**Lent 3 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

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.**

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION  
O God, we come trusting you with our lives, and with the assurance that in all the moments of our lives, you offer forgiveness and grace, and touch us with healing power. We come knowing you welcome us as we are: persons who know both good and bad influences, effects, and choices. We come knowing our human frailty as well as strength. *A silence is kept.*

*Repentance - conversion of the heart - does not mean being filled and tormented by guilt. Instead, it means being ready to admit our responsibility for our actions and our need for forgiveness, and having a firm desire to change our life. Repentance means, above all, a constant, patient, growing in love. It means our willingness to open ourselves to the work of the Spirit in us. (Irma Zaleski The Way of Repentance 1999)*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE  
We know that God calls us into the ways of wholeness and healing and shows us another way to live.

**We open ourselves to God’s forgiveness. Thanks be to God!**

**THE SERVICE OF THE WORD**

ANTHEM

*The children come forward for a commissioning for Amelia, Daniel and Mary-Anne Roberts* (Kids Camp Out) *The children will then 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

*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

Sermon

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

Hymn 435

# *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

Loving God, thank you for steadfast love that does not falter and is not far from those who feel alone.

We offer our prayers for others.

We pray for our nation with all its diversity, opportunities and challenges. 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. *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 the challenges to our health, 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.   
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

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

Presiding Minister Rev Sandy Boyce

Scripture Reader

Organist & Choir Director Peter Kelsall

The Choir of Pilgrim Church

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