



16th March 2025 – Lent 2 Yr C

Greeter: Mehry

Lighting of Candles

Meditation Song: Watch and Pray

(please remain seated)

Watch and pray with me a while
Watch and pray with me a while
Watch and pray
Watch and pray with me a while

x 2

My heart is heavy now
Take this cup from me, He cried
Watch and pray
Watch and pray with me a while

x 2

Not my will but yours be done
Not my will but yours be done
Not my will but yours be done
Abba, Father
Abba, Father

x 2

Watch and pray with me a while
Watch and pray with me a while
Watch and pray
Watch and pray with me a while

Welcome and Greeting: Helen

Welcome to worship
Whether you are here in person
Or joining us online
All are welcome in this place

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.

Silence

Lent Candles: Brian

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: Christo

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: Helen

Hear the invitation of Love
To come, just as you are
And walk with Christ

In shadows and darkness
We wait for light to dawn
To see once more
We walk with Christ

In confusion and chaos
We wait for wisdom to emerge

To know once more
We walk with Christ

In weariness and despair
We wait for hope to rise
To feel once more
We walk with Christ

Opening Prayer:

God, who gathers us here
God, whose love is beyond our comprehension
God, who walks this path and meets us here

Teach us anew of the ways of the cross
Open our eyes to see you and to know you
Stir our hearts with the cries of your heart

Creator God
Deliverer of Peace
Divine Love

We come, We hope, We worship

Amen

Hymn: Forth In Your Name (TIS 571)

1 Forth in your name, O Lord, I go My daily labour to pursue
You, Lord, alone resolved to know
In all I think or speak or do

2 Each task your wisdom has assigned
Still let me cheerfully fulfill

In all my works your presence find
And prove your good and perfect will

3 You may I set at my right hand
Whose eyes my inmost substance view
And labour on at your command
And offer all my works to you

4 For you delightfully employ
All that your bounteous grace has given
And run my course with even joy
And closely walk with you to heaven

Prayer of Confession:

When we offer God our confession, we join the beautiful work of reconciliation, which begins with our reconciling with God. Trusting in our God of Grace, let us make our confession, beginning with a time short time of silence...

Let us pray our confession together:

Merciful God,

Our maker and the one who brings justice

We have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and deeds

We have not loved you with our whole heart

We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves

We are sorry for all the ways we have failed to live in your light

God, our loving parent, forgive us

Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life

In the name of Christ, in whom we live and breathe and have our being

Amen

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:

Friends, hear these words to be true
God is full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in love
You are loved
You are forgiven
You are held in grace

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: A New Commandment (TIS 699)

A new commandment I give unto you
That you love one another
As I have loved you
That you love one another
As I have loved you

By this will others know
That you are my disciples

If you have love one for another

By this will others know
That you are my disciples
If you have love one for another

x 2

Moment for the young at heart: Emma

Children's Activity: Carolyn

Bible Readings: Milton

Introduction to the Hebrew Scripture Reading:

Here the Psalmist expresses a profound trust amidst profound pain, and in particular in the face of false witness. Even if we are not personally beset by slanderous enemies, Psalm 27 encourages us to seek truth and comfort in a culture of lies. The counsel offered for the faithful in a world of chaos and doubt is 'Wait for the Lord'. To wait is to be bound together with God's presence in order to be strengthened.

Psalm 27

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

2 When evildoers assail me to
devour my flesh— my adversaries
and foes— they shall stumble
and fall.

3 Though an army encamp against
me, my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident.

4 One thing I asked of the LORD;
this I seek:

to live in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life, to behold
the beauty of the LORD, and to
inquire in his temple.

5 For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble; he will conceal me
under the cover of his tent; he will set me
high on a rock.

6 Now my head is lifted up above
my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

7 Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be
gracious to me and answer me!

8 "Come," my heart says, "seek his
face!" Your face, LORD, do I seek.

9 Do not hide your face from me. Do not
turn your servant away in anger, you who
have been my help. Do not cast me off; do
not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

10 If my father and mother forsake me,
the LORD will take me up.

11 Teach me your way, O LORD,
and lead me on a level path because
of my enemies.

12 Do not give me up to the will of my
adversaries, for false witnesses have

risen against me, and they are
breathing out violence.

13 I believe that I shall see the goodness
of the LORD in the land of the living.

14 Wait for the LORD; be strong, and
let your heart take courage; wait for
the LORD!

Luke 13:31-35

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” 32 He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. 33 Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ 34 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! 35 See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’ ”

Hear the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Reflection: Rev. Joy Steele-Perkins

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: David

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: Rev Joy Steele-Perkins

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

Hearing from the Children's Activity

Song: Let Us Build a House

1
Let us build a house where love can dwell
And all can safely live
A place where saints and children tell
How hearts learn to forgive

Built of hopes and dreams and visions
Rock of faith and vault of grace
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions

All are welcome

All are welcome

All are welcome in this place

2

Let us build a house where prophets speak
And words are strong and true
Where all God's children dare to seek
To dream God's reign anew
Here the cross shall stand as witness
And as symbol of God's grace
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus

All are welcome

All are welcome

All are welcome in this place

3

Let us build a house where love is found
In water, wine and wheat
A banquet hall on holy ground
Where peace and justice meet
Here the love of God, through Jesus
Is revealed in time and space
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us

All are welcome

All are welcome

All are welcome in this place

4

Let us build a house where hands will reach
Beyond the wood and stone
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach
And live the Word they've known

Here the outcast and the stranger
Bear the image of God's face
Let us bring an end to fear and danger

All are welcome
All are welcome
All are welcome in this place

5
Let us build a house where all are named
Their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed
As words within the Word
Built of tears and cries and laughter
Prayers of faith and songs of grace
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter

All are welcome
All are welcome
All are welcome in this place

Benediction & Blessing: Helen

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: Brian

Acknowledgements:

Image: 'Tears of a Fallen World', Chidez 2014

Acknowledgement of Country: Centre for Ministry Opening Service 2025

Moment of Stillness: adapted Sanctified Art

Confession: adapted Uniting in Worship II

Benediction: adapted Sanctified Art