**Lent 3 23 March 2014**

 **(19 March 2017)**

*The church is fitted with a hearing loop which covers the body of the church.*

*Hearing aid wearers are advised to 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
**We are gathered by a Love so resilient that it will not cease**
**until all are in their place.**
We are found by a Love so persistent that it is not complete
**until all are in their place.**
That searching Love is God**.** God meets us here in this place.
**We find ourselves in the company of God.**

**In God, we live and move and have our being.**
Let us live as if faith, hope, and love were still alive, as indeed they are!

For we are not alone. is with us. **Thanks be to God!**

HYMN 96 Jesu, lover of my soul

GREETING AND WELCOME

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. And also with you.

INTRODUCTION TO ‘A DESTINY TOGETHER’

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(we stand and say together)*

We *say* God created the universe, and the world we live in,
and every living thing on this earth.

We *believe* the Creation shows us the power and presence of God,
and makes us want to praise and give thanks to God,
and take good care of the earth God has made.

We *are full of joy* that across the world different peoples have their own culture and language,
and that in God we are all united together as one.

We *say* God is Spirit, breath of life,
who is always working to bring people to life in God.

We *believe* the Spirit has been alive and active in every race and culture,

preparing hearts and minds for the good news:
the good news of God’s love and grace that Jesus Christ revealed.

We *are full of joy* that from the beginning the Spirit was alive and active,

revealing God through the law, custom and ceremony
of the First Peoples of this ancient land.

We *say* Jesus is Saviour and Lord, and that he began the church
and prayed that the church might be together as one.

We *believe* that in the risen Jesus we are all brothers and sisters in the one great family of God,
and that God calls us to live in faith, hope and love.

We *are full of joy* that we can learn, grow and serve together as a pilgrim people on the way to God’s promised end, the reconciliation of all creation in Jesus Christ.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION
Merciful God, we, the Second Peoples of this land, acknowledge with sorrow, the injustice and abuse that has so often marked the treatment of the First Peoples of this land. We acknowledge with sorrow the way in which their land was taken from them and their language, culture and spirituality despised and suppressed. We acknowledge with sorrow the way in which the Christian church was so often not only complicit in this process but actively involved in it. We acknowledge with sorrow that in our time the injustice and abuse has continued.

*Let us reflect in silence on the times when:*
*we have failed to care when we should have been outraged;*
*we have been apathetic when we should have been more active;*
*we have been silent when we should have spoken out;*
*we have lifted our hands to shut out sorrow, suffering and need;*
*we have covered our ears to cries of help;*
*we have hidden our hands when we could have reached out.*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God is in all peoples; all people are created in the image of God.
**Forgive us, O God, for those things we have done, and those things we have left undone. By your Spirit transform our minds and hearts and strengthen us to love and live through Jesus Christ. Amen**.

**THE SERVICE OF THE WORD**

ANTHEM I saw water

 Mode VIII accompaniment by John Scott b. 1956

*The children will leave at this time for special activities in the Lounge.*

*All are welcome.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
Come upon us now, O Holy Spirit, and give us holy thoughts which are translated into prayer; holy prayers which are translated into love; and holy love which is translated into life. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Exodus 17 1-7

In this is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**.

## PSALM 95

1come, let us sing unto the Lord
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.
2us come before his presence with thanksgiving
shew ourselves glad in him with psalms.
3the Lord is a great Goda great King above all gods.
4his hand are all the corners of the earth
the strength of the hills is his also.
5sea is his, and he made ithis hands prepared the dry land.
6come, let us worship and fall downand kneel before the Lord our Maker.
7he is the Lord our God
we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.
8-day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts
in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness;
9your fathers tempted meme, and saw my works.
10years long was I grieved with this generation, and said
is a people that do err in their hearts, for they have not known my ways;
11whom I sware in my wraththey should not enter into my rest.

