



25th February 2023 – Lent 2

Greeter: Mehry

Meditation Song: Come Holy Spirit (TIS 710)

(please remain seated)

Come Holy Spirit,
gracious heavenly dove;
come fire of love
(x 3)

Welcome:

Greeting:

On this second 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: Kim

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.

[Two candles are 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: Kim

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 walk 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:

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.

May we turn away from hatred,
towards love.
May we turn way from intolerance,
towards understanding.

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

Amen

Hymn: Where the wide sky rolls (TIS 188)

1. Where wide sky rolls down and touches red sand,
where sun turns to gold the grass of the land,
let spinifex, mulga and waterhole tell
their joy in the One who made everything well.

2. Where rain-forest calm meets reef, tide and storm,
where green things grow lush and oceans are warm,
let every sea-creature and tropical bird
exult in the light of the life-giving Word.

3. Where red gum and creek cross hillside and plain,
where cool tree-ferns rise to welcome the rain,
let bushland, farm, mountain-top, all of their days
delight in the Spirit who formed them for praise.

4. Now, people of faith, come gather around
with songs to be shared, for blessings abound!
Australians, whatever your culture or race,
come, lift up your hearts to the Giver of grace.

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: Thuma Mina (TIS 749) ('thuma mina' means 'send me Lord')

The first verse will be sung by our music team

1 Thuma mina.

Thuma mina,
thuma mina,
thuma mina,
Somandla.

(repeat)

2 Send me, Lord. *(first line solo)*

Send me, Jesus,
send me, Jesus,
send me, Jesus,
send me, Lord.

(repeat)

3 Lead me, Lord. *(first line solo)*

Lead me, Jesus,
lead me, Jesus,
lead me, Jesus,
lead me, Lord.

(repeat)

4 Fill me, Lord. *(first line solo)*

Fill me, Jesus,
fill me, Jesus,
fill me, Jesus,
fill me, Lord.

(repeat)

5 I will go, Lord. *(first line solo)*

I will go, Lord.
I will go, Lord.
in your name Lord, I will go.

(repeat)

Moment for the young at heart: Tonia

Bible Readings: Rick

Introduction to the Hebrew Scripture Reading:

God's promises are the central feature of the Abrahamic story. Perhaps the most striking point of newness is God's promise to Sarah. Sarah is made a co-participant in the divine promise regarding a son and his descendants. She has a promise in her own right, not simply through Abraham. Abraham and his family will not see the fulfillment of all of these promises in their lifetime. Faith will inevitably mean, for all of God's followers, living with promises as promises short of fulfillment.

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

17 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty;^[a] walk before me, and be blameless. **2** And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." **3** Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, **4** "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. **5** No longer shall your name be Abram,^[b] but your name shall be Abraham;^[c] for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. **6** I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. **7** I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring^[d] after you.

15 God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. **16** I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Mark 8:31-38

31 Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. **32** He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. **33** But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

34 He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. **35** For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel,^[a] will save it. **36** For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? **37** Indeed,

what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words^[b] in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Hear the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Reflection: Rev Joy

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: Hector

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.

Mission Conversation: Judith – mission at Cardinal Freeman Village

Song: Come let us sing for joy to the Lord

Intro: Come let us sing for joy to the Lord. (x4)

Chorus: Come let us sing for joy to the Lord.
Let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation. (rpt)

1. Let us come before him with thanksgiving,
and extol him with music and song,
for the Lord our Lord is the great God,
the great King above all Gods.

Chorus: Come let us sing for joy to the Lord.
Let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation. (rpt)

2. Let us bow before him in our worship,
let us kneel before God, our great King.
For he is our God, and we are his people.
That's why we shout and sing.

Come let us sing for joy to the Lord. (x4)

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: Heather

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Moment of Stillness / Call to worship: adapted Sanctified Art

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

Confession: adapted Sanctified Art

Words of Assurance: adapted Sanctified Art

Benediction: adapted Sanctified Art