

# WINTER WORSHIP

SUNDAY 21 MARCH 2021

## THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT



**Gathering Music** *(Sung by the music team; the congregation is invited to listen)*

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness,  
And all these things shall be added unto you; Allelu, Alleluia!

Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find,  
Knock and it shall be opened unto you; Allelu, Alleluia!

### Opening

Forty days alone,  
a wilderness of thoughts,  
tempting and inviting thoughts,  
which could so easily have distracted you  
from your task, your mission,  
your vision.  
Yet you emerged, stronger and more attuned  
to all that had to be done,  
despite a time constraint  
that to our eyes would have seemed hopeless.  
We too live in stressful times.  
Demands are made of our time,  
that leave so little  
for the important things of life.  
We are easily distracted  
in the wilderness of our lives,  
by every call to go this way or that,  
to turn stone to bread  
leap from mountains,  
and do all that would keep us from the truth.  
We listen to the voices of this world,  
and ignore the one who endured all this  
and so much more,  
and emerged triumphant,  
that we might not have to suffer so.  
Forgive us, Father,  
when we get distracted from our task.  
Forgive us those times when we try  
to be all things to all people,  
and lose sight of what you've truly called us to do.

## The Confession

*All*     **Forgive those things we have done  
which have caused you sadness,  
and those things we should have done  
that would have brought you joy.  
In both we have failed  
ourselves and you.  
Bring us back to that place  
where our journey began,  
when we said that we would follow  
the way that you first trod.  
Lead us to the Cross  
and meet us there.**

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Song of Prayer:** (*Sung by the music team; the congregation is invited to listen*)

John Sullivan

Holy God  
Holy and mighty  
Holy immortal one  
Have mercy upon us.

## A Prayer for the Evening

You chose a people for your own,  
to lavish love upon,  
raised up prophets, priests, and kings,  
to be the nation through which  
the Messiah would be revealed to the world,  
and through whom your kingdom would come.  
You chose this people gathered here  
to be your children,  
loved and blessed, forgiven  
through the one who knew no sin,  
the King of Glory, whose crown was made of thorns,  
and whose name we raise in worship. **Amen.**

## The Word of God

### Jeremiah 31:31–34

The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. It won't be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant with me even though I was their husband, declares the Lord. No, this is the covenant that I will make with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my Instructions within them and engrave them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. They will no longer need to teach each other to say, "Know the Lord!" because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord; for I will forgive their wrongdoing and never again remember their sins.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People*     **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 119:9–16

How can young people keep their paths pure?  
By guarding them according to what you've said.  
I have sought you with all my heart.  
Don't let me stray from any of your commandments!  
I keep your word close, in my heart,  
so that I won't sin against you.  
You, Lord, are to be blessed!  
Teach me your statutes.  
I will declare out loud  
all the rules you have spoken.  
I rejoice in the content of your laws  
as if I were rejoicing over great wealth.  
I will think about your precepts  
and examine all your paths.  
I will delight in your statutes;  
I will not forget what you have said.

## Hebrews 5:5–10

In the same way Christ also didn't promote himself to become high priest. Instead, it was the one who said to him, You are my Son. Today I have become your Father, as he also says in another place, You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek. During his days on earth, Christ offered prayers and requests with loud cries and tears as his sacrifices to the one who was able to save him from death. He was heard because of his godly devotion. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience from what he suffered. After he had been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for everyone who obeys him. He was appointed by God to be a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People*           **Thanks be to God.**

## Sequence Hymn: *(Sung by the music team; the congregation is invited to listen)*

Brother, let me be your servant,  
Let me be as Christ to you;  
Pray that I may have the grace  
To let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,  
We are brothers on the road;  
We are here to help each other  
Walk the mile and bear the load.

I will weep when you are weeping,  
When you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
Till we've seen this journey through.

Brother, let me be your servant,  
Let me be as Christ to you;  
Pray that I may have the grace  
To let you be my servant, too.

## The Holy Gospel:

*Priest*            The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. (12:20-33)  
*People*            **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Some Greeks were among those who had come up to worship at the festival. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and made a request: "Sir, we want to see Jesus." Philip told Andrew, and Andrew and Philip told Jesus. Jesus replied, "The time has come for the Human One to be glorified. I assure you that unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it can only be a single seed. But if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their lives will lose them, and those who hate their lives in this world will keep them forever. Whoever serves me must follow me. Wherever I am, there my servant will also be. My Father will honor whoever serves me. "Now I am deeply troubled. What should I say? 'Father, save me from this time'? No, for this is the reason I have come to this time. Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard and said, "It's thunder." Others said, "An angel spoke to him." Jesus replied, "This voice wasn't for my benefit but for yours. Now is the time for judgment of this world. Now this world's ruler will be thrown out. When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to me." (He said this to show how he was going to die.)

*Priest*            The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*            **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## Message

The Reverend Cheryl Brainard

## Affirmation of Faith

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.  
You create our world and give us life.  
Your purpose overarches everything we do.  
You have always been with us.  
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,  
good beyond all measure.  
You came to us before we came to you.  
You have revealed and proved  
your love for us in Jesus Christ,  
who lived and died and rose again.  
You are with us now.  
You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.  
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.  
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.  
You are our God. We worship you.**

## Prayers of the People

*Leader*        Lord Jesus Christ,  
*People*        **Be with us, within us, behind us and before us.**

*Leader*        We bind ourselves, O God, today, to the strong name of the Trinity,  
*People*        **And we name you: Three in One, One in Three; and claim our place in your community of love.**

*Leader*        We are embraced, loving God, in the community that is the heart not just of our church, but also  
in the community that is the very heart of who you are,  
*People*        **Three in One; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

*Leader* Within that great love, we are held and treasured. Lord, hear our prayers this evening;

*People* **We pray for our hurting world.**

*Leader* That war-makers will find peace. That the hungry will find food. That refugees will find shelter. That injustice will be answered with all that is right and good.

