10.00am Combined Service

21st March, 2021

Lent 5B, COCU23B

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

*Please stand as the Bible and symbols of our life as a congregation are brought to the table.*

CALL TO WORSHIP and LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

God of boundless mercy and unfailing love,

Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,

as part of the body of Christ around the world,

as people called to live for you

in the families and communities and networks

in which you have placed us,

**we gather together to worship you,   
to proclaim your goodness   
and to offer our thanks and praise.**

Meet us here, we pray:   
**where hopes are renewed**

**Where fresh words are heard**

**And deep wisdom revealed.**

Join our hearts in wholehearted worship.  
**Where faith is restored**

**Where peace is revived**

**And love is refreshed.**

Breathe your word into our souls:

**engrave your covenant of grace**

**into our minds and hearts.**

Cultivate your character in us,

inspire and shape us, unite and encourage us,

that our lives may reflect your love and justice to the world.

**God above us, God beside us, God within us**

**May we be open to see and hear your grace revealed**

**As we worship you this day. Amen.**

*(Adapted from prayers by Craig Mitchell and Steve Aisthorpe, Church of Scotland Mission Development Worker)*

HYMN: Jesus, lover of my soul  
Jesus, lover of my soul,

Let me to Thy bosom fly,

While the nearer waters roll,

While the tempest still is high!

Hide me, O my Saviour, hide,

Till the storm of life be past;

Safe into the haven guide,

Oh, receive my soul at last!

Other refuge have I none,

Hangs my helpless soul on Thee;

Leave, ah! leave me not alone,

Still support and comfort me!

All my trust on Thee is stayed,

All my help from Thee I bring;

Cover my defenseless head

With the shadow of Thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want;

More than all in Thee I find:

Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,

Heal the sick, and lead the blind.

Just and holy is Thy name;

I am all unrighteousness:

False and full of sin I am;

Thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found,

Grace to cover all my sin;

Let the healing streams abound,

Make and keep me pure within.

Thou of life the fountain art

Freely let me take of Thee:

Spring Thou up within my heart,

Rise to all eternity!

*(Words: Charles Wesley 1707-1788; Tune: Aberystwyth; Joseph Parry 1841-1903)*

WELCOME

*A COVID safe sign of peace may be offered to those immediately around you.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY  
We acknowledge the Kaurna people,   
the first inhabitants of this place from time beyond remembering.

**We acknowledge that through this land,   
God nurtured and sustained the First Peoples of this country,   
the Aboriginal and Islander peoples.**

We honour them for their custodianship of the land   
on which we gather today, land that has never been ceded.

**We acknowledge with gratitude the way the First Peoples   
have taught Second Peoples about living in this land.**

We acknowledge that the First Peoples

had already encountered the Creator God

before the arrival of the colonisers;

the Spirit was already in the land,

revealing God to the people through law, custom and ceremony.

**We acknowledge the theological arrogance of colonialism, then and now.**

We acknowledge that the same love and grace

that was finally and fully revealed in Jesus Christ

sustained the First Peoples and gave them particular insights into God’s ways**;**

**and so we rejoice in the reconciling purposes of God**

**found in the good news about Jesus Christ.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lent’s days are winding down, Merciful God,

and we are no closer to having contrite hearts.

Our small complaints still loom large,

and we don’t hurry to show mercy, or rush to be kind.

Old habits are still alluring,

and we resist the emptiness of the desert that reveals you –

the places where you make yourself known to us,

where you wait in the quiet for us to be ready, still feel alien.

Yet, Loving God, we come to you,

trying to lose our lives for the life you offer,

seeking the wisdom of our brother Jesus,

hoping to be blown open by the Spirit.

 Bring us fully into your Lenten gifts, we pray,

and accept the Lenten gifts we offer to you. *(Rev. Mary Austin)*

*A time for quiet reflection*

KYRIE   
T.L.deVictoria 1548-1611

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God, present with us always.   
Create clean hearts in us.

**Renew right spirits within us.**

Shelter us within your presence.

Restore to us the joy of our salvation.

**Sustain us by your Holy Spirit.**

Blazing, whirling, sacred God,

**inhabit and transform our stories. Amen**. *(Joanna Harader)*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, Scripture tells us that your word is written on our hearts, but we struggle to hear it. Is it possible that we have covered up your words with our own self-narratives? Is it possible that we have erased your truth to write our own? Is it possible that we have forgotten your words entirely?

Take us back to the beginning. Remove the self-talk that distracts. Clear away the cobwebs of doubt. Show us how to look inside ourselves for your truth, and then write on our hearts once more. We are listening. We are hopeful. We are here. Speak now. Amen. *(From A Sanctified Art Lent Resource )*

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt - a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

PSALM 51:1-12

Have mercy on me, O God,   
**according to your steadfast love;**according to your abundant mercy   
**blot out my wrongdoings.**

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,   
**and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my wrongdoings,   
**and my sin is ever before me.**

Against you, you alone, have I sinned,   
and done what is evil in your sight,   
so that you are justified in your sentence   
and blameless when you pass judgment.

Indeed, I was born guilty,   
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

**You desire truth in the inward being;   
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;   
**wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

Let me hear joy and gladness;   
**let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,   
and put a new and right spirit within me.**

Do not cast me away from your presence,   
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

ANTHEM Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake

John Hilton 1565-1609 or Richard Farrant 1530-1580

A reading from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ accoring to John.   
**Glory to you, Lord.**

GOSPEL READING: John 12:20-33  
Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say - ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. 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 it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

SONG: (9.30am)

SERMON

SONG: (9.30am)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION as in 2019 service

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD as in 2019 service

LORD’S PRAYER as in 2019 service

HYMN: CP430 Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go

add words  
Words: Charles Wesley 1707-1788; Tune: Song 34; Melody and Bass by Orlando Gibbons 1583-1625

BENEDICTION

May God our Creator renew in us the creative Spirit

that brings healing and life to all creation.

May Jesus the Christ, sustain us in boundless grace and love

May the Holy Spirit fill us with courage to be bearers of God’s hope in the world,

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

POSTLUDE Wo soll ich fliehen hin (Where shall I flee) J.S.Bach 21/3/1685 - 28/7/1750