A SERVICE OF EVENING PRAYER

*Sunday, March 7, 2020*

OPENING Ps 43.3

Send out Your light and Your truth that they may lead us,

**And bring us to Your holy hill and to Your dwelling.**

THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Let us pray:

We have wounded Your love. **O God, heal us.**

We stumble in the darkness. **Light of the world, transfigure us.**

We forget that we are Your home. **Spirit of God, dwell in us.**

Eternal Spirit, living God, in whom we live and move and have our being, all that we are, have been and shall be is known to You, to the very secret of our hearts, and all that rises to trouble us. Living flame, burn into us, cleansing wind, blow through us, fountain of water, well up within us, that we may love and praise in deed and in truth. **Amen.**

**SONG** Taizé Community

*Be still and know that I am God.*

**PSALM** *Psalm 19*

1The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker’s handiwork.

**2One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.** 3Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard, 4 **their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

5 It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

6 **It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

7The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple. **8The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.** 9The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

**10More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

11By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

**12Who can detect one’s own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

13Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

**14Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.**

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING** Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them;  for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.You shall not commit adultery.You shall not steal.You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**QUIET REFLECTION**

**NEW TESTAMENT READING** I Cor 1:18-25

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

# **QUIET REFLECTION**

# **GOSPEL READING** John 2.13-22

13 It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 He found in the temple those who were selling cattle, sheep, and doves, as well as those involved in exchanging currency sitting there. 15 He made a whip from ropes and chased them all out of the temple, including the cattle and the sheep. He scattered the coins and overturned the tables of those who exchanged currency. 16 He said to the dove sellers, “Get these things out of here! Don’t make my Father’s house a place of business.” 17 His disciples remembered that it is written, *Passion for your house consumes me.*

18 Then the Jewish leaders asked him, “By what authority are you doing these things? What miraculous sign will you show us?”19 Jesus answered, “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.” 20 The Jewish leaders replied, “It took forty-six years to build this temple, and you will raise it up in three days?” 21 But the temple Jesus was talking about was his body. 22 After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered what he had said, and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

# **QUIET REFLECTION**

**SONG**  Taizé Community

*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*

**LORD’S PRAYER**  Parker Palmer

**Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,**

**Holy and blessed is your true name.**

**We pray for your reign of peace to come,**

**We pray that your good will be done,**

**Let heaven and earth become one.**

**Give us this day the bread we need,**

**Give it to those who have none.**

**Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,**

**From each one to each one.**

**Lead us to holy innocence beyond the evil of our days —**

**Come swiftly, Mother, Father, come.**

**For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:**

**Forever your name is All in One.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

There is no God before you. Purify the faith of your church, that your people place their trust in nothing beside you. Your name is holy. Guide your church, that in every situation your people’s words and actions honor your name. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The heavens declare your glory. Renew your creation. Protect creatures and crops that rely on healthy ecosystems; give all people the willingness to repent when our way of life pollutes the earth and skies. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. Fill leaders with the foolishness to pursue peace and mercy. Your law defends the vulnerable. Work through legal systems to provide for the justice and wellbeing of all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your weakness is stronger than human strength. Protect the vulnerable, grant rest to the weary, and give courage to all who are suffering, especially those we name before you in our hearts… Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call us to proclaim Christ crucified. Give clarity to this ministry, this university, and all its leaders, so that we would follow Christ beyond our own habits and comfort. Clear out anything in our common life that would obscure the gospel. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The cross of Christ is your power for all who are being saved. We thank you for all the martyrs whose witness reveals the power of the cross. Give us the same trust in life and in death. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**SONG** Taizé Community

*Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.*

**SILENT MEDITATION**

*How to meditate: Sit still and upright, with eyes gently closed or halfway open. Silently, deep within, begin to say a single, holy word, perhaps one that has arisen in our prayer service so far.*

*Do not follow thoughts but keep coming back to that sacred word.*

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** United Church of Canada

**We are not alone. We live in God’s world.**

**We believe in God: who has created and is creating,**

**who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,**

**to reconcile us and make us new,**

**who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God. We are called to be the Church:**

**to celebrate God’s presence, to love and serve others,**

**to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus,**

**crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,**

**God is with us.**

**We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

**CLOSING BLESSING**  Iona Abbey

On our hearts and on our homes

**The blessing of God.**

In our coming and our going,

**The peace of God.**

In our life and our believing,

**The love of God.**

At our end and new beginning,

**The arms of God to welcome us home.**

**Amen.**

PRAYER

We give You thanks, Almighty God,

for all Your gifts and graces to us this day:

For the splendor of the whole creation and the beauty of this world;

for the wonder of life, and the mystery of love;

for the blessings of family and friends,

and the loving care that surrounds us on every side.

We are grateful for this day’s work,

For the things that demanded our best, and things that delighted us;

and for disappointments and failures that lead us to depend on You truly.

**We thank You, O Lord.**

Stay with us, Lord, for evening is at hand

and the day is past.

Be our light in the darkness we pray, and in Your great mercy,

defend us from all perils and dangers of this night.

**Hear us, O Lord.**

READING

QUIET REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us, and our friends the Sisters of St. Helena have simplified for us:

**Our loving God in heaven, holy is your Name.**

**May your reign 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 forever. Amen.**

SONG

GOSPEL READING

QUIET REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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**We believe in God:**

**Who has created and is creating,**

**Who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,**

**To reconcile us and make us new,**

**Who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the church:**

**To celebrate God’s presence,**

**To love and serve neighbors,**

**To seek justice and resist evil.**

**To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,**

**our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,**

**God is with us.**

**We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God.**

SONG

**My peace I leave you, My peace I give you—trouble not your hearts.**

**My peace I leave you, My peace I give you—be not afraid.**

CLOSING BLESSING

On our hearts and on our homes,

**The blessing of God.**

In our work and in our resting,

**The peace of God.**

In our life and our believing,

**The love of God.**

At our end and new beginning,

**The arms of God to welcome us and bring us home. Amen.**

*Resources used for the language of this service include:*

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Oremus III, Lutheran Student Movement

Iona Abbey Worship Book