



**Lent 1**

21 February, 2021

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# Humility in the face of Awe



## **An Acknowledgement of Country**

We acknowledge the Wallumattagal people of the Dharug/Eora nation,  
the first inhabitants of this place.

We honour them for their custodianship of the land  
on which we gather today.

## MUSICAL PRELUDE

# We Gather in Praise of God

## AN INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Hungry for meaning?

***Make yourself at home.***

Thirsty for purpose?

***Make yourself at home.***

Yearning for comfort?

***Make yourself at home.***

Burning for challenge?

***Make yourself at home.***

Ready for learning?

***Make yourself at home.***

Eager for serving?

***Make yourself at home.***

Welcome friends to our worship of God!

## HYMN Tune *Bunessan* TiS 156

Morning has broken  
like the first morning;  
blackbird has spoken,  
like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing,  
praise for the morning,  
praise for them, springing  
fresh from the word.

Sweet the rain's new fall  
sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall  
on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness  
of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness  
where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight;  
mine is the morning  
born of the one light  
Eden saw play.  
Praise with elation,  
praise every morning,  
God's recreation  
of the new day.

Eleanor Farjeon, CCLI 65422

## LENT

Today we begin our Sundays in Lent.

In the wilderness there is one thing to seek...

***Water.***

Among the stones there is one thing to look for...

***Life.***

Between the crags there is one thing to find...

***God.***

This is the gift of ever present love  
found new every morning  
under every rock;

***by those who dare at the first of the sunrise  
to seek that garden and roll the stone away.***

## A RECOGNITION OF OUR VULNERABILITY

It's difficult being a human being.  
We are all neurotic or psychotic at some level.

Whenever we think less of others,

***we have forgotten that you love us, God,  
no matter where we have gone nor whatever we have done.***

Whenever we exclude others from the communities in which we live,

***we have forgotten that you love us, God,  
no matter where we have gone nor whatever we have done.***

Whenever we neglect the needs of others - emotional, spiritual, physical,

***we have forgotten that you love us, God,  
no matter where we have gone nor whatever we have done.***

Whenever we neglect ourselves emotionally, spiritually, physically,

***we have forgotten that you love us, God,  
no matter where we have gone nor whatever we have done.***

## HYMN

Tune *Whitfield* TiS 468

We are your people; Spirit of grace,  
you dare to make us to all our neighbours,  
Christ's living voice, hands and face.

Joined in community, treasured and fed,  
may we discover gifts in each other,  
willing to lead and be led.

Rich in diversity, help us to live  
closer than neighbours, open to strangers,  
able to clash and forgive.

Glad of tradition, help us to see  
in all life's changing, where you are leading,  
where our best efforts should be.

Give, as we venture, justice and care  
(peaceful, resisting, waiting or risking)  
wisdom to know when and where.

Spirit, unite us, make us, by grace,  
willing and ready, Christ's living body,  
loving the whole human race.

*Brian Wren, CCLI 65422*

## We Listen for word of God

### YOUNG PEOPLE'S TIME

### WE SEND OUT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TO PLAY & LEARN

### FROM BIBLICAL WITNESSES

Listen for a faith expressed by the ancient Hebrews.

Genesis 9. 8-17

This is the witness of God's People!

***Thanks be to God!***

Listen for words of faith in the Gospel.

Mark 1. 9-15

For the word of God in scripture,  
for the word of God among us,  
for the word of God within us

***Thanks be to God!***

*Iona Abbey Worship Book p 18*

## We Respond to God's Character of Grace

**HYMN** TiS 157 Tune *Highwood* TiS 617

O Lord of every shining constellation  
that wheels in splendour through the midnight sky,  
grant us your Spirit's true illumination  
to read the secrets of your work on high.

O life, awaking life in cell and tissue,  
from flower to bird, from beast to human brain,  
O help us trace, from birth to final issue,  
the sure unfolding of your ageless plan.

You, Lord, have stamped your image on your creatures  
and, though they marred that image, love them still;  
uplift our eyes to Christ, that in his features  
we may discern the beauty of your will.

Great Lord of nature, shaping and renewing,  
who made us more than nature's heirs to be,  
help us to tread, with grace our souls enduing  
the road to life and immortality.

Albert Frederick Bayly *alt.* CCLI 65422

### **AN EXPERIMENT IN FAITHFUL HUMILITY**

***God is present  
in the darkness before dawn;  
in waiting and uncertainty  
where fear and courage join hands,  
conflict and caring link arms,  
and the sun rises over barbed wire.***

***This with-us God  
sits down in our midst  
and shares our humanity.***

***Faith takes us beyond the safe place:  
into action,  
into vulnerability  
and into the streets.***

***We commit ourselves to work for change  
and put ourselves on the line;***

**to bear responsibility, take risks,  
live powerfully and face humiliation;  
to stand with those on the edge;  
to choose life  
and to be used by the spirit  
for God's new community of hope  
Amen.**

Neil Paynter alt., *Lenten and Easter Readings from Iona*. Wild Goose Publications 2008

## **HUMILITY MEETS GRACE !**

Our Lord said to his friends 'Don't be afraid.'  
He said it often, because they were often afraid.

Jesus never said life would be easy.  
He did say 'I will be with you.'

We are accepted and loved, with all our fears,  
and the Good news is that God travels with us.

***Thanks be to God!***

Elizabeth Ramage alt. Lent 2009

**DOXOLOGY** *Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le lu jah!  
Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le lu jah!  
Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le lu jah!  
Hal-le lu jah, Hal-le lu jah!*

From the Caribbean (TIS 720) © 1990 WGWR, Iona Community, CCLI 65422

## **THE PEACE**

May the Spirit of Jesus be always with you.  
***And also with you.***

## **COMPASSION & COMMUNITY**

## **OUR PRAYERS OF HOPE AND LONGING**

Lord we offer our prayers for:

Those who have made the news headlines today  
because of what they have done or said.

Those who have been brought to our attention  
through a meeting or conversation.

Those who are in hospital, in care,  
or in a place strange to them.

Those in whose family, marriage, or close relationship, there is stress or  
break-up.

Those who are waiting for a birth, or a death,

or news which will affect their lives.

Those who need to forget the God they do not believe in and meet the God who believes in them.

Those whose pain or potential we should not forget to share with you today.

Lord as you hear our prayer you are faithful to your promise to respond to our collective needs.

Throughout this day,  
enliven our minds,  
inspire our conversation,  
inform our decisions,  
and protect all those you love.

And should today bring what we neither anticipate nor desire, increase our faith and decrease our pride until we know that when we face the unexpected, we do not stand alone.

When we lift our heads may we do so not to end our devotions, but to expect your kingdom to come, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

And as our Lord taught his first disciples, so we pray,

## THE 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 in the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.***

***For the kingdom, the power and the glory  
are yours now and forever. Amen.***

## LENT EVENT

## OFFERING

In gladness of heart, let us bring our gifts,  
for God is good to us indeed

and calls on us to be as generous as we can be.

Let us pray

***Bless our gifts God,  
help us to use them  
in furthering the evolution of your kingdom  
towards love and compassion.  
Amen.***

## We Scatter to Serve God in the World

**HYMN** TiS 179 Tune Praise, My Soul

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.

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.

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.

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.

Bell, J & Maule, G. CCLI 65422

**COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING**

**THREE-FOLD AMEN**

**MUSICAL POSTLUDE**

Minister: Rev Ian Pearson