



SUNDAY
MARCH

15

2026



LENT 4

*At any time in the service when we invite you to stand
you are welcome to remain seated if you need to.*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

**Such perfect love my shepherd shows,
whose goodness fails me never,
whose hand all things I need bestows
and watches me forever.**

**Where streams of living water flow,
my loving shepherd leads me,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food from heaven feeds me.**

**I do not fear death's shadowed vale
when you are here beside me;
your rod and staff and strength
prevail to comfort and to guide me.**

**You spread a table in my sight,
your gifts of grace bestowing,
and from your chalice I delight
to taste your mercy flowing.**

**And so through all the length of days,
your goodness fails be never;
good shepherd, may I sing your praise
within your house forever.**

*Words: Psalm 23; para. Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), edited
Tune: Dominus Regit Me, John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876), TIS 145*

WELCOME

Priest:

Grace to you and peace from God our Creator,
the love at our beginning and without end,
in our midst and with us.

God is with us, here we find new life.

Liturgist:

We gather as a community of faith to make our Lenten journey.
May God be with us in our letting go and in our living with hope.

**May our minds be open; may our hands be strong;
may our hearts be gentle; may our spirits sing. Amen.**

Please be seated.

RECONCILIATION

“Put away your former way of life,
be renewed in the spirit, and clothe yourself with a new self,
created according to the likeness of God.”

Ephesians 4:22-24

KYRIE

Kyrie (from Little Organ Mass)

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

**Loving God,
you know the things that tempt us
and the things that give us life.
We confess that we have denied your generosity
and relied on our own cleverness.**

**Have mercy on us, we pray:
cover us with your grace,
feed us with the bread of life,
and re-create us in your image. Amen.**

Priest:

In our brokenness and in our humanness, God forgives us.

**In Christ we are set free.
In Christ we are enough.**

SENTENCE AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

In his hand are the depths of the earth:
I am the light of the world.

John 9:5

**God our light in a murky world,
you do not see as we do.
Be our guide when we are divided,
unsure what to believe or whom to follow.
Cleanse us with living water
that we may see you in our midst,
be empowered to speak
and willing to proclaim your presence here.
With Jesus we pray.
Amen.¹**

PSALM 23

Chant: Matthew Howes

The Lord is my shepherd, therefore can I lack nothing.

You Lord make me lie down in green pastures
and lead me beside the waters of peace.

You revive my spirit and guide me in right pathways for your name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil for you are with me,
your rod and your staff are my comfort.

You spread a table for me in the sight of my enemies,
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is overflowing.
Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

¹ *Harrison and McAlpine, adapted*

FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of Samuel.

1 Samuel 16:1-13

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

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

**Eternal light, shine in my heart;
eternal hope, lift up my eyes;
eternal power, be my support;
eternal wisdom, make me wise.**

**Eternal life, raise me from death;
eternal brightness, help me see;
eternal Spirit, give me breath;
eternal Saviour, come to me;**

**until by your most costly grace,
invited by your holy word,
at last I come before your face
to know you, my eternal God.**

*Words: Christopher Martin Idle
Tune: Gonfalon Royal, Percy Carter Buck (1871-1947). TIS 332*

THE GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of Christ according to John, chapter nine, beginning at verse one.



Be a lamp to my feet.

John 9:1-41

This is the Gospel of Christ.



Be a light for my path.

SERMON

SILENCE

ANTHEM

The Spirit of the Lord

Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Liturgist: Let us pray for those far and near, people and places, powerful and powerless, all for whom we are concerned.

THE PEACE

Please stand for the Greeting of Peace.

Blessed be Christ the Prince of Peace
who breaks down the walls that divide.

Kia tau tonu te rangimarie o te ariki ki a koutou
A ki a koe ano hoki.

Please turn and greet those around you with peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN *

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church
gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word indeed has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts...

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts...

Longing for shelter, people are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts...

Words: Bernadette Farrell, adapted. Tune: Christ, be our light, Bernadette Farrell

* During this hymn there is a collection to support St Matthew's.
For electronic giving options:

1. to make a fast one-off, or ongoing, donation to St Matthew-in-the-City text **stmatthew** to **818**, or **scan this QR code**:
2. use the Tap-n-Go terminal on top of the donation box.



THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

No one comes as a stranger to this holy table.
All of us are honoured and expected guests.
Each of us is invited to come as we are,
holding these humble offerings of bread and wine,
the food and drink of ordinary life
made with human hands
from the gifts which lie in God's creation. ²

Blessed be God forever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Cantor *All*



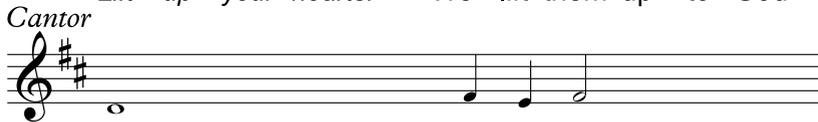
God meets us here. God's Spir-it is with us.

