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| **The Samaritan Woman**  He came to me with his eyes and asked for water, stretched out his hand and spoke;  His mind burned into mine like the noon sun, my pitcher of thoughts broke.  I had not noticed him at rest by the well-head, shadowed by the rare tree:  But as I carried my shame into its coolness, his eyes awaited me.  I tried to avoid them as I drew up the well-rope taut through a mindless hand.  I saw the rope cross the speckled sunlight; his feet stir in the hot sand.  I saw His face – it was white with road-dust, whiter than any stone.  But his eyes were ageless and deep as well-shafts, as they met my own.  They unroofed my brain with their profound gazing, made the heart a molten thing.  He spoke of water to cleanse the spirit, I tried not to understand.  He followed me along the road of my evasions, and when it ceased in sand,  He brought me home from my self-forced journey.  He showed me my own soul, cracked and dry as a discarded wine-skin  And made it whole ……  He came to me with his eyes and asked for water, stretched out his hand and spoke,  As I carried my peace into the streets of Sychar, a new world awoke.  *(from The Witness by Clive Sansom)* |  |  |
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|  | Preparing for Easter  Week Two: 17th March 2020 |
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| **Further resources:**   * Jesuits in Britain Lenten Retreat 2020: Journey into Freedom   <https://www.pathwaystogod.org/lent-retreat-2020>   * World Community for Christian meditation (WCCM): Fr Laurence Freeman Daily Reflections for Lent   <http://www.wccm.org/content/subscribe-now-receive-lent-reflections-laurence-freeman>   * *Intimacy with God*, Thomas Keating. * *Finding your Hidden Treasure*, Benignus O’Rourke. |  |  |

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|  | **Welcome to our lent series for 2020: Preparing for Easter**  We hope that these sessions will support you in your Lenten journey of prayer as you prepare to meet the Risen Christ at Easter. |  |  | Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 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."  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."  Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband."  Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"  The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."  Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 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. 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."  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?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.  Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. 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 Saviour of the world." |
| *“Be still and know that I am God”*  Psalm 46  As you begin this time of prayer, find a comfortable position, take some time to become still, take some deep breaths and become aware of yourself in the presence of God.  Read the passage through slowly, noticing a word or phrase or an image or feeling that catches your attention. Stay with this awareness and allow God to  share with you.  You may also like to pray with the art on the front cover or with the reflection on the back cover.  **John 4:5-30; 39-42** So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and 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." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)  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."  The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" | | |