*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 5: 1-11

In this is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM Lord, for thy tender mercy’s sake R.Farrant c.1530-1580

 or J. Hilton c. 1560-1608

*Please stand for the gospel*

A reading from the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John

**Glory to you, Lord**

GOSPEL READING John 4: 5-42

The gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

HYMN 469 I heard the voice of Jesus say

Sermon

**THE RESPONSE TO GOD IN WORD AND ACTION**

Hymn 435 Glorious things of thee are spoken

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

*Remain standing for the dedication prayer.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION
We give thanks for all we have received, O God: gifts of love and time, money and abilities. We return a portion of these gifts, that they may be used in and through the mission and ministry of this church. Bless those who receive them, just as we are blessed in the act of sharing them. **Amen.**

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

God of love, you are the creator of this land and all good things. We acknowledge the pain and shame of our history and the suffering of our peoples and we ask your forgiveness. We thank you for the survival of indigenous cultures. Our hope is in you because you gave your son Jesus to reconcile the world to you. We pray for your strength and grace to forgive, accept and love one another as you love us and forgive and accept us in the sacrifice of your Son.
*We offer our silent prayers.*

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In your love and mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Give us the courage to accept the realities of our history so that we may build a better future for our nation. Teach us to respect all cultures. Teach us to care for our land and waters. Help us to share justly the resources of this land. Help us to bring about spiritual and social change to improve the quality of life for all groups in our communities, especially the disadvantaged. Help our young people to find true dignity and self-esteem by your Spirit. May your power and love be the foundations on which we build our families, our communities and our nation. © NATSIEC *We offer our silent prayers*

In your love and mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Hear the voices of those who feel all hope is lost:

 "I no longer feel at home in my world.

 I am lost because I have lost everything.

 The war has deprived me of home, land, family and friends."

We pray for those caught up on the rolling tides of terrorism, warfare, famine, tragedy, or natural disaster. *We offer our silent prayers*

In your love and mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Hear the voices of the despairing and sorrowing:
 "I do not know what I should or can do.

 I feel lost because I have lost all sense of direction in my life.

 My illness has robbed me of self-determination."

We pray for those whose journey of life is passing through a fog of illness or sorrow. *We offer our silent prayers.*

In your love and mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Hear the voices of those living with pain and hurt
 “Life has changed and the future is uncertain.
 Pain is a constant companion, a burden I must bear”.

We pray for ourselves, and those we love, for the hurts that life brings, for uncertainty about the future, and despair that lingers on the edges. Guide us onwards, calling us by name.
*We offer our silent prayers.*

In your love and mercy

**hear our prayer.**

We offer these prayers in the name of 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 455 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer

WORDS OF MISSION AND BENEDICTION

Friends, reaffirmed in your relationship with God, claim the hope that is yours - in body, soul and spirit. Enter into this new week awake to possibilities for helping others to find places of belonging, needed spaces of healing and inclusion, and sacred places of prayer and contemplation.
Live out the covenant into which we, the First and Second Peoples of this land, have entered with one another. Rejoice in the richness of our diverse cultures and learn from them. Celebrate and demonstrate the unity we share in Jesus our Lord.
And as you go, may the searching love of God, the inclusive graces of Christ, and the unbridled joy of the Holy Spirit, fill us, inspire us, and direct us onwards, now and always. **Amen.**

***You are invited to be seated for the playing of the postlude,***

***or to leave at this point without disturbing those who wish to listen.***

POSTLUDE Herzlich thut mich verlangen

 Johannes Brahms 1833-1897

*Please stand as the Bible is taken from the church.*

Presiding Minister Rev Sandy Boyce

Scripture Reader Sue Johnson

Organist & Choir Director Peter Kelsall

Organ Scholar Alexander Paine

 The Choir of Pilgrim Church

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The fool has said in his heart ‘There is no God’:

have all become vile and abominable in their doings,

is not one that does good.

The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men:

see if there were any who would act wisely and seek after God.

But they have all turned out of the way,

have all alike become corrupt:

is none that does good, no not one.

Are all the evildoers devoid of understanding

eat up my people as men eat bread,

do not pray to the Lord?

They shall be struck with terror:

God is with the company of the righteous.

Though they frustrate the poor man in his hopes:

the Lord is his refuge

O that deliverance for Israel might come forth from Zion:

the Lord turns again the fortunes of his people

then shall Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad.