



17th March 2024 – Lent 5

Greeter: Roger T

Meditation Song: My peace
(please remain seated)

My peace I leave you, my peace I give you:
trouble not your hearts.

My peace I leave you, my peace I give you:
Be not afraid.

(x3)

Welcome:

Greeting:

On this fifth 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.

[Five 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:

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 away from intolerance,
towards understanding.

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

Hymn: My song is love unknown (TIS 341)

1 My song is love unknown,
my Saviour's love to me,
love to the loveless shown,
that they might lovely be.
O who am I
that for my sake

my Lord should take
frail flesh, and die?

2 He came from his blest throne
salvation to bestow:
but all made strange, and none
the longed-for Christ would know.
But O my friend!
my friend indeed,
who at my need
his life did spend.

3 In life, no house, no home
my Lord on earth might have;
in death, no friendly tomb
but what a stranger gave.
What may I say?
Heav'n was his home;
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

4 Here might I stay and sing,
no story so divine;
never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine.
This is my friend,
in whose sweet praise
I all my days
could gladly spend.

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.
Merciful God, forgive us.

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: In the cross of Christ I glory (TIS 349)

1 In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.

2 Through the cross, Christ's love empowers us
Worldliness and self deny;
By his Spirit it inspires us
Him, through love, to glorify.

3 When the woes of life o'ertake us,
hopes deceive and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake us,
from it shines our peace and joy.

4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.

5 In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.

Moment for the young at heart: Brian

Children's Activity: Carolyn

Bible Readings: Marian

Introduction to the Hebrew Scripture Reading:

These four verses from the book of Jeremiah brim with faith for the future:

“The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.” and, perhaps most strikingly, a divine promise: “I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.”

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband,^[c] says the Lord. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

John 12:20-33

²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²² Philip went and told Andrew; then

Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³ Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

²⁷ “Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰ Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people^[e] to myself.” ³³ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Hear the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Reflection: Rev Joy

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: John

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: He came singing love (Colin Gibson - CCLI 639700)

1.He came singing love
And He lived singing love
He died singing love
He arose in silence
For the love to go on
We must make it our song
You and I be the singers

2.He came singing faith
And He lived singing faith
He died singing faith
He arose in silence
For the faith to go on
We must make it our song
You and I be the singers

3.He came singing hope
And He lived singing hope
He died singing hope
He arose in silence
For the hope to go on

We must make it our song
You and I be the singers

4. He came singing peace
And He lived singing peace
He died singing peace
He arose in silence
For the peace to go on
We must make it our song
You and I be the singers

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:

Acknowledgements:

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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