



LENT 3 Yr C 27th March 2022

Leader: **Heather** / Greeter: **Mehry**

Welcome:

Greeting:

We continue in the 40 days of Lent journey. Today we will hear Jesus' parable of the loving and forgiving father who welcomes back his wasteful and repentant son, and seeks to reconcile him with his resentful elder brother.

May the light of the Lord be with you

And also with you

Moment of Stillness:

As we begin our service, let's take a moment to be still and aware of God's presence within and all around us.

Christ Candle:

In this season of Light,
we light this candle to remind us of God's light shining in the darkness.
May we carry this light of hope, peace, and justice
to the world around us every day.

Acknowledgement First Peoples:

As we gather to worship God, 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:

In the name of God,
**who created us,
who holds us and the whole world in divine embrace**
In the name of the Son
**who came into the world,
who reconciles us with God.**
In the name of the Holy Spirit
**who fills us with eternal life,
who links us with all Christians
and incites us to peace,
we come together to offer our thanks and praise.
Amen**

Opening Prayer:

We gather together to entrust ourselves and the world
to the Spirit of Love and to each other.
To find peace and healing
in the joy of music and words,
in the stillness of prayer,
and in the Spirit's enfolding love. **Amen**
(Source: Pitt St UC service)

Song:

Prayer of Confession:

We are sinners...
We are weak...
We fail...
We have destroyed...
also we have loved
Spirit of God
open our hearts and minds
that we may grasp your forgiveness,
and forgiven seek to forgive others
and to live a life of reconciling love
modelled on the example of Jesus Christ
in whose name we pray. **Amen**

Words of assurance:

God rolls away everything that stands in our way – our past, our sin, our pain, our hesitation, and reshapes us into new people living in the new creation.

What wonderful grace. We are forgiven!

Broken, we are made whole;

lost, we are brought home;

empty, we are filled with songs of gladness.

We rejoice and give thanks to God who has graced us with mercy. **Amen**

Peace:

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you.

Let's share Christ's peace with one another.

Song:

Moment for the young at heart: Phil

Bible Readings: Paula

Joshua 5: 9-12

The Passover at Gilgal

⁹ The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal^[a] to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

15 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable:

11 Then Jesus[b] said, “There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. 13 A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. 14 When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. 16 He would gladly have filled himself with[c] the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. 17 But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! 18 I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ 20 So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. 21 Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’[d] 22 But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; 24 for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

25 “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. 27 He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ 28 Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. 29 But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ 31 Then the father[e] said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection: Christine Longfoot

Moment of Stillness

Prayers of the People: Jen

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

Giving thanks: The congregation share good news

Community News:

Offering Prayer:

May we not be like the older brother, grumbling and resentful of your generosity. Rather, with joy and hope, we offer our gifts that others might be swept up in your loving and gracious arms. **Amen.**

Song:

Benediction & Blessing:

God sends us forth,
to be reconcilers of the broken and oppressed.
Jesus, our Brother, sends us to welcome everyone.
Embrace the prodigals with joy,
Make a feast for all of God's people.
The Spirit sends us with arms full of healing.
Bring hope to all we meet. **Amen**

Threefold Amen

***Pastoral Prayers:* XXX**