

Lent 2B

25th February 2018

The church is fitted with a hearing loop. Hearing aid wearers are advised to sit in the front half of the church and switch their aid to T-setting.

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

ORGAN PRELUDE

The people stand for the entrance of the Bible

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lent calls us to journey, this and every day,
following Jesus as he leads us.

Lent calls us to journey:

**to the place where God meets with us,
where we may know who we really are.**

Lent calls us to worship together,
to tell future generations God's good news.

Lent calls us to practice justice:

to bring God's hope to all people.

Lent calls us to faithful living,
to trust the One who gives us life.

Lent calls each of us to take up our cross:

to trust the One who bears it with us.

Lent calls us to journey with God.

**Let us worship God, who walks with us,
this and every day.**

HYMN

WELCOME and COMMUNITY NEWS

(*wording for passing a sign of peace to immediate neighbours)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God, light in the darkness of our lives,
your presence illuminates the shadows;
Even in the ordinariness of life,
you break in with unrestricted love,

Overturning our cynicism and despair,
with the crystal clearness of compassion.

Christ, light of our world,
Your presence brings sight to those whose vision is impaired;
In the cold and desolate places of our lives
You break in with unquenchable warmth,
Overcoming our careless indifference
With the dynamic passion of commitment.

Spirit of God, radiant source of light,
Your presence rekindles the fading flames of hope;
Into the emptiness and tiredness of our churchiness
You pour your invigorating kindness,
Overwhelming our resistance to change
With the winning smile of reassurance.

God of our Lenten journey,
Lighten our path with your brightness,
That the glow of your presence may sustain us to the end,
Becoming in us a beacon of hope for the world.
Through Jesus Christ our friend and Saviour we pray, Amen.

(Source: Martin Scott, Church of Scotland, adapted)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The days of Lent move inexorably forward,
Drawing us towards the awful reality of the cross;
God's child, taken by force,
Overcoming violence even in the midst of violence,
Calling us to abandon our violence and follow the way of peace.
We confess that too often we resort to verbal violence:
in the words we say to one another in haste and anger;
in the demeaning of friends behind their backs;
in naming others by our stereotypes and prejudices
Christ, who stood silent before unjust accusation,
forgive our quick tongues and ugly words.
Teach us Your grace in speaking with others and about others.
We confess that too often we collude with structural violence:
by maintaining an unjust economic order to our own benefit;
by failing to speak out when discrimination takes place;
by hoarding so much while millions have nothing to call their own
Christ, who challenged structural violence and died as a result of it,
forgive our lethargy in seeking change and accepting injustice
as though it were a normal part of life.
Teach us your passion for fairness and compassion for others first.

A silence is held

God, we listen for Your word of peace: 'I release you'.

With thanks and joy we receive God's forgiving love, Amen.

(Source: Martin Scott, Church of Scotland, adapted)

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God, who sets us on a journey to discover, dream and grow,

Stir our spirit, stretch our minds, grant us vision.

Exploration brings new insights, changes, choices we must face;

Grant us wisdom in choices, grant us courage for the journey. Amen.

FIRST READING

Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16

In this is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 22: 23-31

23praise the Lord, ye that fear him magnify him, all ye of the seed of Jacob, and fear him, all ye seed of Israel; 24he hath not despised, nor abhorred, the low estate of the poor hath not hid his face from him, but when he called unto him he heard him. 25My praise is of thee in the great congregation vows will I perform in the sight of them that fear him 26The poor shall eat, and be satisfied that seek after the Lord shall praise him; your heart shall live for ever. 27All the ends of the world shall remember themselves, and be turned unto the Lord all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before him. 28the kingdom is the Lord's and he is the Governor among the people. 29such as be fat upon earth eaten, and worshipped. 30they that go down into the dust shall kneel before him no man hath quickened his own soul.31seed shall serve him shall be counted unto the Lord for a generation.

Please stand and sing the concluding Gloria

Glory be to the Father, and / to the / Son:

and / to the / Holy Spirit;

**As it was in the beginning, is now and / ever /shall be
world without / end. / A / men**

SECOND READING

Romans 4: 13-25

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the gospel

A reading from the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you, Lord

GOSPEL READING

Mark 8: 31-38

The gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

HYMN

SERMON

THE RESPONSE TO GOD IN WORD AND ACTION

HYMN

During the singing of this hymn our offering will be received.

Remain standing for dedication prayer.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, we bring you all that we have to offer you today - our talents and the time, our priorities and plans, our fulsome and sometimes fragile lives.

Receive and bless what we offer this day. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

God of life and of all things living,
we give thanks for your unbounded love
which gives us hope in the face of death,
courage in the face of our fears,
light in the darkness of despair.

We remember that you welcomed children and blessed them:

so we pray for children in our world

who experience no such welcome:

victims of abusive adults;

pressed into the violence of adult wars;

robbed of childhood by the relentless drive of human hatred and greed;

living with the trauma of violence in schools and communities.

Lord in your mercy/**hear our prayer**

We remember that you were moved to tears by the needs of others:

so we pray for victims of injustice and prejudice,

those taunted, despised or slandered simply because of the colour of their skin,

their sexuality, their social standing or simply their outward appearance,

those robbed of dignity by an unwillingness to celebrate difference,

those who experience bullying in word and deed, in person and on social media.

Lord in our mercy/**hear our prayer**

We remember that you restored to health those who were sick:

so we pray for loved ones who are ill at this time;

those in pain; those without hope of recovery;

those distressed in mind;

those held prisoner by unseen chains of hopelessness;

those who grieve and cannot let go,

robbed of peace and longing for Your presence.

Lord in our mercy/**hear our prayer**

We pray for ourselves, and the concerns we have. *A silence is kept*

We offer our prayers, and our lives, in service to you, O God,

trusting in the love you have shown us in Jesus, who taught us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(printed inside cover of hymn book)*

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

HYMN

BENEDICTION

May Christ Jesus be before us, behind us and beside us. **Amen**

May the Spirit guide and guard us as we go. **Amen**

May the great Creator expand and enhance all that we can do. **Amen**

You are invited to be seated for the playing of the organ postlude, or to leave at this point without disturbing those who wish to listen.

POSTLUDE

Please stand as the Bible is taken from the church

Presiding Minister
Scripture Reader
Organist

Sandy Boyce
Peter Kelsall

The Choir of Pilgrim Church

***Please join us for tea or coffee and fellowship in the Lounge
after the service.***

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