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At this time in the Episcopal Church, the biblical imagery that speaks to me, especially as we're discerning our next presiding bishop, is from John 4 and 5. Jesus's encounter of the woman at the well. A woman who has suffered and who is part of the diaspora, who has gone to the well seeking water, a source of life, and she encounters Jesus, the ultimate source of life.

When we read this passage in the Greek we can hear her curiosity, her questions to Jesus, her searching heart, and her desire to know and to understand. And then when she understands, she leaves her alabaster jar and goes to her village to proclaim that she has met a man who has told her everything. You don't think he could be the Messiah, do you? And people come to believe based on her testimony alone, her authentic curiosity, her searching, her understanding that God has met her in a place she never expected. Like the woman, I think, we too are seeking to know God. We're seeking refreshment and we're seeking the opportunity to be known and to proclaim that God loves us and is calling us and empowering us.

In the Episcopal Church we're in a time when I think we are ready for new vision and new encounters with the risen Jesus. I think we too are hungry for justice, for dignity, to listen to one another to have deep and profound relationships that transform us. When a woman goes to her village and shares that she has met a man who has told her everything, people come to faith based on her testimony alone. Imagine that. They come to believe that she has met the Messiah because of how she has been transformed. We too, I think, are seeking a transformation of hope and peace and incarnation. We're seeking to discern God's next call for us. And I think God will show up in the least expected places. God will call us and meet us where we are with invitation, with dignity, and with empowerment.

And when the people come back, and they meet Jesus, they too have a prophetic witness for the world. All of us are called to know Jesus, love Jesus, and proclaim Jesus. And in this passage, there is great hope for us, that no matter how we may feel that we are out of step, that God has a calling for us. God loves us.

And that alabaster jar, something she may have even made with her own hands for the purpose of the refreshment of water, in the face of meeting the Messiah, she leaves it behind. What is our alabaster jar? What is it as a church we need to leave behind, something that no longer serves our message and our prophetic witness? In this time of meeting Jesus we are invited to a deep and profound relationship of incarnation, a relationship with God within us and with one another.

This is an exciting time in the Episcopal Church because we have a witness to offer to a world that is so broken by dehumanization, injustice and climate change. Central to this passage is water and the essential nature of water. All of us together are part of God's proclaiming grace, incarnation and witness. We're called to curiosity, to talk with God, to talk with one another. To seek and serve Christ in all persons. To live out our baptismal covenant in real and creative and new ways and always. In this time, we can take the witness of the Samaritan woman who met a man who told her everything, who met someone with invitation. who loved her and called her. We too are loved. We too are called and may we go and proclaim Jesus to this hurting world.