



Lent 1 Yr A – 22nd February 2026

**Greeter: Wendy Leader : Roger Abrahams**

***Meditation Hymn: Approach my soul***

**Approach, my soul, the mercy seat,  
Where Jesus answers prayer;  
There humbly fall before His feet,  
For none can perish there. x 2**

***Welcome:***

***Greeting:***

**On this first Sunday of Lent  
May the Lord be with you**

**And also with you**

***Moment of Stillness:***

### ***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 acknowledge that we are on the land of the Gadigal and Wangal people  
and that the Spirit was in the land revealing God to them through law, custom  
and ceremony.

**We honour the wisdom of the Gadigal and Wangal Elders and their  
continuing culture, and pray that we might all work together for  
reconciliation and justice in this nation.**

### ***Call to Worship:***

Listen!  
There is hope to be found here.

Listen!  
God calls you by name here.

Listen!  
There is love that abides here.  
This world is full of chatter,

**So may we do our best to listen.  
God is speaking.  
Let us worship.  
Amen.**

### ***Opening Prayer:***

Holy God,  
Listening is always easier said than done.  
We shuffle into this space and try to quiet our minds, but  
the list of distractions is long.  
We need your help to listen. So  
today we ask that you would  
marinate us in your Word.  
Dust the cobwebs from our ears.  
Stir our souls awake.  
Crack open our hearts to make room for you. We  
want to hear you,  
really hear you, so  
speak to us now.  
With hope we pray,

**Amen**

### ***Hymn: Love Will Be Our Lenten Calling,***

**Love will be our Lenten Calling,  
Love to shake and shatter sin,  
Waking Every Closed, Cold Spirit,  
Stirring new life deep within,  
Till the quickened heart remembers  
What our easter birth can mean.**

**Peace will be our Lenten living  
As we turn for home again,  
Longing for the words of pardon,  
Stripping off old grief and pain,  
Till we stand, restored and joyful,  
With the church on easter day.**

**Truth will be our Lenten learning:  
Hear the crucified one call!  
Shadowed by the Savior's passion,  
Images and idols fall,  
And, in easter's holy splendour,  
God alone is all in all.**

### ***Prayer of Confession:***

Friends, if you are seeking grace, this moment is for you.

If you are seeking growth, this moment is for you.

If you are seeking honesty, this moment is for you.

In the prayer of confession, we admit to ourselves and to God that we do not have it all figured out. And in that vulnerability, we are surrounded by God's grace. So, in this knowledge, let us pray:

Holy God,

Too often we treat your Word like a radio station—something we can tune in and out of when it's convenient. Our minds are full of ads, emails, news updates, and notifications.

In the midst of this clutter, we tend to gravitate toward the voices that think like us—easily ignoring the voices being silenced, easily ignoring your voice.

Forgive us for failing to listen.

Forgive us for getting caught in distractions.

Forgive us for forgetting what your voice sounds like.

Drain the distractions from our minds and help us turn once again toward you.

With earnest hearts we pray

**Amen**

### ***Words of assurance:***

Friends, even when we tune God out, even when we prioritise other voices, even when we do all the talking and fail to listen, we are still held by God.

Nothing could ever separate us from God's love.

Our sins are forgiven.

So with joy in our hearts, let us affirm together:

**I am loved!**

**I am held in grace!**

**I belong to God.**

**Amen.**

**Peace:**

The peace of Christ be always with you

**And also with you.**

*Let's share Christ's peace with one another*

**Hymn: Touch the earth lightly (Shirley Murray)**

Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,  
nourish the life of the world in our care:  
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,  
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

We who endanger, who create hunger,  
agents of death for all creatures that live,  
we who would foster clouds of disaster—  
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Let there be greening, birth from the burning,  
water that blesses and air that is sweet,  
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,  
regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living, God of all loving,  
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,  
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,  
using us gently, and making us one.

**Moment for the young at heart: Jen Richardson**

**Bible Readings: Rick Legge**

**Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

<sup>15</sup> The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of

every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

**3** Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden’?” <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’ ” <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, <sup>5</sup> for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God,<sup>[a]</sup> knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

### **Matthew 4:1-11**

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” <sup>4</sup> But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” <sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ”

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Hear the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Reflection: *Tristan Green***

*Moment of Stillness:*

**Prayers of the People: *Dr Andrew Thornley***

***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:***

**1st March: Welcome Liesl Homes**

**1st March: St David's Day**

**6th March: World day of Prayer**

**7th March: Music Team Meeting**

**8th March: International Women's Day**

***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: Faith hope and love**

**Verse 1**

**Faith hope and love  
This is what we long for  
Faith hope and love  
This is what we need  
Faith hope and love  
This is what we cry for  
Oh teach us how to live**

**Verse 2**

**Trust in the Truth  
This is what we long for  
Trust in the Truth  
This is what we need  
Trust in the truth  
This is what we cry for  
Oh teach us how to live**

**Verse 3**

**Patience within  
This is what we long for  
Patience within  
This is what we need  
Patience within  
This is what we cry for  
Oh teach us how to live**

**Verse 4**

**Freedom for all  
This is what we long for  
Freedom for all  
This is what we need  
Freedom for all  
This is what we cry for**



**Oh teach us how to live**

***Benediction & Blessing:***

As you leave this place, may  
God bless you with seeking.  
Seek out the hungry.  
Seek the weary.  
Seek the good in every person you pass.  
Seek out the hopeful.  
Seek the faithful.  
Seek God in each of us. As you seek  
and as you wonder, may you find  
what you are looking for. In the name  
of our loving God, who is always  
seeking us, go now in peace.

And the blessing of God Almighty;  
Creator, Christ and Spirit  
Be upon you and remain with you always.

**3-fold-Amen**

*Acknowledgements:*

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Preamble to the Uniting Church Constitution*

*Other liturgy: Sanctified Art*