

First Sunday in the Season of Lent

1 March 2020



Image of Kata Tjuta

O flaming Heart,
Unseen and unimagined in this wilderness,
You, You alone are real, and here I've found You.
Here I will love and praise You in a tongueless death,
Until my white devoted bones,
Long bleached and polished by the winds of this Sahara,
Relive at Your command,
Rise and unfold the flowers of their everlasting spring.

—Thomas Merton
from *Dialogues with Silence*

GATHERING

Preparing Our Space and Our Hearts

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer

We Sing “O love how deep, how broad, how high” (TiS 194)

O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
it fills the heart with ecstasy,
that God, the Son of God, should take
our mortal form for mortals' sake!

For us baptized, for us you bore
your holy fast and hungered sore,
for us temptation sharp you knew;
for us the tempter overthrew.

For us you prayed; for us you taught;
for us your daily works you wrought;
by words and signs and actions thus
still seeking not yourself, but us.

For us you rose from death again;
for us you went on high to reign;
for us you sent your Spirit here,
to guide, to strengthen and to cheer.

To you whose boundless love has won
salvation for us through your Son,
to God the Father, glory be
both now and through eternity.

Prayer of Confession and Words of Forgiveness

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
 and put a new and right spirit within me.
 Do not cast me away from your presence,
 and do not take your holy spirit from me.
 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
 and sustain in me a willing spirit. (Psalm 51)

For our incapacity to feel the suffering of others,
Gracious God forgive us.

For the self-righteousness which denies guilt,
 and the self-interest that strangles compassion,
Gracious God forgive us.

For times when we cry “Peace, peace” when there is no peace,
Gracious God forgive us.

For our failings in community, our lack of understanding,
Gracious God forgive us.

For our lack of forgiveness, openness, sensitivity,
Gracious God forgive us.

For the times we are too eager to be better than others,
 when we are too rushed to care,
 when we are too tired to bother,
 when we don't really listen,
 when we are too quick to act from motives other than love,
Gracious God forgive us.

(Adapted from Pietermaritzburg Agency for Christian Social Awareness, South Africa
 in *Bread for Tomorrow* by Janet Morley)

Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Responsive Psalm**Psalm 32**

O tender God, have mercy, for you are for us.
 O living Christ, have mercy, for you will heal us.
 O tender God, have mercy, for you are for us,
 for you are for us.

Words and music: Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan

Blessed are you whose wrongdoings
 have been forgiven,
 whose shame has been forgotten.
 Blessed are you in whom Love Divine
 finds a home,
 and whose spirit radiates truth.

When I acknowledged not my shortcomings,
 I became ill through all my defences,
 And day and night, guilt weighed heavy
 constricting my heart;
 My spirit became dry as desert bones.

Then I admitted my faults to the Most High,
 and I made known my regret;
 I cried out, "Forgive me, O Comforter,
 for those times I have sinned in
 my thoughts, my words, and my deeds;"
 And the Beloved created within me
 a clean and open heart.

(From *Psalms for Praying* by Nan Merrill)

Gospel Reading

Matthew 4:1–11

May your word live in us:
and bear much fruit to your glory.

Reflection on the Word

RESPONDING

Prayers of the People

From the wilderness we cry: *Fill us with your love.*

Offering and Song of Praise

(TiS 768ii)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
 praise God, all creatures here below,
 praise God above, you heavenly host,
 praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

Words: Thomas Ken

Communion Song

“Bread of life, hope of the world”

Refrain:

Bread of life, hope of the world, Jesus Christ, our brother:
 feed us now, give us life, lead us to one another.

We eat this living bread, we drink this saving cup:
 sign of hope in our broken world, source of lasting love.

Hold us in unity, in love for all to see;
 that the world may believe in you, God of all who live.

You are the bread of peace, you are the wine of joy,
 broken now for your people, poured in endless love.

