March 23, 2014 – Third Sunday in Lent

Opening Prayer
In the wilderness and on the mountains, in the sea and in the depths of the earth; there, O God, we find you. In the faces of those that society lifts up, and in the faces of those that the same society despises; there, O God, we find you. In the midst of suffering and in the midst of reconciliation; there, O God, we find you. We come seeking you today, O God, together as your people. We bring all of the places we come from, gathering up our differences to bring here to worship you. Amen.

Call to Worship
One: We have come here to worship.
All: We come seeking the water that quenches our thirst.
One: We have come here to worship.
All: We come seeking the water that has been poured out for generations.
One: We have come here to worship.
All: We come seeking the water that gives life eternal.
One: We have come here to worship.
All: We come seeking the water of the Triune God.

Prayer of Confession
She was a no one. She was from an enemy people. She was unclean. She had unfamiliar traditions. She could not be touched. She certainly shouldn’t have been spoken to. Yet, Jesus spoke with her. O Holy God, we confess that we fall short. We often do not reach out to those we find unacceptable. We do not treat all of your children with the same love and respect as those of our “tribe.” We confess that we do not share the message of who Jesus is to all of those that deserve to hear. We do not engage with certain people. We go the long way around as to not enter into areas where “those people” live. Teach us, O loving Spirit, to live in the way that brings life. Guide us, O forgiving Spirit, to the water eternal. Amen.