*People* **We pray for all who suffer.**

*Leader* For those we love dearly. For those we barely know. For those whose suffering, we have ignored. Be present in the healing touch of all hands that help the sick and suffering. And send your Spirit to comfort and protect all who need you.

*People* **We pray for all who struggle.**

*Leader* For those who cannot see a way through broken relationships, difficult financial realities, emotional darkness, and deep, deep loneliness. May we find you even in the most helpless places. And may we, your people, be present also in those places, bringing Good News and hope to all who are longing for the true life that only you can provide.

*People* **We pray for all who are joyful.**

*Leader* We rejoice at the promise of new life, and the goodness of each new day. We celebrate the movement through milestones: births, graduations, new jobs, new relationships; and the hopes that they bring. We remember those moments of blessing in our own lives and we thank you for the opportunity to use our lives to your glory, to live lives that are full and worthy of your calling.

We lift up to you, Lord, the prayers that you've placed on our hearts in our own words at this time...

*We will intentionally PAUSE for the community present to share their requests, thanksgivings, desires, hopes & joys either out loud or silently.*

We bind ourselves, O God, today, to the strong name of the Trinity.

*People* **And we name you: Three in One, One in Three: and claim our place in your community of love.**

*Leader* Lord Jesus Christ

*People* **Be with us, within us, behind us, before us. Amen.**

**The Peace**                    The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

### THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Music at the Offertory:                    (*Sung by the music team; the congregation is invited to listen*)

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
to lay a-side his crown for my soul, for my soul,  
to lay a-side his crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,  
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing.  
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM,  
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,  
while millions join the theme I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
and when from death I'm free I'll sing on.  
And when from death I'm free I'll sing and joyful be,  
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
and through eternity I'll sing on

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All thanks and praise  
are yours at all times and in all places,  
our true and loving God;  
through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word,  
the Wisdom from on high by whom you  
created all things.  
You laid the foundations of the world  
and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb;  
You brought forth all creatures of the earth  
and gave breath to humankind.  
Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing,  
all you create is a sign of hope for our journey;  
And so as the morning stars sing your praises  
we join the heavenly beings and all creation  
as we shout with joy:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth  
are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one  
who comes in the  
name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all,  
your Word has never been silent;  
you called a people to yourself,  
as a light to the nations,  
you delivered them from bondage  
and led them to a land of promise.  
Of your grace, you gave Jesus  
to be human, to share our life,  
to proclaim the coming of your holy reign  
and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.  
Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,  
you have freed us from sin,  
brought us into your life,  
reconciled us to you,  
and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he  
died for us Jesus took bread,  
and when he had given thanks to you,  
he broke it, gave it to his friends and said:  
“Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.”  
After supper Jesus took the cup of wine,  
said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said:  
“Drink this, all of you:  
this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood,  
poured out for you and for all  
for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.”  
And so, remembering all that was done for us:  
the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension,  
longing for Christ’s coming in glory,  
and presenting to you these gifts  
your earth has formed and human  
hands have made,  
we acclaim you, O Christ:

**Dying, you destroyed our death.  
Rising, you restored our life.  
Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us  
and upon these gifts of bread and wine  
that they may be to us  
the Body and Blood of your Christ.  
Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power,  
may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ,  
and in the fullness of time gather us  
with all your people  
into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
we worship you our God and Creator  
in voices of unending praise.

Blessed are you now and for ever. **AMEN.**

**Lord's Prayer** *(Celebrant and People)*

**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 from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We break this bread  
to share in the Body of Christ.  
**We who are many are one body,  
for we all share in the one bread.**

**Music during Eucharist:** *(Sung by the music team; the congregation is invited to listen)*

All who hunger gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.  
Come from wilderness and wand'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.  
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.  
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, never strangers, seeker, be a welcome guest.  
Come from restlessness and roaming. Here, in joy we keep the feast.  
We that once were lost and scattered in communion's love have stood.  
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, sing together, Jesus Christ is living bread.  
Come from loneliness and longing. Here, in peace, we have been fed.  
Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude.  
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

**Post-Communion Prayer** *(Celebrant and People)*

**Loving God,  
we give you thanks  
for restoring us in your image  
and nourishing us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.  
Now send us forth  
a people forgiven, healed, renewed;  
that we may proclaim your love to the world  
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## Night Prayer

Lord,  
It is night.

The night is for stillness.  
Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.  
What has been done has been done;  
What has not been done has not been done;  
Let it be.

The night is dark.  
Let our fears of the darkness of the world  
And in our lives rest in you.

The night is quiet.  
Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,  
All dear to us,  
And all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.  
Let us look expectantly to a new day,  
New joys,  
New possibilities.

In your name we pray. **AMEN**

## Blessing

Life is short, and we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be swift to love. Make haste to be kind, and the blessing of God be with you always. **AMEN.**

## Closing Song

Give thanks with a grateful heart;  
Give thanks to the Holy One;  
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"  
Let the poor say, "I am rich,  
Because of what the Lord has done for us".

## Dismissal



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