

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF LAMBTON

LENTEN SERVICE—Lent 4—22.3.20

"We are encouraged to share the Service together at the same time, at 9am on Sunday. Though we do not receive the bread and wine by mouth, we continue to receive Christ in our hearts by faith." Rev Paul Robertson

Processional Hymn **TiS 140**  
(Please stand if you are able)

**Firmly I believe and truly  
God is Three and God is One;  
and I next acknowledge duly  
manhood taken by the Son.**

**And I trust and hope most fully  
in that manhood crucified;  
and each thought and deed unruly  
do to death, as he has died.**

**Simply to his grace and wholly  
light and life and strength belong,  
and I love supremely, solely,  
him the holy, him the strong.**

**And I hold in veneration,  
for the love of him alone,  
holy church as his creation,  
and her teachings as his own.**

**Adoration ay be given,  
with and through the angelic host,  
to the God of earth and heaven,  
Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

Later form of melody by William Boyce 1711-79  
harmony from Samuel Sebastian Wesley 1810-76  
John Henry Newman 1801-90

**Sentence**

'I am the light of the world,' says the Lord; 'those who follow me will have the light of life.'  
John 8.12

The Priest greets the people.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins  
**whose mercy endures for ever.**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you**

Let us pray:

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself'.

### **Invitation to Confession**

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled and wandered far off.

*Silence may be kept*

Let us then ask for mercy, confessing our sins  
in penitence and faith.

**Merciful God,  
our maker and our judge,  
we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
and in what we have failed to do:  
we have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;  
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.  
Father, forgive us,  
Strengthen us to love and obey you  
in newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God,  
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:  
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,  
strengthen you in all goodness  
and keep you in eternal life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Lord, have mercy Christ, have mercy  
Lord, have mercy.  
Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

## **The Collect**

Gracious God,  
in order that we children of earth  
might discern good from evil  
you sent your Son to be the light of the world:  
as the light of Christ shines upon us,  
may we learn what pleases you,  
and live in truth and goodness;  
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **The Ministry of the Word**

**1 Samuel 16,1-13    Psalm 23    Ephesians 5, 8-14**

## **Gospel Hymn TiS 245**

**We have a gospel to proclaim,  
good news for all throughout the earth;  
the gospel of a Saviour's name:  
we sing his glory, tell his worth.**

**Tell of his birth at Bethlehem  
not in a royal house or hall  
but in a stable dark and dim,  
the Word made flesh, a light for all.**

**Tell of his death at Calvary,  
hated by those he came to save,  
in lonely suffering on the cross,  
for all he loved his life he gave.**

**Tell of that glorious Easter morn;  
empty the tomb, for he was free:  
he broke the power of death and hell  
that we might share his victory.**

**Tell of his reign at God's right hand,  
by all creation glorified.  
He sends his Spirit on his church  
to live for him, the Lamb who died.**

**Now we rejoice to name him King:  
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.  
This gospel-message we proclaim:  
we sing his glory, tell his worth.**

W Gardiner's 'Sacred Melodies', Vol II, 1815 Melody probably  
by William Gardiner 1770-1853 Edward Joseph Burns 1938- *alt.*

When the Gospel reading is announced: **John 9, 1-41**  
**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

After the Gospel reading:  
**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

## The Sermon

After the Sermon there may be a time of quiet reflection.

To all God's beloved in Lambton, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (See Roman's 1:7).

We are living in exceptional times. Is God challenging us to slow down, and take time to reflect?

As our meeting with one another is now restricted, maybe we have an opportunity to be still and more open to God's leading.

We have:

More time to pray.

More time to read our bibles.

More time to reflect.

Today, in John 9:1-41, we meet a man born blind who receives his sight. Please read this part of John's Gospel in your New Testament.

A man moves from darkness to light, from blindness to sight; to profound insight. Not only does he receive his physical sight, he receives an even greater gift:

the gift of faith;

the gift of spiritual insight;

He recognises Jesus as Lord. He says, "Lord, I believe." John then tells us, "And he worshipped him." (V38) He became a follower of Jesus.

A Christian is someone who recognises Jesus as Lord, and worships him. This man's amazing journey is in contrast to those described by Jesus, who see but "become blind." (V39) "The truly blind are not those who cannot see, but those who will not see." (W.J. Dumbrell)

As we walk together on this extraordinary journey, turn to the previous chapter, John 8:12. Jesus said: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." The writer John is preparing his readers for the account of a man born blind who receives his sight.

If we are experiencing moments of darkness, even a sense of blindness, stumbling along, be open to God's leading. Allow Jesus, the Lord we worship, to bring healing, sight, and spiritual insight.

