

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

Prelude

Call to Worship, Prayer of Adoration and Approach & Confession (The Lord's Prayer)

Moment of Reflection

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson Numbers 21: 4-9 NIV

⁴They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"⁶Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.⁸The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

Responsive Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 NIV

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures for ever.

²Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story – those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,

³ those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south.

¹⁷ Some became fools through their rebellious ways and suffered affliction because of their iniquities.

¹⁸ They loathed all food and drew near the gates of death.

¹⁹ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress.

²⁰ He sent out his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.

²¹ Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind.

²² Let them sacrifice thank-offerings and tell of his works with songs of joy.

N.T. Epistle Lesson Ephesians 2: 1-10 NIV

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift

of God –⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

N.T. Gospel Lesson John 3: 14-21 NIV

¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. ¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. ¹⁹This is the verdict: light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

Litany for the Fourth Sunday in Lent

L: The journey to Jerusalem is long. This is a wilderness journey and we are not always comfortable. But we trust and we persevere.

P: We are pilgrims on a journey. We are travelers on the road.

L: God’s people are familiar with wilderness. After Egypt, they wandered in hunger and thirst—confused and tired—waiting for the promised land. Our destination is different. We aim for Jerusalem—where it all ends—and where there will be new beginnings.

P: We are pilgrims on a journey. We are travelers on the road.

L: Let us pray.

All: God of the wilderness, give us strength when we wander. When we stray and grieve, hunger and thirst, you have promised to make water spring up in the desert. Quench our thirst. Feed us with manna. Strengthen us when we are tired or lack trust. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

Moment of Reflection

Sermon God loves His world

Solo How deep the Father's love for us Stuart Townend

OUR RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

WE GO OUT IN SERVICE

Benediction & Postlude

Announcements

We welcome everyone to the Service of worship.
The readers today are Charles Nicholson and Catherine Sneddon

Benevolent Fund

- In memory of Donnie Musgrave by Wife Joyce and children Brent, Allison & Jeff.
- A donation has been made to the Benevolent Fund by the Bethel Fitness and Friendship Group

Camp MacLeod

- In memory of Melbourne MacKay by Karen & Janice Mudge

Board of Managers

The Board will meet tomorrow night in the Shaw Room at 7:30pm

No Sunday School next Sunday

Because of March Break there will be no Sunday School next week.

John Geddie AMS

As spring approaches, let us remember that the need for prayerful and financial support for others- both locally around the world- remains a high priority.

John Geddie Auxiliary members (and any other mission minded folk) are encouraged to send their Mission Offerings to our treasurer Nancy MacDonald. Thank you for your continued support.

Upcoming Services

Saturday, March 27th 11:00am Communion Service in the Hall.

Sunday, March 28th 10:30am Communion Service in the Sanctuary

Friday, April 2nd 1:00pm Good Friday Service in the Sanctuary

Sunday, April 4th 10:30am Easter Service in the sanctuary.

If you want to come to these services everyone must register for them by calling the office (902-562-3740) or email bethelpresbyteriansydney@gmail.com

Mission Moment – Empowering Women and Girls

On March 8, we celebrate International Women’s Day and reflect on the work the church is doing around the world to help achieve gender equality. Through Presbyterian World Service & Development, we support programs that help marginalized women and girls reach their full potential, access quality education and health care, achieve economic independence and advocate for their rights. Empowering and supporting vulnerable women and girls not only creates self-reliance but is crucial to ending poverty and hunger. When women are empowered, they help build a more sustainable and just world.

Daily Prayer List

Fourth Sunday in Lent We give thanks and pray for Fraternidad de Presbiteriales Mayas in Guatemala as they empower Mayan women through Bible study and workshops on self-esteem and human rights.

Monday, March 15 We give thanks for volunteers, who are the heart and hands of their church communities.

Tuesday, March 16 We pray for the Ministry & Personnel Committee of the Presbytery of Lindsay-Peterborough in Ont. May they feel a strong sense of God’s presence to strengthen, focus and lead their discernment.

Wednesday, March 17 We pray for Presbyterian World Service & Development projects that teach families about cooking and nutrition in order to build healthier, more sustainable futures.

Thursday, March 18 We pray that the faculty of Knox College (Toronto, Ont.), Presbyterian College (Montreal, Que.) and

Vancouver School of Theology (B.C.) find joy and wisdom in and for the work of theological education.

Friday, March 19 We pray for those who are feeling isolated or alone and give thanks for church fellowship programs that extend Christ's friendship to those suffering from loneliness and isolation.

Saturday, March 20 (Spring Equinox) We give thanks for a new growing season and pray for ministries with gardening programs.