

Order of Service – 20/03/2022 – Lent 3

Opening Slide

Be still before the HOLY ONE, and wait patiently for God (Psalm 39:7)

Gathering, Greeting

Good morning, please move into the worship space if you haven't found a seat yet. Thank you for wearing your masks as we continue to protect the more vulnerable members of our congregation.

As we prepare to worship God, please stand to welcome the Word, singing ...

Gathering Song – Send out your light ATFG 585

*Send out your light, Lord,
send your truth to be our guide.
Then let them lead us to the place
where you reside.*

SONG: [Send out your light](#), © 2003 Leigh Newton, from [All together for good](#), WGRG, Ioan Community, 1995 © Willow Publishing Pty Ltd, Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

Call to Worship

Jenne

What injustice have you seen? What truth have you stood for? Let us worship our God of Truth and Justice now in this gathered space, this sacred time.

Acknowledgement of Country

Jenne

Please be seated as we acknowledge the peoples of the land on which we meet here and in all the places we are gathered for worship today ...

We acknowledge and respect
the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation,
the traditional custodians of this land
since time immemorial.

We are learning that the land
is not ours to own, but to look after;
and that if we listen,
we may hear in it the calling of the eternal Spirit.

**Responding to this call, we commit ourselves
to work for justice, reconciliation,
and care of the earth.**

Song of Praise – Praise with joy the world's creator TIS 179

*1. Praise with joy the world's Creator,
God of justice, love and peace,
Source and end of human knowledge,
Force of greatness without cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory -
Power to rescue and release.*

2. *Praise the Son who feeds the hungry,
Frees the captive, finds the lost,
Heals the sick, upsets religion,
Fearless both of fate and cost,
Celebrate Christ's constant presence,
Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.*
3. *Praise the Spirit sent among us,
Liberating truth from pride,
Forging bonds where race or gender,
Age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure -
Foolishness none dare deride.*
4. *Praise the Maker, Son and Spirit,
One God in community,
Calling Christians to embody
Oneness and diversity.
Thus the world shall yet believe, when
Shown Christ's vibrant unity.*

HYMN: [Praise with Joy the world's Creator](#), © Wild Goose Publications, Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland from [Together in Song](#) Harper Collins *Religious*, Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE #604502. ALSO Reproduced with permission by CCLI license no. 247623

Welcome and Introduction

Jenne

Welcome to worship, here in this space and online with us now or watching later. I'm Jenne, the liturgist this morning, joined in leading this service today by Ian, Dave, Mal, Kenna, Clare, and the musicians led by James. Stay on after worship to enjoy conversation and a cup of tea or coffee in the hall.

Take a moment to breathe deeply into this time of worship. Where are you this week, where have you been? Hold this in your heart as we continue our journey through the Stations of the Cross, looking through the eyes of Jesus for the season of Lent.

Today you were given a card as you entered, with a symbol of justice and truth on it, reminding us of the story we will hear of Jesus' trial before Pilate and Herod today – a travesty of justice. Later in the service you will be invited to write a word, symbol, prayer, or reflection on it and place it by the paintings.

It joins our Lenten symbols from the previous 2 weeks. The olive branches reminding us of Jesus' prayer in the garden, and the stone reminding us of Peter's denial of Jesus.

Prayers of Adoration and Confession including Word of Grace

Jenne

So now let us pray.

Prayer of Adoration:

Oh God. We come to worship You knowing you created us innocent, loving & full of light. We know your Justice and Truth are everlasting, there for us all through your innocent Son's Truth and Sacrifice.

We praise you for giving us your Spirit so that we can aspire for our hearts to weigh lighter than a feather on the scales of your loving Justice. We praise you that amidst worldly chaos & evil and in our self-condemnation and frailty, you are our Refuge.

Prayer of Confession:

We are not always innocent. We are not always sure of what is right. Yet we can try to do right as we see, as Jesus was, the innocent unjustly condemned. We ask for your compassionate

forgiveness for us and all. May we forgive, stand for your Truth, and thus do what is right despite our weakness & frailty.

Amen

Word of Grace:

We can be confident then that in His name, even with our mistakes, we are loved & cleansed, we are in Gods Compassion and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Children's time

Dave, Mal & Kenna & Kids & Parents

Dramatised reading of Luke 23:1-25

Invite children down the front with Dave and Ian, then a quick visit across to the paintings from Lent 1 and 2, then across to painting for Lent 3 – ladder there to look closely at the red eyes.

Then back to the flat front area. About to listen to a drama-packed reading of Jesus on trial: two big powerful people at that time: the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate (come on down, boo, hiss), and the King of all Judea, Herod (come on down – both sit in their seats of judgement.)

Set-up: two high-backed 'judgement' chairs in front of the communion table – one for Pilate, one for Herod. One more judgement seat for Jesus behind the communion table, at the foot of the cross.

Narrator 1: Mal

Pilate: TBA – a parent

The assembly / crowd: rest

Narrator 2: Kenna

Herod: TBA – a parent

of the children, plus Dave

Jesus: TBA – a child

Barabbas: TBA – a child

and Ian.

