



# ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## Sermon by Pastor Jami Anderson, March 27, 2011

- I. Living water – friend focuses on beaches, streams, lakes, importance of water for life
  - a. baptism, mixed with wine, hands washed,
  - b. she misses that water can be deep, powerful, uncontrollable – just like Jesus
  
- II. Wondering if living water might be more like a tsunami?
  - a. washes away our props, our manmade structures, checks what foundations our lives are built upon.
  - b. brings destruction, dismay, devastation, even death – is this Good News?
  - c. We've seen the photos/videos from Japan – can that be living water?
  
- III. Consider the Samaritan woman's encounter with the Living Water.
  - a. She was unaccepted in her society – a loner – a survivor – self-reliant?
  - b. Jesus speaks to her – whoosh, there goes one boundary in her life.
  - c. Jesus suggests living water – she argues back.
  - d. she lets her greed/desire show – he washes away her secret life of no husband
  - d. She calls him a prophet and he washes away her system of religious beliefs
  - e. Jesus tells her about a whole new way of living – with Spirit, she says that the Messiah will tell her all she needs to know.
  - f. Jesus declares himself the Messiah – her world is totally on end – all the old is swept away and yet she survives and shares her new life with the villagers who had rejected her.
  - g. New life for her and the village – Good news made to be shared.
  
- IV. My own experience with CPE – all of my props/walls were washed away.
  - a. I felt lighter, clean, like I had to/could rebuild my life.
  
- V. Verse in Luke has Jesus talking about the river bursting and the flood washing away everything except the foundation. He notes that the foundation built on rock remains.
  - a. “He that is down needs fear no fall, He that is low, no pride; He that is humble ever shall have God to be his guide.” John Bunyan
  
- VI. Remember “no religion here today.” Sad that people fight over Jerusalem – a sacred “religious” site but not needed for worship.
  - a. Feeble that we build up our structures and teachings and slip in to relying on them – cracked cisterns that can not hold water – that wash away in the flood of living water.
  
- VII. Comments about Japan is that it is frightening to watch nature ruin the self-reliant.
  - a. How about giving thanks that the myth of us being self-reliant is washed away?
  - b. The Romans reading guides us – hope, joy, in suffering and in endurance, and with confidence

VIII. The tsunami or any storm or flood causes destruction but when I reflect on that ways of Jesus, on the enduring power of God, I believe that it is true – in all circumstances we can give thanks to God. When the washing comes from living water and the foundation is exposed – we rejoice with new life.

Thanks be to God.