

# Order of Service – 19/03/2023, Lent 4

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## Opening verse:

“Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” Matthew 26:75b

## Gathering, Greeting and Call to Worship

Saide

Good morning and welcome to worship. Please find a space to sit.

Come this morning, let us worship God  
who is Maker, Saviour and Spirit.  
We come with our strengths and our doubts  
to worship the One who calls us to  
travel with him to the Cross and beyond.

## Song of praise – Come all you people

Let's sing *Come all you people*

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*Come all you people, Come and praise your Maker,  
Come all you people, Come and praise your Maker,  
Come all you people, Come and praise your Maker,  
Come now and worship the Lord.*

*Come all you people, come and praise your Saviour...*

*Come all you people, come and praise the Spirit...*

*Uya-i mose, tina-ma-te Mwari  
Uya-i mose, tina-ma-te Mwari  
Uya-i mose, tina-ma-te Mwari  
Uya-i mose zvino*

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## 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

Saide

Welcome to worship, the fourth Sunday in the Season of Lent. We are following Jesus to the cross reading our way through the Passion of Jesus from Matthew's gospel. Today we follow Jesus to his false trial and bear witness to Peter's deep and bitter torment as he denies being a follower of Jesus three times.

I'm Saide leading worship with Ian, Cath, Ray, Matilda, Peter and the musicians led by Shawn. Our thanks as always to the AV team. Welcome to worship here in this space and online.

## Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Saide

*Now let us pray*

God, Maker of all that is, your steadfast love is beyond our understanding.  
Your loving safeguards the wonder and beauty of creation  
even as we close our eyes to the untold damage wrought by humanity.  
Forgive us, help us to see what you see.

Jesus, our Saviour, your love and compassion is extraordinary.  
Your loving is leading you to the Cross, deserted and alone  
and we are overwhelmed by your suffering and of so many others.  
Forgive us, help us to reach out with compassion.

Holy Spirit, breath of love and life, you sustain us through all our days.  
Your loving weaves through our words and our actions  
enabling us and shaping us as we seek to follow Jesus.  
Forgive us when we stumble, lift us up again and set us free.  
Amen

## Word of Grace

Peter, Jesus' faithful disciple, denies him three times.  
Remembering what Jesus said, he goes out and weeps bitterly,  
but we know that the story doesn't end there.  
Grace and mercy and love abounds even in the face of death.  
We can be confident then, that in the name of Jesus, Saviour and Shepherd,  
our sin is forgiven.

**Thanks be to God, Amen.**

## Song – Jesus your light, AoV2.5

*In preparation for hearing the gospel we will sing 'Jesus, your light'.*

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*Jesus, your light is shining within us.  
Let not my doubts and my darkness speak to me.  
Jesus, your light is shining within us.  
Let my heart always welcome your love.*

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SONG: [Jesus, your light](#), Jacques Berthier © copyright Ateliers et Presses de Taize.  
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## The Gospel: Lent 4 – Matthew 26:57-75

Matilda and Peter

Peter: Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end.

Matilda: Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'" The high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" But Jesus was silent.

Peter: Then the high priest said to him, "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What do you think?" They answered, "He deserves death." Then they spat in his face and struck him, and some slapped him, saying, "Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?"

Matilda: Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A female servant came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." When he went out to the porch, another female servant saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus the Nazarene." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

Both: For these words of witness and for Christ the Word

**Thanks be to God**

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*Jesus, your light is shining within us.  
Let not my doubts and my darkness speak to me.  
Jesus, your light is shining within us.  
Let my heart always welcome your love.*

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**With the Children**

**Cath & Ian**

**Song – Jesus your light, AoV2.5**

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*Jesus, your light is shining within us.  
Let not my doubts and my darkness speak to me.  
Jesus, your light is shining within us.  
Let my heart always welcome your love.*

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**Reflection**

**Ian**

## Offering with Song – O Jesus who travelled

Saide

*In response to God's steadfast love we offer our gifts of time, talents and money. You are welcome to place your offering or a card of commitment in the bowls as they pass by. You can also make a transfer using the details on the screen. Please remain seated for now and I will invite you to stand as the offering is being brought forward. We sing of the betrayal, desertion and denial of Jesus by his friends.*

<https://www.giamusic.com/store/resource/o-jesus-who-traveled-pdf-du01509>

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1. *O Jesus who travelled from valley to shore,  
who offered us questions too deep to ignore,  
whose stories uncover the truths we've denied,  
why did we forsake you, O Jesus, our guide?*

2. *O Jesus who treasured the lost and the least,  
who called for the exile to join in the feast,  
who ventured to touch and to ease and to mend,  
why did we forsake you, O Jesus, our friend?*

3. *O Jesus who challenged the wealthy and strong,  
who fearlessly called us to right what is wrong,  
who went to Jerusalem, into the strife,  
why did we forsake you, O Jesus, our life?*

4. *O Jesus who taught us to serve and to share,  
to light for each other a way through despair,  
to bless and to break, until all mouths are fed?  
why did we forsake you, O Jesus, our bread?*