Words and music: Bernadette Farrell

JOURNEYING

"Beloved"

We Sing

1

We know ourselves beloved:
beloved and called to be
now present to a sacred call
and to divinity.

2

We know ourselves beloved:
beloved and called to go
into a wilderness of doubt,
a clearer path to know.

3

We know ourselves beloved:
beloved and called to care;
now called to passion and to love,
a deeper life to dare.

4

We know ourselves beloved:
beloved and called to die;
we're called to face mortality
and drink grief's chalice dry.

5

We know ourselves beloved:
beloved and called to rise;
now called to live a Christ-like life
with grace that God supplies.

Words: Helen Wiltshire

Music: Carlisle

Sung Benediction "May the kindness of our Lord, Jesus"

May the kindness of our Lord, Jesus
And the love of our God
And the friendship, and the unity
of the Spirit be with you.
Be with you.

Words and music: Andrew Dutney

Please gather for morning tea, in the hall after worship

St. Andrews by the Sea Uniting Church

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Lent Event Offering

Today we begin our journey with Lent Event, inspiring us to connect with the lives of Christians around the world to see the incredible ways God is at work.

Ambon, Indonesia, is just 1000 km from Darwin. Torn apart by violence between Christians and Muslims, but now becoming a beacon of hope for peace under the leadership of Uniting Church partners. We will hear more about Uniting-World's work in Ambon in coming weeks.

Visit the Lent Event webpage for information or to sign up to the 40-day challenge. You might see some familiar names there already.

Envelopes are available in the foyer for your special offering or you can donate at the Uniting-World's webpage. All offerings gathered as part of our Holy Week worship will go to Lent Event.

Happy Birthday Doreen & Vida

Doreen Fatchen and Vida Templer, two of our homebound members, are having birthdays in early March. If you would like to post Doreen or Vida a card or give them birthday greetings, please contact the office for further information.

World Day of Prayer

Gather with other Christians to pray for peace and healing in our world. This year's World Day of Prayer service will focus on Zimbabwe and will be held on Friday 6 March at 10:00 am at St Peter's Anglican Church, Torrens Square Glenelg.

Exploring Friendship in Lent

Go deeper with the weekly Gospel reading each Wednesday in Lent from 7:30–9:00 pm **beginning 4th March**. Sandra Schneider's soulful commentary will mingle with Jean Vanier's pastoral voice to provide a rich background to John's narrative. Each gathering will include a brief check-in, exploration of Sunday's reading, and introduction and practice of a prayer form.

Communion During Lent

What better way to nurture our friendship with God and one another than around the communion table. Communion will be served each Sunday during the Season of Lent. We look forward to experiencing worship that includes both Word and Sacrament—a greater fullness of the gifts of grace given to us by Christ.

Christian Mission and Ministry at U City

On Sunday 8 March at 2:00 pm Rev. Andrew Robertson and Rev. Peter McDonald will share the story of a 'past, present and future' experience of Christian mission and ministry at 43 Franklin Street, Adelaide.

For further information or to RSVP contact Uniting Communities on 8205 5123, or email at vickit@unitingcommunities.org by Wednesday March 4.

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Readings for Sunday 8 March 2020
Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

Rostered Duties:

Welcomer:
Chris Croucher

Scripture Reader:
Peta Thomas

Prayers of the People:
Avril Noy

Morning Tea:
Avril Noy and Gary Archer

Birthday Cake—March
Kate Spyker

This Week at St Andrews:

Sunday:
9:30 am Worship
10:30 am Morning tea
6:30 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Monday:

Tuesday:
10:30 am Open Church
11:00 am—1:00 pm Friendship Café
12:00 pm—2:30 pm Community Aid
6:00 pm—7:30 pm Mary's Kitchen

Wednesday:
7:30—9:00 pm Lenten Bible Study

Thursday:
10:30 am Open Church
11:00 am-1:00 pm Friendship Cafe
12:00 pm Community Aid

Friday:
10:30 am Open Church
12:00 pm— 2:30pm Community Aid

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