Ok, so the kids, and all the congregation are the crowd, and we need to practice three things before we hear the reading. The first thing to practice is this: finger-pointing and silent yelling!

And the second thing to practice is this: finger pointing and yelling: "release Barabbas!!"

And the third thing to practice is this: finger pointing and yelling: "crucify him, crucify him!"

Alright, let's get ready to listen to Luke chapter 23, with Jesus on trial before the Roman Governor Pilate, and before King Herod.

Narrator 1 Mal: Then the assembly of chief priests and scribes rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate, the Roman Governor.

(kids grab Jesus, handcuff him/her, and walk him to stand before Pilate's judgement seat.)

They began to accuse Jesus, saying, "We found this man disrupting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the Roman emperor, Caesar, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king."

Pilate (to Jesus): "Are you the king of the Jews?"

Jesus: "You say so."

Pilate (to the chief priests and the crowd): "I find no basis for an accusation against this man."

Narrator 1 Mal: But the crowd were insistent

(Dave, Ian and kids vigorously pointing fingers at Jesus while Mal is speaking)

and said, "He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began, even to this place, Jerusalem."

Pilate: Is this man from Galilee? If so, he is King Herod's problem.

Narrator 2 Kenna: Pilate sent Jesus off to King Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time.

(Dave, Ian and kids walk Jesus across to stand before King Herod).

When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see Jesus for a long time. King Herod had heard about Jesus and was hoping to see him perform some miracle.

Herod asked him a lot of questions, but Jesus gave no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, angrily accusing Jesus.

(Dave, Ian and the kids pointing fingers at Jesus and mime-yelling).

Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on Jesus, and sent him back to Pilate.

(kids to put a purple robe on Jesus, and walk him to Pilate's judgement seat).

Narrator 2 Kenna: That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

(Herod and Pilate stand up and shake hands with each other / give each other a wink.)

Narrator 1 Mal: Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people.

(Dave, Ian and the kids all huddle around Pilate)

Pilate: "You brought me this man as one who was disrupting the people; I have examined him in your presence and have found him not guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him."

Narrator 1 Mal: Then they all shouted out together, "Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!"

(Ian, Dave and the kids point fingers vigorously at Barabbas who is in the corner, and yell: "Release Barabbas!")

Narrator 1 Mal: Barabbas had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder. Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!"

(Dave, Ian and the kids pointing fingers vigorously at Jesus and yelling "crucify him!")

Narrator 1 Mal: A third time he said to them,

Pilate: "Why, what evil has he done? I have found no reason to sentence him to death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him."

Narrator 1 Mal: But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified;

(Ian, Dave and kids encourage whole congregation to yell out "Crucify him! Crucify him!")

Narrator 1 Mal, (after a dramatic pause): and their voices prevailed....

So Pilate gave his verdict. He released Barabbas, the man they asked for,

(Dave, Ian and kids rush over to untie Barabbas)

the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

Pause...

"Pilate handed Jesus over as they wished..." Whoa... Thank you Kenna, Mal, adults playing Herod and Pilate... what do you think of that kids (& adults!). Wonder what you made of that...? How was it for you? What bits were hard to be part of? Do you reckon Jesus got a fair trial?

So, we've got Herod's judgement chair, and we've got Pilate's judgement chair, but we've also got a third chair up the back there – I wonder who the third one is for?

Jesus. Yeah, let's go and have a seat in it now. And in the scene we just heard, I wonder who he was judging...? The crowd...? Pilate and Herod, judging the lies and the injustice that they allow. The cross is like his judgement seat.

Song – hear the message we now are proclaiming / El mensaje que hoy proclamamos – WCC Website

*Hear the message we are now proclaiming
about justice and peace for the whole world.
Hear the message we are now proclaiming
about justice and peace for the whole world.*

*With faith and with love
and with hope we shall fight for the world.
With faith and with love
and with hope we shall fight for the world.*

*El mensaje que hoy proclamamos,
Es justicia, es paz para el mundo.
El mensaje que hoy proclamamos,
Es justicia, es paz para el mundo.*

*La fe, el amor,
La esperanza de un mundo mejor.
La fe, el amor,
La esperanza de un mundo mejor.*

SONG: Hear the message we are now proclaiming, Spanish words and music by Eleazar Torreglosa [English: unknown], © 2007; Administered by WCC-COE 150, Route de Ferney, P.O. Box 2100, CH-1211, Geneva 2, Switzerland. For non-profit use only.

SMP – mural for both groups.

Psalm 37:1-8, 39-40

Kenna

There will be a sung refrain during the reading of this psalm. Let's sing it now to begin.

Refrain: Be still and know that I am God AoV2-54

*Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.*

SONG: [Be still](#), John L Bell & Graeme Maule © 1989 WGRG, Iona Community, from [As one voice 2](#), Willow Connection Pty Ltd, Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

- ¹ Do not fret because of the wicked;
do not be envious of wrongdoers,
 - ² for they will soon fade like the grass,
and wither like the green herb.
 - ³ Trust in the HOLY ONE, and do good;
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.
 - ⁴ Take delight in the HOLY ONE,
and God will give you the desires of your heart.
-

*Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.*

- ⁵ Commit your way to the HOLY ONE;
trust in God, who will act.

