto:elainebeattie8@hotmail.com). Meg can be reached at the church 519-885-0935 ext. 23 or by email at [rev.meg.parkminster@gmail.com](mailto:rev.meg.parkminster@gmail.com)