



30th March 2025 – Lent 4 Yr C

Greeter: Milton

Lighting of the candles:

Meditation Song: He became poor (TIS 721)
(please remain seated)

He became poor that we may be rich,
loving the world and leaving his throne.
King of all kings and Lord of all lords,
flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone.
(Repeat)

Welcome:

Greeting:

On this fourth 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.

[Four 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:

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:

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 wait
Amen

Hymn: Amazing Grace (TIS 129)

1 Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)
that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

2 As grace first taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

3 Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come:
God's grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

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: When I needed a neighbour (TIS 629)

1. When I needed a neighbour, were you there, were you there?
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
were you there?

2. I was hungry and thirsty, were you there, were you there?
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
were you there?

3. When I needed a shelter, were you there, were you there?
When I needed a shelter, were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
were you there?

4. When they put me in prison, were you there, were you there?
When they put me in prison, were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
were you there?

5. Wherever you travel I'll be there, I'll be there,
wherever you travel, I'll be there.
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
I'll be there.

Moment for the young at heart: Phil

Bible Readings: Marie

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know

him in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself,^[e] not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” ³ So he told them this parable:

“There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.” ’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked

what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹ Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'

Hear the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Reflection: Helen Wright

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:

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: 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:

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: Roger

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Acknowledgement of Country: Centre for Ministry Opening Service 2025

Moment of Stillness: adapted Sanctified Art

Call to worship & Opening prayer: Helen Wright

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

Words of Assurance: adapted Sanctified Art

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