- ⁶ God will make your vindication shine like the light,
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.
- ⁷ Be still before the HOLY ONE, and wait patiently for God;
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,
over those who carry out evil devices.
- ⁸ Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath.
Do not fret—it leads only to evil.

*Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.*

- ³⁹ The salvation of the righteous is from the HOLY ONE
who is their refuge in the time of trouble.
- ⁴⁰ The HOLY ONE helps them and rescues them;
rescues them from the wicked, and saves them,
because they take refuge in God.

*Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.*

For these words of witness and for Christ the Word
Thanks be to God

Reflection

Ian

Offering with Song

Jenne

Let's respond to the gospel through the offerings of our loving, living and giving. There are many ways that we can do this including loving our neighbours, working for Justice and standing in Truth. You might dedicate time and money to our church, volunteer in our programs, place cash in the offering bowls by the font or through regular electronic transfer. You could even get your phone out right now and make an offering into the account on the screen.

Let's make our offerings now as we sing:

Song Inspired by Love and Anger TIS674 Verses 1, 2, 4 & 5.

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- 1. Inspired by love and anger, disturbed by need and pain,
Informed by God's own bias, we ask him once again:
"How long must some folk suffer? How long can few folk mind?
How long dare vain self interest turn prayer and pity blind?"*
 - 2. From those forever victims of heartless human greed,
Their cruel plight composes a litany of need:
"Where are the fruits of justice? Where are the signs of peace?
When is the day when prisoners and dreams find their release?"*
 - 4. To God, who through the prophets proclaimed a different age,
We offer earth's indifference, its agony and rage:
"When will the wronged be righted? When will the kingdom come?
When will the world be generous to all instead of some?"*
 - 5. God asks, "Who will go for me? Who will extend my reach?
And who, when few will listen, will prophecy and preach?"*

*And who, when few bid welcome, will offer all they know?
And who, when few dare follow, will walk the road I show?"*

SONG: [Inspired by love and anger](#), from [Heaven Shall not Wait](#) © Wild Goose Publications, Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland. Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

Let us pray:
God our rock and our fortress
In this time of trial facing our world
we pray that all our loving, living and giving
may contribute to peace and an end to suffering
for all peoples and all creation.
Amen.

Prayers of the People

Clare

Clare: At end of the prayers of the people I will invite you to write a word or prayer or draw something on your card and then to place it by one of the paintings near you as a prayer for truth, justice and peace in our world. I will then light the oil burner in the chapel space for us to light our own candles in prayer at the end of the service.

Clare's prayer.

Clare: Now I invite you to write on your card. What is the prayer of your heart for our world right now?

Silence for a minute or two while people write.

Clare: Please move to one of the paintings near you. Look into the eyes of Jesus. What do you see? What do you feel? Place your prayer card there.

Song as people move to the paintings: Pure Love MV31

*Pure love,
pure truth,
pure justice,
God*

SONG: [Pure Love](#), Lyn Bauman and Linnea Good, from [More Voices](#), United Church of Canada, Woodlake Publishing Inc. Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

Notices

Jenne

It's time to share the news of our community. Please line up here to my right, take off your mask, say your name and share your news in a sentence of two. You can also keep up to date through our newsletters, website and Facebook group. Please stay after worship for morning tea in the hall.

Ian: Ukraine appeal

Sending Song – Sent out in Jesus name. ATOK412

*Sent out in Jesus' name.
Our hands are ready now,
to make the world the place
in which the kingdom comes* *repeat*

*The angels cannot change
a world of hurt and pain*

*into a world of love
of justice and of peace.
The task is ours to do
to set it really free
O help us to obey
and carry out your will.*

repeat

SONG: Sent out in Jesus' name, Traditional Cuban, from All Together Okay, Openbook Publishers, Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

Blessing and Sending

Ian

Thank you

Thank you for joining us, and thank you to...

Liturgist:
Jenne Perlstein

Prayers of the People:
Clare Keogh

Postlude Song: Sent out in
Jesus name, Traditional
Cuban, from All Together

Bible readers:
Kenna Morrison
Mal Rowe

Musicians:
James Balsillie
(Coordinator)
Helen Burnham
Andrew Dickinson
Joel Hallinan
Catherine Leslie
Courtney Rohde
Natalie Sims

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Children's time:
Dave Hall
(CYA pastor)
Kenna Morrison
Kids & parents
Mal Rowe

Musicians: Shawn
Whelan, Natalie Sims,
Jane Allardice

Reflection:
Ian Ferguson
(Minister of the Word)

Images:
Ian Ferguson
Artwork
Rita Broadway

Editing / Production:
Hugh Brown
Ray Cameron
Saide Cameron
Mal Rowe
Shawn Whelan

Closing verse:

Commit your way to the HOLY ONE; trust in God, who will act. Psalm 37:5