Cantor *All*



Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to God.

Cantor



Let us give thanks to the Ho - ly One.

All



It is right to offer thanks and praise.

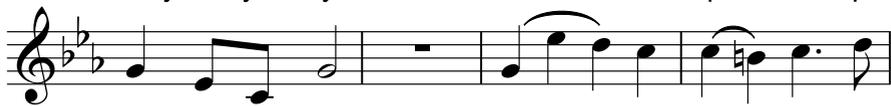
² Dorothy Mc Rae-McMahon "Liturgies for High Days" p.122

Holy One, in this dry and weary land
we give you thanks and praise.
You provide for us in our need;
you set a table for us in the wilderness.

Even when we despair and complain against you,
you feed us with bread from heaven.
Even when we quarrel and question your grace,
you give us water from a stone.
How can we keep silent?
Even dry bones in the valley of death
stand to sing your praise:



Holy, holy, holy is the Love called God, the sparks of hope.



Blaze, jus-tice blaze. Blest is Je - sus who



lit up our world, who lit up our world. Ho-san - na, ho-



san - na, ho - san - na to the low-est and the least.

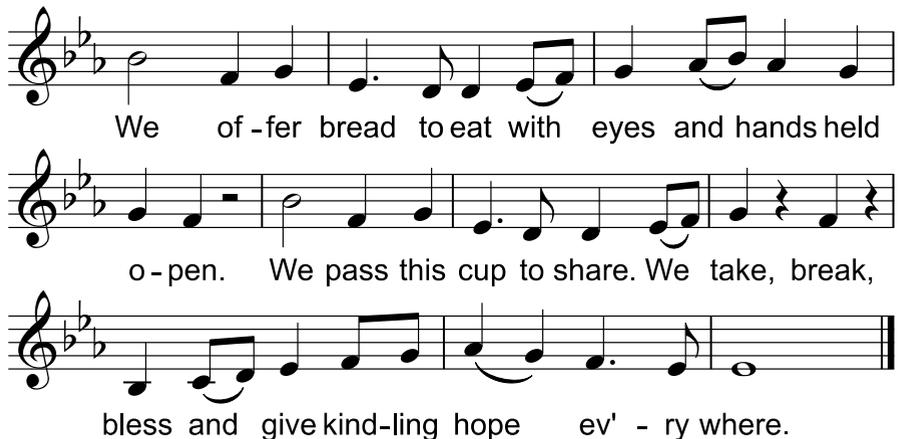
We give you thanks and praise for Jesus,
our way in the wilderness,
our companion in the desert.
Who knows our hunger and thirst;
gives us the bread of life to eat
and living water to drink.
Who leads us beside still water
and prepares this table for us,
even in the presence of our enemies.

On the night that Jesus was betrayed,
he gathered with his friends
for a meal that tasted of freedom.

Calling them to his table,
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
'This is my body, which is given for you.
Do this to remember me.'

In the same way after supper, he took the cup of wine, saying:
'This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me.'

Now pour out your Holy Spirit upon this bread, this wine,
this dry and weary land.
By the power of your Spirit,
breathe life into our dust and hope into our bones.



We offer bread to eat with eyes and hands held
open. We pass this cup to share. We take, break,
bless and give kind-ling hope ev' - ry where.

As we receive this bread and wine,
make us one in the body of Christ.
Let us live to show your love to all,
until our wilderness wandering is over,
and we gather around your feasting table.

Amen.

Please be seated.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Kua akona nei tātou e to tātou Ariki, ka inoi tātou:

E tō mātou Matua i te rangi,

kia tapu tōu Ingoa.

Kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga.

Kia meatia tāu e pai ai ki runga ki te whenua,

kia rite anō ki tō te rangi.

Hōmai ki a mātou āianeī

he taro mā mātou mō tēnei rā.

Murua ō mātou hara,

me mātou hoki e muru nei,

i ō te hunga e hara ana ki a mātou.

Aua hoki mātou e kawea kia whakawaia;

engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino:

Nōu hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha, me te korōria,

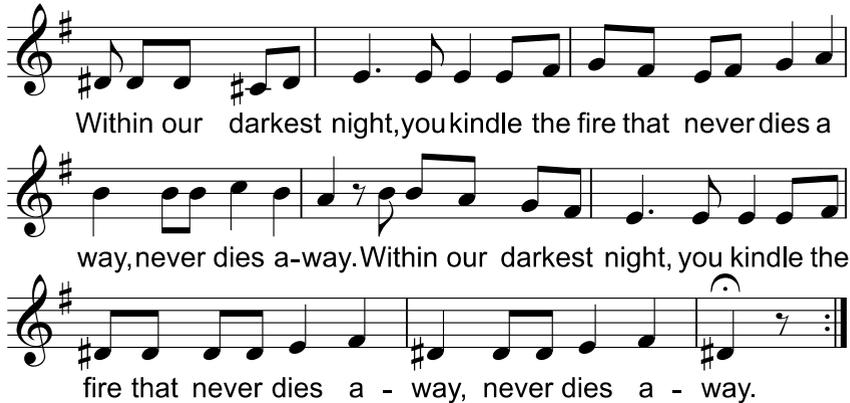
Āke, ake, ake. Āmine.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the hope of Christ.