5. *O Jesus whose courage persisted through pain,  
who offered forgiveness again and again,  
who cried out to God; who still cries out today;  
why do we forsake you, O Jesus, our way?*

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### Offering Prayer

Loving God, your wide-open arms enfold us,  
your smile renews us, your loving sets us free and calls us home.  
Bless all that we offer this morning and every day,  
That our loving may be a gift to the world  
creating a kingdom of mercy, justice and peace. Amen

### Response

Ian, Blessing

#### Introduction

*laying feathers, symbol of the crowing cock and the descending dove, of our brokenness and God's abundant grace*

#### [I have wandered all my unending days – Nick Cave](#)

I have wandered all my unending days  
Shattered your shining aspect in the stars

Hidden alleys and tramp broken highways  
With little in my pockets but my prayers  
And I have searched all my unending days  
Slept in fields beneath a canopy of stars  
Your face emerging in the early morning haze  
Held in its position by my prayers  
And though I have nothing but this prayer  
That all will be revealed by and by  
I pray someday, my Lord, you will appear  
And lead me to your mansion in the sky

There is a mansion in the sky  
And we will go there by and by

*Congregation walks the Lenten Path to lay feathers while musicians play:*

### **Christ our Lord – Dave Stephens**

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*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*

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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

Ray

*We offer our prayers for the world, the church and our community. After the prayers I will light the lamp in the chapel space. You are welcome to light a taper for your own prayers during the final song or after the service. Let us pray.*

God our maker we pray for the world, the earth and all people who live on her.  
We are thankful for people everywhere working for peace and justice,  
seeking out new ways to sustain our planet, new ways to create harmony.  
We pray for all who suffer the loss of home, land, food, health, life and livelihood  
as the result of the blindness, greed and arrogance of those in power.  
May leaders of all nations be moved to listen, to work together  
for the good of all people, all living things and all creation.

Jesus our Saviour we pray for the church, your body, glorious in diversity.  
We are thankful for people everywhere working for peace and justice,  
opening doors, welcoming strangers, celebrating your abundant love.  
We pray for all who suffer for their faith, living in fear and uncertainty  
and for all who have been hurt or harmed through ignorance or neglect.  
May church leaders everywhere be guided by your compassion and mercy  
so that all people will know themselves, loved and welcome and free.

Holy Spirit, sustaining breath we pray for our community.  
We are thankful for the many opportunities to work for peace and justice,  
calling us out of our safe spaces to follow Jesus on the way to the cross.  
We pray for all who are grieving, ill, lonely, disillusioned, lost and hungry  
and for all who work to create a space for healing and welcome and grace.  
May your mission shape our work, may your love shape our living  
so that we may be your voice, your hands, your eyes and ears in this place.  
Amen

## Notices

Saide

*It is time now to offer the news of our community, you can also keep up to date through Olive Press, Facebook and our website. Please line up to my right and share your news in a sentence of two.*

## Sending Song – TIS129 Amazing Grace

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- 1 Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.*
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!*
- 3 Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come:  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.*
- 4 The Lord has promised good to me,  
his word my hope secures;*

*he will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.*

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SONG: [Amazing Grace](#), from [Together in Song](#) (*modified*), Harper Collins *Religious* PUBLIC DOMAIN

## Blessing and Sending

Saide

*Please be seated. Throughout Lent we are concluding the service with a time of reflective singing. We will sing 'Jesus, your light' again.*

### SONG: Jesus, your light

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*Jesus, your light is shining within us.  
Let not my doubts and my darkness speak to me.  
Jesus, your light is shining within us.  
Let my heart always welcome your love.*

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*Music continues without words*

We leave this time of worship to a new week full of possibilities.  
Let's go out with Jesus as our guide and our friend,  
to right what is wrong, to feed those who are hungry,  
to follow him, in our fragile humanity, to the Cross and beyond.

And in your loving and your following may you always know  
the steadfast love of God enfolding you,  
the boundless compassion of Christ calling you,  
and sustaining breath of the Holy Spirit upholding you.  
Amen

## Thank you

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

Liturgist:  
Saide Cameron

Bible readers:  
Matilda McClintock  
Peter Williams

Children's time:  
Cath James  
(CYYA Minister of the Word)  
Ian Ferguson

Reflection:  
Ian Ferguson  
(Minister of the Word)

Response Psalm:  
Blessing Mokgohloa

Prayers of the People:  
Ray Cameron

Musicians:  
Shawn Whelan  
(co-ordinator)  
Joel Hallinan  
Anthony Hinds  
Rosie O'Reilly  
Kate Scull  
Natalie Sims  
Maggie Somerville

Postlude Song: [Amazing Grace](#), from [Together in Song](#) (*modified*), Harper Collins *Religious* PUBLIC DOMAIN  
Musicians: James Balsillie, Alistair Hunter, Courtney Rodhe

Images: (Unsplash) David Clode, Gary Ellis, Nico Frey, Tina Hartung, Evie S

Editing / Production:  
Ray Cameron  
Saide Cameron  
Mal Rowe  
Ben Hon

## Closing verse:

"Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." Matthew 26:75b