

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 19, 2023

The Tree of Life

Welcoming and Announcements

Centring Music: Prelude on 'St Columba'
(My Shepherd Will Supply Your Need)
Richard H. Haan, based on the traditional Irish melody

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Opening Hymn: **Come and Find the Quiet Centre**
(Voices United 374)
Words: Shirley Erena Murray, alt. 1989
Music: attrib. Benjamin Franklin White 1844; harm. Ronald A. Nelson 1978
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Harmony © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship.
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- 1 Come and find the quiet centre
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.
- 2 Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, face to face,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.

- 3 In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!

Opening Prayer

We come to you, O God, our River of Life:
May we drink deeply and receive your grace.

We come to you, O God, our Rock of Ages:
May we stand in trust and receive your strength.

We come to you, O God, our Light of Compassion:
May we open our hearts and receive your healing love.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

A Time to Wonder: PIE Day 2023
A message from Moderator Carmen Landsdowne

Choir Anthem: Thy Will Be Done

Joyce Elaine Eilers

Psalm 23 - The Lord's My Shepherd (Voices United 747)
Words: Scottish Psalter 1650; Music: Jessie Seymour Irvine 1872

- 1 The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;
he makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me,
the quiet waters by.
- 2 My soul he doth restore again;
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
even for his own name's sake.

3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill;
for thou art with me; and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

4 My table thou has furnished
in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.

5 Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me,
and in God's house for evermore
my dwelling-place shall be.

Scripture Readings

The Epistle: Ephesians 5:8-14

The Gospel: John 9:1-41

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: Jesus Christ Is Waiting (Voices United 117)

Words: John Bell, 1984

Music: French carol, 15th century; harm. The Iona Community 1984

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1 Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets;
no one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too.
Make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.

2 Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets,
where injustice spirals and real hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too.
In the Kingdom's causes let me rage with you.

3 Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets;
curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too.
Let my care be active, healing just like you.

4 Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets,
where each sign of hatred he, with love, defeats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I should triumph too.
On suspicion's graveyard let me dance with you.

5 Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets,
'Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet.'
Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few.
Walk one step before me; I will follow you.

Invitation to Offering

Offering Prayer

On my own

what I have to give

doesn't amount to much

in the light of all you have given to me

and in the face of so much need.

Put together as a congregation,

what we offer you here in love

becomes more,

not simply added together,

but somehow multiplied in its usefulness.

We ask you to bless our gifts

that there is enough for all.

Amen

Choral Response: What Can I Do? (More Voices 191)

Words and Music: Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy; arr. Alan C. Whitmore, 2005

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What can I do?
What can I bring?
What can I say?
What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy.
I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love.
I'll do my share.

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

The LORD upholds all those who fall

and lifts up all who are bowed down. (Psalm 145:14)

God of love
hear the cry of those who yearn for love;
fractured families, broken homes
neglected, unwanted, alone.
God of love
hear our prayer

God of justice
hear the cry of those who yearn for justice;
persecuted and oppressed,
exploited, ill-treated, broken.
God of justice
hear our prayer

God of peace
hear the cry of those who yearn for peace;
in battle zones and broken states,
frightened, fearful, anxious
God of peace
hear our prayer

God of healing
hear the cry of those who yearn for healing;
physical and spiritual
hurting, weakened, depressed
God of healing
hear our prayer

God of mercy
Hear the cry of those who yearn for mercy;
convicted, in need of your Grace,
contrite, humble, bowed down,
God of mercy
hear our prayer

***I love the LORD, for he heard my voice;
he heard my cry for mercy.
Because he turned his ear to me,
I will call on him as long as I live. (Psalm 116:1, 2)***

May you know
The peace of God
The love of God
The justice of God
The healing and mercy of God
This day and all days
Amen

Parting Hymn: Open My Eyes, That I May See
(Voices United 371)

Words: Clara H. Scott 1895; Music: Clara H. Scott 1895

- 1 Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!
- 2 Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!
- 3 Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Blessing

Benediction: Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery
(Voices United 121)

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Give us eyes to see you clearly,
make us children of your light,
give us hearts to live more nearly
as your gospel shining bright,
As your gospel shining bright.

Four candles of Lent are extinguished.

Postlude: Like a River Glorious, 'Wye Valley'

James Mountain, Arranged by Bob Walters

*Please remain seated for a Special Congregational Meeting and
then join us in the hall for Fellowship Time.*

Worship Leaders – Rev. Wilda Cottam and Pastor Nancy Walker

Music Leader - Sharon Prindle-Collins

Welcoming – Stephen Godfrey

Scripture Reader – Ruthe Tiessen

Offering Invitation and Prayer – Clare Walker

Greeters – Mary Jane Apcar and Donna Loglisci

Spirit Kids Program – Nancy Walker

Technical Support – Rob Glenn and Louise Johnston

Fellowship Time – Ethel Wilson Women's Group

Flowers for the service are offered by Sam Boehner and Glenn Davidson in celebration of the life of Glenn's brother, Bruce Davidson.