



9<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – Lent 1Yr C

**Greeter:** Wendy

**Meditation Song: O Lord hear my prayer (TIS 741)**  
*(please remain seated)*

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  
(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:***

We gather in worship on the lands of the Gadigal and Wangal people.  
With humility, we recognise the care of these lands since time immemorial and  
the legacy of dispossession and colonisation within the Church.

**We reaffirm our commitment to walking together towards justice and  
renewal.**

### ***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: Praise and thanksgiving (TIS 627)**

1. Praise and thanksgiving  
Father we offer,  
for all things living

you have made good;  
harvest of sown fields,  
fruits of the orchard,  
hay from the mown fields,  
blossom and wood.

2. Lord bless the labour  
we bring to serve you,  
that with our neighbour  
we may be fed.  
Sowing or tilling,  
we would work with you;  
harvesting, milling,  
for daily bread.

3. Father providing  
food for Your children,  
your wisdom guiding  
teaches us share  
one with another,  
so that rejoicing,  
sister and brother  
may know Your care

4. Then will your blessing  
reach every people;  
each one confessing  
your gracious hand;  
where you are reigning  
no one will hunger,  
your love sustaining  
fruitful the land.

### **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.

In a world full of fear,  
**open our hearts to your love.**  
Though we walk in desolate valleys,  
**open our minds to your hope.**  
As we seek paths in the darkness,  
**open our eyes to your light.**  
**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: Seek Ye First*** (TIS 745)

1. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God  
And his righteousness,  
And all these things  
Shall be added unto you,  
Allelu, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu, alleluia

2. Ask, and it shall be given unto you.  
Seek and you shall find.

Knock and it shall be opened unto you  
Allelu, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu, alleluia

3. We shall not live by bread alone,  
But by every word  
That proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.  
Allelu, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu, alleluia

***Moment for the young at heart: Brian***

***Bible Readings: Marian***

### **Introduction to the Hebrew Scripture Reading:**

The power of Psalm 91 isn't in the notion of a magic trick that makes all things that cause fear vanish, but rather in the notion of God as companion, who prevents those things from having dominion over us. The world itself may not be any safer, but our place in it is more secure, our movement through it more certain.

### **Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16**

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,  
<sup>2</sup> will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress;  
my God, in whom I trust.  
Because you have made the LORD your refuge,  
the Most High your dwelling place,  
<sup>10</sup> no evil shall befall you,  
no scourge come near your tent.  
<sup>11</sup> For God will command the angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways.  
<sup>12</sup> On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.  
<sup>13</sup> You will tread on the lion and the adder;  
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.  
<sup>14</sup> Those who love me, I will deliver;  
I will protect those who know my name.  
<sup>15</sup> When they call to me, I will answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble;  
I will rescue them and honour them.

<sup>16</sup> With long life I will satisfy them  
and show them my salvation.

### **Luke 4:1-13**

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’ ”

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup> And the devil said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup> If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” <sup>8</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.’ ”

<sup>9</sup> Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup> for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,  
to protect you,’

<sup>11</sup> and

‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

<sup>12</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” <sup>13</sup> When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time

Hear the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Reflection: Chris Longfoot**

**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: Into the Deep*** (Roxanne McLeod)

1. From different streams of life we come,  
drawn to the Source of living hope;  
ready to trust in the depths of God's love;  
abandoning fear, God's calling us near.

Chorus

And so we will go into the deep,  
where we will find our place with those who believe;  
the shallows behind, together we'll be  
immersed in God's grace, carried by love, into the deep.



2. We will find peace in the mystery of faith.  
Living our lives in joyful praise,  
ready to dive in the depths of God's grace,  
surrendering all, we follow God's call.

Chorus

And so we will go into the deep,  
where we will find our place with those who believe;  
the shallows behind, together we'll be  
immersed in God's grace, carried by love, into the deep.

3. Here in the deep we are never alone,  
as we declare one faith, one hope,  
learning from those who have gone here before;  
welcomed to be in God's family.

Chorus

And so we will go into the deep,  
where we will find our place with those who believe;  
the shallows behind, together we'll be  
immersed in God's grace, carried by love, into the deep.

And so we will go into the deep,  
where we will find our place with those who believe;  
the shallows behind, together we'll be  
immersed in God's grace, carried by love, into the deep,  
immersed in God's grace, carried by love, into the deep.

***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: Chris W**

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

*Confession: Elizabeth Welch / Linda Jones (Let Justice Roll Down)*

*Words of Assurance: adapted Sanctified Art*

*Benediction: adapted Sanctified Art*