



Lent 1 Yr B – 21st February 2021

Welcome:

Greeting:

On this first Sunday of Lent
May the Lord be with you
And also with you

Moment of Stillness:

There is a rumbling in us that won't let go.
It stirs in us like the wind stirs leaves—inviting us to move, drawing us forth.
When we're quiet, we know that rumble is the Holy Spirit,
Dancing love awake in us.
We're here.
And we're still.
And we're quiet.

So, let's take a moment to be still and aware of the Spirit's presence within
and all around us.

Lent Candles:

In Lent we set love upon our hearts and feet and walk with Jesus towards the cross. As a reminder that Jesus did not shy from entering the darkest and most difficult places, we blow out a candle each week. *[Blow out candle]*

In our walking we know that we are not alone,
for Jesus has walked this road before us,
and God's Spirit rests upon us as we take this journey forward.

Acknowledgement First Peoples:

We acknowledge the sovereign First Peoples of this country on which we gather today; the Gadigal and Wangal people. And we pay our respects to their Elders past and present, together with all descendants.

We commit ourselves to support Voice, Treaty, Truth – justice for First Nations Peoples.

Call to Worship:

We are invited
Into the story,
Into this place,
Into this hour of worship.

We are invited
Into reflection,
Into community,
Into our own spiritual journeys.

We are invited
The broken and bruised,
The hopeful, the new,
The faithful, the doubting,
The wondering, the waiting.

We are invited
Because God so loved;
So, listen, trust the invitation, and bring
your whole self.
All are invited here.

Opening Prayer:

In a world full of fear,
open our hearts to your love.
Though we walk in wilderness places,
open our minds to your hope.
As we seek paths in the darkness,
open our eyes to your light.

We turn away from hatred,
towards love.
We turn way from intolerance,
towards understanding.

As sisters and brothers,
we commit ourselves to compassion.
Together, not alone,
We pray for peace.

Amen

Song: Come as you are

Come as you are
That's how I want you
Come as you are
Feel quite at home
Close to My heart
Loved and forgiven
Come as you are
Why stand alone

No need to fear
Love sets no limits
No need to fear
Love never ends
Don't run away
Shamed and disheartened
Rest in My love
Trust Me again

I came to call sinners
Not just the virtuous
I came to bring peace
Not to condemn
Each time you fail
To live by My promise
Why do you think
I'd love you the less

Come as you are
That's how I love you
Come as you are
Trust Me again
Nothing can change
The love that I bear you
All will be well
Just come as you are

Prayer of Confession:

Holy God
We know that you are near,
For you are always here, gathered among us, just a breath away.
And despite knowing your nearness, we still stumble over ourselves, unsure of
how to pray.

**Bring our hearts into the room.
We want to begin again.**

So often we talk to you like a stranger,
Praying prayers of small talk about the weather and surface level concerns.
We keep genuine fear and doubt tucked into corners, out of sight, out of mind.

**Bring our hearts into the room.
We want to begin again.**

And so often we try to think our way to you,
As if we could use logic or our minds alone to explain your great unknown.
We forget what we knew as children; we forget how to feel our way to you.

**Bring our hearts into the room.
We want to begin again.**

And too regularly, we limit our experience of you to one hour a Sunday,

Missing your constant invitation into the holiness all around us.
Forgive us. Guide us.
Bring our hearts into the room.
We are here, God. We want to begin again.

Song: O Lord hear my prayer

O Lord hear my prayer
O Lord hear my prayer
When I call answer me

O Lord hear my prayer
O Lord hear my prayer
Come and listen to me

Amen

Words of assurance:

Friends, whether you are standing at the door of a deeper faith journey,
Unsure of what comes next,
Or running your way through that threshold,
You are claimed, forgiven, and loved by God.

Again and again, we are forgiven.
Again and again, we are loved.
Again and again, we are invited in.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.
Amen.

Peace:

The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you.

Let's share Christ's peace with one another

Moment for the young at heart:

Bible Readings:

Genesis 9:8-17

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹ “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark.^[a] ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹² God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³ I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷ God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Mark 1:9-15

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved;^[a] with you I am well pleased.” ¹² And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³ He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news^[b] of God,^[c] ¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near;^[d] repent, and believe in the good news.”^[e]

In this is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection:

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People:

The Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name.
your kingdom come
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread
forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours.
Now and forever.
Amen**

Membership Ceremony: Roger Abrahams, Prue Gregory, Chris Westworth

'Freddo' Moment: The congregation share good news

Community News:

Offering Prayer:

**Creator God,
Take our Lenten offerings
and make them radical;
Grow their actions,
enable their impact.
As we prepare for tomorrow,
may your will be done.
On earth as it is in heaven.
Amen.**

Song: Shout to the Lord or Love divine all loves excelling

My Jesus my Saviour
Lord there is none like You
All of my days I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love
My comfort my shelter
Tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath all that I am
Never cease to worship You

Chorus
Shout to the Lord
All the earth let us sing
Power and majesty
Praise to the King
Mountains bow down
And the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name
I sing for joy
At the work of Your hands
Forever I'll love You
Forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise
I have in You

Benediction & Blessing:

As you leave this space,
May your mouth speak of God's goodness.
May your arms hold those in need.
May your feet walk toward justice.
May your heart trust its worth.
May your soul dance in God's grace.

And may this be your rhythm— Again and again and again,
Until God's promised day.
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself
Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace.

3-fold-Amen

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*Moment of Stillness / Call to worship / Prayer of Confession and Assurance / Benediction:
Sanctified Art*