**We who are many are one body,
for we all share the one bread.**

We sing three times Taize " Within our darkest night":



Within our darkest night, you kindle the fire that never dies a way, never dies a-way. Within our darkest night, you kindle the fire that never dies a - way, never dies a - way.

THE INVITATION

Haere mai e te kahui a te Atua,
tangohia enei kai rangatira a te Karaiti.

Come, bringing your varied faiths and backgrounds,
for all are welcome to share in this act of communion.

*All are welcome to come and receive the bread and wine;
there are gluten free wafers, just ask the serving priest.*

*There is a chalice for dipping -
simply hold the bread in front of you to signify your choice.*

If you do not wish to take communion you may come forward for a blessing.

*If the stairs are a barrier please sit in the front pews
and communion will be brought to you.*

Te Taro o te Ora. The bread of life.

Te Kapu o te Ora. The cup of salvation.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

O Jesu Christ, meins lebens licht, BWV 118

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Oculi omnium

Charles Wood (1866-1926)

Be thou my vision

Bob Chilcott

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Living God,

when we are afraid, walk beside us.

When we are empty, restore us.

When we lack purpose, give us strength.

For you meet us in the wilderness

and, with Christ, you bring us home. Amen. ³

BLESSING

NOTICES

³ *Jenny Blood (1932-2022)*

FINAL HYMN

**Wake, now my senses, and hear the earth call;
feel the deep power of being in all;
keep, with the web of creation your vow,
giving, receiving as love shows us how.**

**Wake, now my reason, reach out to the new,
join with each pilgrim who quests for the true;
honour the beauty and wisdom of time;
suffer your limit, and praise the sublime.**

**Wake, now compassion, give heed to the cry;
voices of suffering fill the wide sky;
take as your neighbour both stranger and friend,
praying and striving their hardship to end.**

**Wake, now my conscience, with justice your guide;
join with all people whose rights are denied;
take not for granted a privileged place;
God's love embraces the whole human race.**

**Wake, now my vision of ministry clear;
brighten my pathway with radiance here;
mingle my calling with all who will share;
work toward a planet transformed by our care.**

*Words: T. J. S. Mikelson
Tune: Slane (1), Irish traditional melody, harm. David Evans (1874-1948). TiS 547*

Deacon from the rear of the Church.

Go now to live the gospel, go in peace.

Amen. We go to serve in love.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

O Mensch, bewein dein Sünde groß, BWV 622

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

MUSIC NOTES

Elgar's stirring anthem *The Spirit of the Lord* is the prologue to his oratorio *The Apostles*, which tells the story of the disciples of Jesus and their reactions to the extraordinary events they witness on the first Pentecost through the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

O Jesu Christ, mein Lebens Licht by J.S. Bach is a motet often overlooked among his sacred works. Although Bach labeled it "motetto," it was mistakenly included with his cantatas in the old Bach-Gesellschaft edition, likely because of its instrumental accompaniment. It was later correctly placed among the motets in the *Neue Bach Ausgabe*, though it is still frequently omitted from recordings of Bach's other six motets. Bach wrote the piece in 1736 or 1737 for a funeral service in Leipzig. It was originally scored for an outdoor ensemble: two litui (curved funeral trumpets), cornetto, and three trombones - suggesting a processional performance. Bach's manuscript includes only one stanza of the hymn text, though the original hymn by Behm contains fourteen more. About ten years later, Bach adapted the work for indoor performance, adding woodwinds and reassigning the brass parts to strings and continuo. The chorale melody comes from the 1625 Leipzig hymnal *As hymnodus sacer*. Later, Mendelssohn used the melody in his oratorio *St Paul*, in the form commonly known today as *Breslau*.

Bob Chilcott was for many years a member of the King's Singers, before pursuing a full-time career as a composer and arranger. This heartfelt setting of the familiar hymn "Be thou my vision" is built upon a haunting melody of folk-like simplicity, underpinned throughout by a lyrical accompaniment.

*We invite you to **keep** this copy of the Service and take it home with you to share with another member of your family, or with a friend **OR put in a recycling bin provided at the back of the church.***

Music for Liturgical responses is by Michael CW Bell

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