

## Beloved Water

(sermon #6 in the Beloved series)

John 13:1-17,31-35

May the words of my mouth and the meditations in our hearts be acceptable and suitable in your sight oh Lord, our rock, our strength and our redeemer. Amen

Water. A simple thing, really. We know that in the very beginning of creation, God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so.

God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas.

We hear the story of Noah as God sent rain to the earth for 40 days and nights as Noah and his family and all the animals waited for the flood waters to cease.

We know how Moses parted the waters of the Red Sea and how when the Israelites were thirsting to death, God made it possible for water to come from the rock so the people had water to drink.

We hear in the Psalm of our good shepherd leading us beside the still waters.

Jesus turns water into wine.

Jesus walks on water.

Jesus calms the roaring and raging waters of the sea.

All throughout the Bible, and all throughout our lives,  
water is necessary. We, as humans, are made up of  
60% water. Water is essential to life. No doubt about  
it.

Water is powerful. Water can restore life and water  
also can take away life.

It is in the waters of our baptisms that we are  
reminded of the cleansing and rebirth water holds. By  
water and the word we are baptized children of God.

Called and sent out into the world to share God's love  
with others.

As a young girl, I was so blessed to have had a pastor  
who reminded us often to remember we are baptized  
children of God. He encouraged us each morning as we  
would step into the shower, or wash our face, or take a  
drink of water to remember the waters of our  
baptisms. To be daily renewed in this simple act and  
recall what it means to be baptized. Each day, to be  
cleansed and renewed as water reminds us that we are  
God's baptized, beloved children.

On this night, once again, we see Jesus and a simple bowl of water. The leader and teacher who bends down to wash the feet of his disciples. Normal, yes to have a bowl of water to wash the dust and dirt off of tired, weary feet from traveling. Not normal though to have the leader or host do the actual washing of the feet.

Yet, by now we should know, Jesus is just not any leader and his message is quite different from any other. This Beloved Human takes on the role of a servant and humbles himself to a lowly place, at the feet of his followers.

Jesus, Beloved Servant, kneels down in a place, not of honor, but a place of lowly servanthood.

The son of God, knowing and fully aware of all that is to come, washes his disciples feet. No one is left out.

Even though Jesus knows very well that one of these men will betray him, one will deny him. Still, Jesus bends down and washes ALL the disciples' feet.

Now, I don't know about you, but I sometimes find it a bit difficult to love people who have hurt me or betrayed me. Jesus loves them anyway. Jesus washes Judas' feet. Soon Judas will betray Jesus to the officials.

All too soon we will hear Peter's heart wrenching words, "I do not know him." "I was not with him." "I do not know him."

Jesus still lowers himself to wash even Peter's feet. Denial and betrayal do not change the fact that Jesus loves them. It is in this symbol of a simple bowl of water and a servant kneeling down that we find love this night.

Water that washes us clean each morning as we shower. As the waters form a small puddle around our own feet. As we remember Jesus' words. Not just words, but a command.

A mandate to his disciples and to us, the baptized, beloved children of God. Love one another. As I have loved you, love one another. Humble yourselves as I am humble and as I have loved you.

The water is a simple symbol of love. We make love very complicated sometimes. And yet we see Jesus kneeling at the feet of friends, yes, but also at the feet of some people who will be very unlovable to Jesus. Jesus shows us this night a Beloved Grace. A grace that washes sinners clean. Grace, undeserved by any human standards.



The Beloved Divine One who lowers himself to a humble  
place of love and forgiveness.

In the Beloved Waters of our baptisms, we are called  
to follow Jesus. On this night, we are commanded  
along with all the Beloved Baptized, to love each other.

As Jesus shows us how to love. Undeserved, unearned,  
plain and simple, love. Amen