



23rd March 2025 – Lent 3Yr C

Greeter: **Betty**

Lighting of the candles:

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 third 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: Christo

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.

[Three 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:

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: Now thank we all (TIS 106 i)

1 Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,

in whom the world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

2 O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
Lord, keep us in your grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm
in this world and the next.

3 All praise and thanks to God
who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son
and Spirit now be given:
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore;
who ever was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

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.

Song: Beauty for brokenness (TIS 690)

1. Beauty for brokenness,
hope for despair,
Lord, in the suffering,
this is our prayer.
Bread for the children,
justice, joy, peace,
sunrise to sunset,
your kingdom increase

2. Shelter for fragile lives,
cures for their ills,
work for the craftsmen,
trade for their skills;
land for the dispossessed,
rights for the weak;

voices to plead the cause
of those who can't speak

Chorus:

God of the poor,
friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray;
melt our cold hearts,
let tears fall like rain.
Come change our love
from a spark to a flame

3. Refuge from cruel wars,
havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary,
freedoms to share,
peace to the killing fields,
scorched earth to green;
Christ for the bitterness,
his cross for the pain.

4. Rest for the ravaged earth,
oceans and streams,
plundered and poisoned,
our future our dreams.
Lord, end our madness,
carelessness, greed;
make us content with
the things that we need.

Chorus:

God of the poor,
friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray;
melt our cold hearts,
let tears fall like rain.
Come change our love
from a spark to a flame

5. Lighten our darkness,
breathe on this flame
until your justice burns

brightly again;
until the nations
learn of your ways,
seek your salvation
and bring you their praise.

Chorus:

God of the poor,
friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray;
melt our cold hearts,
let tears fall like rain.
Come change our love
from a spark to a flame

Moment for the young at heart: Marian

Bible Readings: Alison

Introduction to the Hebrew Scripture Reading:

The themes in Isaiah reflect the overall theme of Lent. In some sense, Lent is an invitation to thirst. Those who truly thirst and who truly hunger for God and the ways of God understand this invitation. The invitation, though, is to do more than simply drink from the waters; it is to participate in the work of God. It is a work directed at more than simply the interior life, but a work that begins in the interior and has implications for all of God's world.

Isaiah 55:1-9

Hear, everyone who thirsts;
 come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
 come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread
 and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
 and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
 listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
⁵ Now you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for God has glorified you.
⁶ Seek God while God may be found;
call upon God while God is near;
⁷ let the wicked forsake their way
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that God may have mercy on them,
and to the Lord, for God will abundantly pardon.
⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³ No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶ Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the man working the vineyard, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.’ ”

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection: Rev Joy

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: Ron

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.**

We hear from our children:

Song: The Power of your love

1. Lord I come to you,

let my heart be changed, renewed,
flowing from the grace that I found in you.
And the Lord I've come to know,
the weaknesses I see in me
will be stripped away
by the power of your love.

Chorus:

Hold me close, let your love surround me.
Bring me near, draw me to your side.
And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle,
and I will soar with you,
your spirit leads me on
in the power of your love.

2. Lord unveil my eyes,
let me see you face to face,
the knowledge of your love
as you live in me.
Lord renew my mind,
as your will unfolds in my life
in living every day
by the power of your love.

Chorus

Benediction & Blessing:

This Lent,
May your door stand open to receive Christ.
May you offer him a welcome in your heart.
May you see the riches of simplicity,
the treasures of peace,
and the joy of 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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Confession: Elizabeth Welch / Linda Jones (Let Justice Roll Down)

Words of Assurance: adapted Sanctified Art

Benediction: adapted St Ambrose (The Little Book of Lent)