Confronted by those who questioned and tormented him, the man healed of his blindness, does not waver. He stands his ground. He declares: "One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." (V25)

When we are called on to confront darkness in its many forms: uncertainty, anxiety, mixed messages, panic, illness, pandemic, be encouraged. Stay in the light, the light of Christ, who is "the light of the world."

Hold on to him. He is holding on to us. Stay in touch with our brother and sister Christians at Lambton, and beyond. Reach out as best we are able to those frightened by darkness and fear. Give mutual encouragement to family, friends, neighbours, strangers. Yes, use the phone, social media: emails, Facebook. "One thing" we "know," our Lord Jesus Christ is with us, and among us, indwelling us, giving us insight.

Be open to receive him.

"Now to God who is able to strengthen you.....to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen." (Roman's 16:25,27)

Rev'd Paul Robertson

Locum at Lambton

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church.  
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;  
from there he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **The Prayers of the People**

*(Kneel or sit for the prayers)*

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,  
**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 forever. Amen**

Jesus said: A new commandment I give to you,  
that you love one another, even as I have loved you. John 13.34

Let us pray.  
**We do not presume  
to come to your table, merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.  
But you are the same Lord  
whose nature is always to have mercy.  
Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,  
and to drink his blood,  
that we may evermore dwell in him,  
and he in us. Amen.**

## Greeting of Peace

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.  
**We meet in his name and share his peace.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

## Offertory Hymn TiS 204

A thanksgiving offertory collection  
is received for the work of the Church.

**Come let us join our cheerful songs  
with angels round the throne;  
ten thousand thousand are their tongues,  
but all their joys are one.**

**'Worthy the Lamb that died,' they cry,  
'to be exalted thus';  
'Worthy the Lamb,' our lips reply,  
for he was slain for us.**

**Jesus is worthy to receive  
honour and power divine;  
and blessings more than we can give,  
be, Lord, for ever thine.**

**Let all creation join in one  
to bless the sacred name  
of him that sits upon the throne,  
and to adore the Lamb.**

Henry Lahee 1826-1912    Isaac Watts 1674-1748 *alt.*

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.  
Accept and use our offerings for your glory  
And for the service of your kingdom.  
**Blessed be God for ever!**

## The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour be yours always and  
everywhere,  
mighty Creator, everliving God.  
We give you thanks and praise for your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary  
and lived as one of us.  
He was tempted in every way as we are,  
yet he did not sin.  
By his death on the cross  
and rising to new life,  
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin  
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.  
By his grace we are able  
to triumph over every evil,  
and to walk in the way of his love.  
Therefore with angels and archangels,  
And with all the company of heaven,  
We proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*Feel free to remain standing, to kneel or be seated.*

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your  
creation,  
this bread and wine,  
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,  
we who eat and drink them  
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.  
On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;  
and when he had given you thanks  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.'  
After supper, he took the cup,  
and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying,  
Drink from this, all of you.  
This is my blood of the new covenant  
shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.  
Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:  
proclaiming his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross,  
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming again,  
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,  
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice  
for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,  
unite us in the body of your Son,  
and bring us with all your people  
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
with whom, and in whom,  
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we worship you,  
Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread and the Communion**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
We who are many are one body,  
**For we all share in the one bread.**

**Agnus Dei**  
**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**  
**Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.**  
**Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

*After Administration of the bread has been completed we say together.*

**'The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
which was shed for us, preserve my body and soul  
to everlasting life.**  
**We drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for us and are thankful.'**

### **After Communion Hymn TiS 716**

- 1. Father we adore you; lay our lives before you; how we love you.**
- 2. Jesus. we adore you; lay our lives before you; how we love you....**
- 3. Spirit we adore you; lay our lives before you; how we love you.**

Terry Coelho 1952-

*The Priest prays the prayer for sending out*

God of mercy,  
may we who have shared in this holy meal know your forgiveness in our lives, bring your  
reconciliation to others, and be a sign of your wholeness in this broken world.

Most Loving God,  
**You send us into the world you love.**  
**Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage in the power of your spirit.**

## **The Blessing**

Christ our Saviour draw you to himself,  
that you may find in him crucified  
a sure ground for faith,  
a firm support for hope,  
and the assurance of sin forgiven.

## **Recessional Hymn TiS 569**

**Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou are mighty;  
hold me with thy powerful hand:  
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore,  
feed me now and evermore.**

**Open now the crystal fountain  
whence the living waters flow:  
let the fiery, cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through:  
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield,  
be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee,  
I will ever give to thee.**

John Hughes 1873-1932  
William Williams 1717-91 *tr*, Peter Williams 1722-96  
and William Williams *alt*.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen**