

Order of Service – 12/3/2023 Lent 3

Prelude Slides

Opening verse: “stay awake with me” Matthew 26:38

Call to Worship – Psalm 95:1-7

Helen

Good morning everyone, please take a seat.

Pause while people settle...

Come let us sing for joy to the Lord;
Let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before God with thanksgiving
And extol God with music and song.

For the Lord is the great God, and greatest above all gods.
In God’s hands are the depths, of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to God.
The sea is God’s, for God made it,
And God’s hands formed the dry land.

Come, let us bow down in worship,
Let us kneel before our Maker;
For our Maker is our God
And we are the people of God’s pasture,
The flock under God’s care.

In the noise and business of our lives, God Calls us together,
we may be in the Church or watching online, but we come to renew and strengthen ourselves,
to worship our God, just as David did with the wonderful words of Psalm 95.
Now let us find God’s peace, as we welcome the Word and the Light, with music, as we sing,

Song of praise

VU374 *Come and find the quiet centre* (Shirley Murray)

- 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, touches base,
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!*

SONG: Come and find the quiet centre, by Shirley Erena Murray, ©1992 from In Every Corner Sing, Hope Publishing Company, Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and respect
The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung 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.**

Welcome and Introduction

Welcome everyone. If you are new to our Church please join us for morning tea in the hall, after the service.

My name is Helen and I am your Liturgist for this service, the third in the Season of Lent.

Worship commenced today with David's wonderful words of praise in Psalm 95. Telling us to sing and shout to the Lord, the Rock of our Salvation.

We then move from Joy to the deep despair of our Gospel reading in Mathew 26. Here we find Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, deeply grieved, he says to Peter "Could you not stay awake with me one hour?"

So, from joy to grief, how do we find a balance. We worship our God with joy and thanksgiving, and find that quiet and solitary, place in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Come let us sing for joy to the Lord,
Let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Holy One, Mother and Father, you are the Creator of the song and dance of life.
You sang our world into being, so from the dust, the soil, the stone, the rocks, the mountains,
everything shouts a hymn of praise to God, the Creator, the designer, the artist.

From the microscopic to the majestic,
everything that has life, that crawls, flies, jumps, runs, swims, and breathes,
everything shouts a hymn of praise to God the Creator, the gardener, the scientist, the architect.

From our thoughts, our minds, our words, our actions, our watching and our waiting,
with the whole earth we join together to offer our praise.
To sing and to dance, to laugh and to cry, to live the life we have been given.

Holy one, Mother and Father Creator of our past, present and our future,
just as the disciples did in the garden of Gethsemane,
we find ourselves falling asleep, failing in our faith.
Forgive us for the wars we fight, for wrongs committed in the name of God.
Forgive us for the exploitation and enslavement of people, all over this earth.
Forgive us when we discriminate because of our fear
of what we don't know or understand, when we have so much to learn.
Forgive us when we despoil the earth for profit instead of caring for the earth that sustains us.
Forgive us for all the things we allow to come before you, our God, when our hearts are cold,
our eyes look the other way, and our mouths remain closed, when we should speak out.
Amen

Word of Grace

Children of God, though we fall asleep, wander away,
and fail in so many ways, we know that when we turn back,
our God is there with open arms to embrace us, and set us on the path again.
So that in Christ, through Christ and because of Christ,
our light in the darkness, we are confident to say, our sin is forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

With the Children

Ian

Including song: *Mayenziwe 'ntando yakho* (MV151 and IONA) – English verse only

Your will be done on earth, O Lord

SONG: *Mayenziwe* (South Africa), from *Many & Great*, edited by John L. Bell, Wild Goose Publications, Iona Community, Glasgow, Reproduced with permission under ONE LICENCE # 604502

The Gospel – Matthew 26:36-56

Mathew 26:36-56 – Jesus Prays in Gethsemane and is arrested

Sung response: “Stay with me the night has come”

Text: David Bjorlin, b.1984; © 2020 GIA Publications, Inc.
Music: CYSGA DI FY MHLENTYN TLWS; Welsh traditional
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Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.”

*Stay with me, the night has come,
stay with me, the night has come,
stay with me, the night has come,
and soon it will be morning,
and soon it will be morning.*

And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me, yet not what I want but what you want.” Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

*Pray with me, the night has come,
pray with me, the night has come,
pray with me, the night has come,
and soon it will be morning,
and soon it will be morning.*

Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Now the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. Look, my betrayer is at hand."

*Watch with me, the night has come,
watch with me, the night has come,
watch with me, the night has come,
and soon it will be morning,
and soon it will be morning*

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do."

*Weep with me, the night has come,
weep with me, the night has come,
weep with me, the night has come,
and soon it will be morning,
and soon it will be morning.*

Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place, for all who take the sword will die by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?" At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a rebel? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

*Stay with me, the night has come,
Pray with me, the night has come,
Watch with me, the night has come,
And soon it will be morning,
And soon it will be morning.*

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

Reflection

Ends with Lord's prayer:

***Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.***

Offering with Song

Ian

God is walking in the Garden, (Tune In, Dave Brown, Verses 1, 2 & 4)

- 1. God is walking in the garden, in the cool of day
God is walking in the garden, where are you? She says
We heard you walking we heard you coming this way
We heard you walking we hid because we're afraid
God is walking in the garden, in the cool of day.*
 - 2. Jesus walking in the garden, of Gethsemane
Jesus walking in the garden, 'Stay awake with me',
We heard you talking, we heard you praying so deep,
We heard you talking, the next thing we were asleep
Jesus walking in the garden, of Gethsemane.*
 - 4. God is walking in the garden, throughout history,
God is walking in the garden, of every family
We hear you walking we hear you coming to us
We hear you talking of love in which we can trust
We hear you laughing we hear you when we can't see
We hear you working we sense your humanity
God is walking in the garden throughout history.*
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SONG: God is walking, by Dave Brown, from Tune In, Brunswick UC,
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Offering Prayer

Response Time

[How long have I waited? – Nick Cave](#)

How long have I waited for your word, forever yearning
The days break like waves upon the shore
How long have I waited for your touch, forever burning
Lord, I cannot wait a single moment more

For the stag stands triumphant on the hill
His antlers rake lightning across the sphere

One bright day I will come and I will kneel
Within your boundless majesty so clear

When will I awaken to your love, sleeping love
As the day breaks like waves upon the shore
When will I awaken to your touch, sleeping touch
Lord, I cannot wait a single moment more

Congregation walks the Lenten Path to lay olive sprigs on the table while musicians play:

Christ our Lord (with anointing verse) – Dave Stephens

*Anointed with oil,
Sign of his end
Anointed with oil,
Christ our Lord.*

*His life for coin
Betrayed by a kiss
His life for coin
Christ our Lord*

*Denied by him
Trusted friend
Denied by him
Christ our Lord*

*Are you the king?
The son of god
Are you the king?
Christ our Lord*

*You carry such weight
On your back
You carry such weight
Christ our Lord*

*He died for us
Broken and pierced
He died for us
Christ our Lord*

*He is our King
Glory to His name
He is our King
Christ our Lord*

SONG: Christ our Lord, by David Stephens, written for Good Friday 2016 at Brunswick UC
in response to: John 18:1-19:42 (Betrayed, Denied, Tried, Crucified, Pierced, Buried)
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Prayers of the People

Generous God of mellow evenings

We pray for the World: We pray for victims of earthquakes in Turkey.

We pray for victims of war in Ukraine. This Lent we wait for a new world.

May the world draw the strength from the Easter story

and follow the command: love one another.

In your mercy, hear our prayers.

Leader: **We breathe in, we breathe out.**

We hope, we expect, we wait, quietly.

We imagine Jesus in the garden, walking amongst the olive trees.

Response: **We breathe in, we breathe out.**

We hope, we expect, we wait, quietly.

We imagine Jesus in the garden, walking amongst the olive trees.

We pray for the Church: may the Uniting Church

help those who find Lent and Easter empty, lonely.

We pray that the Uniting Church will stand for

social justice and inclusion, in strong, wise ways.

May the church draw strength from the Easter story

and enable the command: love one another.

In your mercy, hear our prayers.

Leader: **We breathe in, we breathe out.**

We hope, we expect, we wait, quietly.

We imagine Jesus in the garden, walking amongst the olive trees.

Response: **We breathe in, we breathe out.**

We hope, we expect, we wait, quietly.

We imagine Jesus in the garden, walking amongst the olive trees.

We pray for those in need: may those in poor health find support.

May we think of our own burdens and journeys this Easter.

May prisoners suffering ill-health in jail, find help.

May residents and carers in nursing homes find hope.

May helping professionals find meaning.

We observe Neurodiversity Celebration Week, celebrating difference and creativity.

We stand with all those who are oppressed.

May we live the command: love one another.

In your mercy, hear our prayers.

Leader: **We breathe in, we breathe out.**

We hope, we expect, we wait, quietly.

We imagine Jesus in the garden, walking amongst the olive trees.

Response: **We breathe in, we breathe out.**

We hope, we expect, we wait, quietly.

We imagine Jesus in the garden, walking amongst the olive trees.

In the name of Christ, loving, leading, rising: praise. Amen

Notices

It's time to share our news. So, if you have a notice please come and queue to my right and keep it as short as you can. Of course, you can always find out what is happening by going to our Web site or to the Facebook page.

Sending Song

TIS 590 *What a friend we have in Jesus*

1. *What a friend we have in Jesus
all our sins and griefs to bear,
what a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer;
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!*
2. *Have we trials and temptations,
is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged:
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness:
take it to the Lord in prayer.*
3. *Are we weak and heavy-laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Jesus is our only refuge:
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
in his arms he'll take and shield you,
you will find a solace there.*

SONG: *What a friend we have in Jesus*, by Joseph Scriven,
from *Together in Song*, Harper Collins Religious, PUBLIC DOMAIN

Blessing and Sending

My soul is at rest (AOV/2 49)

*My soul, is at rest in you, O God.
My heart finds its home in your love.
My soul, is at rest in you, O God.
My heart finds its home in your love.*

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Thank yous

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

Liturgist:

Helen Burnham

Bible readers:

Lyn Anderson

Gwen Arnold

Children's time:

Ian Ferguson

Reflection:

Ian Ferguson

Prayers of the People:

Jim Kilpatrick

Musicians:

Mathew Lees

(co-ordinator)

Brad, Sam and Hudson

Coath

Glenice Cook

Mikul Dennison

Melvin Tan

Postlude Song: What a friend we have in Jesus, by

Joseph Scriven, from

Together in Song, Harper

Collins Religious, PUBLIC

DOMAIN

Musicians: James Balsillie,
Alistair Hunter, Courtney
Rohde

Images:

Ian Ferguson

Editing / Production:

Ray Cameron

Saide Cameron

James Clough

Marcelo Mendoza

Closing verse:

“stay awake with me” Matthew 26:38