

Morning Worship – 3rd Sunday before Lent, 5 February 2023

Welcome and Gathering

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **And also with you.**

Lord, we are here to worship you. Would you meet with us through your Spirit, teach us through your Word, show us where we need to change, and give us all we need to serve you in the world. For the glory of your name. Amen.

Prayer of Thanks

Father God, thank you for this new day. Thank you for loving us and being with us today, for being alongside us in everything we do. Thank you for our families and friends and help us to be good friends to those around us. Thank you that you love us so much that you sent your son Jesus for us. **Amen.**

Song: Bless the Lord, O my soul

Our young people and leaders leave us for FLAMES

A time to seek forgiveness:

Invitation and silent prayer

Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful:

We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do.

We love with condition.

We judge and condemn.

We cast the first stone, and keep the logs in our own eyes.

We fear what is different. We confess that it's easier to lock the doors of our community than to receive those who don't look like we look, love like we love, or vote the way we vote.

We have not lived out your call to share in abundant life and unconditional love.

So, we turn to You as the source of our healing.

Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin, and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. Amen.

The mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting, let us be assured of this surpassing grace – in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Alleluia! Amen.**

Song: The Spirit lives to set us free

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 112

(ALL) Praise the Lord! Blessed are those who fear the Lord, who find great delight in his commands.

(LEFT) Their children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

(RIGHT) Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures for ever.

(LEFT) Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, for those who are gracious and compassionate and righteous.

(RIGHT) Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice.

(LEFT) Surely the righteous will never be shaken; they will be remembered for ever.

(RIGHT) They will have no fear of bad news; their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

(LEFT) Their hearts are secure, they will have no fear; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.

(RIGHT) They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor, their righteousness endures for ever; their horn will be lifted high in honour.

(ALL) Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Brief reflection on the Psalm

Song: What grace is mine

First New Testament Reading:

I Corinthians 2.1-12. God's wisdom revealed by the Spirit.

Ending with This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Thoughts on the reading and a moment for personal reflection as our musician plays.

Second New Testament Reading:

Matthew 5:13-20. Salt and light

Ending with This is the Word of the Lord: Thanks be to God.

Talk

Songs: Draw me close to you *and* This is my desire

Our Belief:

We believe in God who created us, who loves us and makes us whole.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's Son, whose death and resurrection is our salvation and our example.

We believe in the Holy Spirit of God who calls us to abundant life. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Including Today's Collect:

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen

Padre nuestro que estás en los cielos Santificado sea tu Nombre Venga tu reino Hágase tu voluntad En la tierra como en el cielo Danos hoy el pan de este día y perdona nuestras deudas como nosotros perdonamos nuestros deudores y no nos dejes caer en la tentación sino que líbranos del malo. Amen.

Notices

Hymn: Longing for light, we wait in darkness

Concluding Prayer and Blessing

**May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the source of all goodness and growth, pour his blessing upon all things created, and upon us his children, that we may use his gifts to his glory and the welfare of all people -
and the blessing ...**