



18th February 2023 – Lent 1

Greeter: Roger T

Meditation Song: Holy holy holy (TIS 723)
(please remain seated)

Holy, holy, holy.
My heart, my heart adores you.
My heart knows how to say to you:
Holy are you Lord.
(x3)

Welcome:

Greeting:

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

Moment of Stillness:

There is a stirring 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 stirring is the Holy Spirit,

dancing love awake in us.
We're here.
And we're still.
And we're quiet.

In this quiet moment let's be still and aware of the Spirit's presence within us 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.

[One candle is blown out]

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:

This is God's land and God's Spirit dwells here. We pay our respects to the Gadigal and Wangal people, the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather today.

We are grateful for the grace they have shown in extending the hand of reconciliation to us in the call to pursue justice together for a better future for all. **May we work together for justice and peace.**

Call to Worship:

We are invited
Into the story,
Into this place,
Into God's presence.

We are invited
Into reflection,
Into community,
Into a spiritual journey.

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,
the invitation is for you.
All are invited here.

Opening Prayer:

Open our hearts, Compassionate God,
that we may feel the breath and play of your Spirit.
Unclench our hands,
that we may reach out to one another
in openness and generosity.
Free our lips,
that we may speak for those whose voices are not heard.
Unblock our ears,
to hear the cries of the broken-hearted.
And open our eyes,
to see Christ in friend and stranger;
that in sharing our love and pain,
our poverty and prosperity,
we may move towards that peace and justice
which comes from you,
and so be bearers of your divine reconciliation.
Amen

Hymn: God when human bonds are broken (TIS 683)

1 God, when human bonds are broken
and we lack the love or skill
to restore the hope of healing,
give us grace and make us still.

2 Through that stillness, with your Spirit
come into our world of stress,
for the sake of Christ forgiving
all the failures we confess.

3 You in us are bruised and broken:
hear us as we seek release
from the pain of earlier living;
set us free and grant us peace.

4 Send us, God of new beginnings,
humbly hopeful into life.
Use us as a means of blessing:
make us stronger, give us faith.

5 Give us faith to be more faithful,
give us hope to be more true,
give us love to go on learning:
God, encourage and renew.

Prayer of Confession:

In the prayer of confession, we admit to ourselves and to God that we do not have it all worked out. And in that vulnerability, we are surrounded by God's grace. So, in this knowledge, let us pray:

Forgive us God:

For closing ourselves to the driving of your Holy Spirit;
for choosing to live in the places of comfort
rather than being led into the wilderness;
for letting fear of the person who is different rule our lives,
rather than letting your love for all people fill our hearts;
for our separation from one another in the Body of Christ;
for not trusting that you hold the future in your hands.

Amen

Words of assurance:

Nothing can ever separate us from the love of God.

Again and again, we are loved.

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

**Thanks be to God for such amazing love!
Amen.**

Peace:

The peace of Christ be always with you
And also with you.

Let's share Christ's peace with one another from where we're seated.

Hymn: Lord your word abiding (TIS 427)

1 Lord, your word abiding,
and our footsteps guiding,
gives us joy for ever,
binds us all together.

2 Who can tell the pleasure,
who recount the treasure,
by your word imparted
to the simple-hearted?

3 Word of mercy, giving
nourishment for living;
word of life, supplying
comfort for the dying.

4 O that we, discerning
its most holy learning,
Lord, may love and fear you,
evermore be near you.

Moment for the young at heart: Brian

Bible Readings: Marian

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.”

Hear the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Reflection: Rev Joy

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: Heather

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**

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: I walk by faith

I walk by faith,
each step by faith,
to live by faith,
I put my trust in You.
(repeat)

Every step I take,
is a step of faith,

No weapon formed against me
shall prosper.
And every prayer I make,
is a prayer of faith.
And if my God is for me,
then who can stand against me?

Benediction & Blessing:

As you leave this place,
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 the blessing of God Almighty;
Creator, Christ and Spirit
Be upon you and remain with you always.

3-fold-Amen

Pastoral Prayers: Christo & Brian

Acknowledgements:

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Acknowledgement of Country: based on Assembly working group

Moment of Stillness / Call to worship: adapted Sanctified Art

Opening prayer: Annabel Shilson-Thomas (Let Justice Roll Down)

Confession: Elizabeth Welch (Let Justice Roll Down)

Words of Assurance: adapted Sanctified Art

Benediction: adapted Sanctified Art