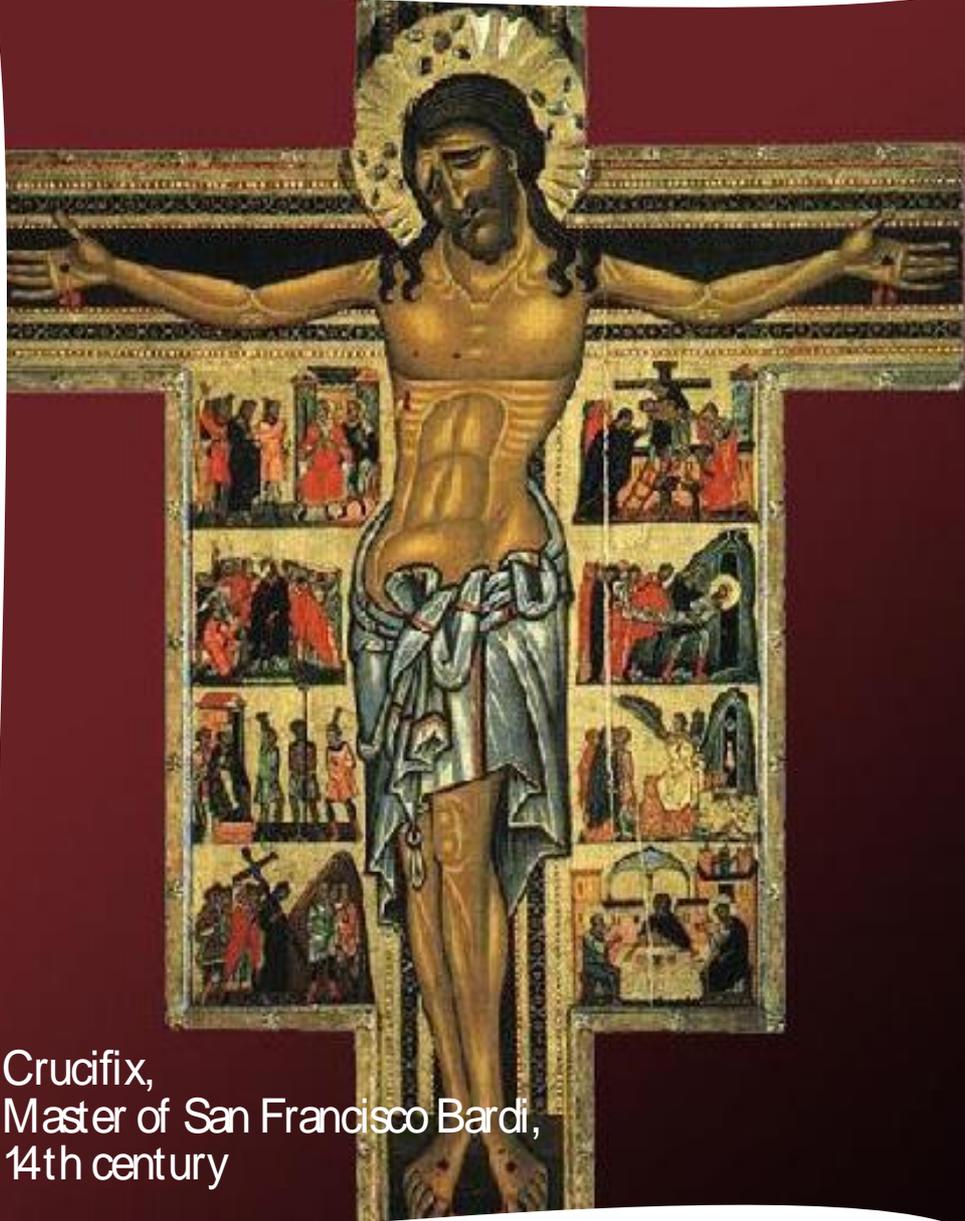




Leigh Memorial
Westmead
Uniting



Lent 2



Crucifix,
Master of San Francisco Bardi,
14th century

28 February, 2021

WELCOME

A warm welcome as we gather together.

LIGHTING OF THE LENTEN CANDLE

We light this candle
as a symbol of God's faithful and loving support
of people in their Lenten journey.

The Lenten candle is lit

THEME

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the Burrumattagal people of the Darug Nation, the first inhabitants of this place, as the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to their ancient culture, their elders past and present and their emerging leaders. We acknowledge the presence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who now reside within this area. We honour them for their custodianship of the land, on which we gather today.

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning O God,
you shaped our soul and its weave
***you formed our body
and gave it breath.***

Reshape us this day
in the image of your love.

***O great and loving God, grant us your living Spirit,
O great God, grant us your grace.***

O great God, grant us
your joy and hope this day
no matter where our hearts and minds find themselves,
And let us be made pure
in the well of your health. *(Thom Shuman, adapted)*

PRAYER

Jesus our brother,
you followed the necessary path
and were broken on our behalf.
May we neither cling to our pain
where it is futile,
nor refuse to embrace the cost
when it is required of us:
that in losing our selves
for God's cause to make human life more human,
for the good, the true and the beautiful
may be brought to new life.

Adapted from Janet Morley, All Desires Known

HYMN *What shall I do my God to love (122 TiS)*

- 1 What shall I do my God to love,
my loving God to praise?
the length, and breadth, and height to prove,
and depth of sovereign grace?
- 2 Your sovereign grace to all extends,
immense and unconfined;
from age to age it never ends,
to reach all humankind.
- 3 Throughout the world its breadth is known,
wide as infinity;
so wide it never passed by one,
or it had passed by me.
- 4 My trespass was grown up to heav'n;
but far above the skies,
in Christ abundantly forgiv'n,
I see your mercies rise.

- 5 The depth of all-redeeming love,
what angel tongue can tell?
O may I to the utmost prove
the gift unspeakable.
- 6 Come quickly, gracious Lord, and take
possession of your own;
my longing heart be pleased to make
your everlasting throne.

ENTERING LENT

Lent is a time to enter our grieving,
To discover that it is safe to own who we are.
To know our own truths more fully is the pathway to
life:
The things we do best,
The things we avoid, even deny doing!
We do this together, believing that,
Even in our confessions, we are with each other.

Silent reflection

Take us on an honest journey in these weeks, O God..
***Receive all that we are in grace
And call us to a grander life, we pray,
Amen!***

(Adapted: Dorothy McRae-McMahon)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

There is no safer place to be than in the hands of God.
The gift of grace is free and liberating
for all who come in humble faith.
We are forgiven!
Thanks be to God. Amen!

HYMN

Community of Christ (TiS 473)

Community of Christ,
 who make the Cross your own,
 live out your creed and risk your life
for God alone:
the God who wears your face,
 to whom all worlds belong,
 whose children are of every race
 and every song.

Community of Christ,
 look past the Church's door
 and see the refugee, the hungry,
and the poor.
Take hands with the oppressed,
 the jobless in your street,
 take towel and water, that you wash
 your neighbor's feet.

Community of Christ,
 through whom the word must sound --
 cry out for justice and for peace
the whole world round:
disarm the powers that war
 and all that can destroy,
 turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish
 into joy.

When menace melts away,
 so shall God's will be done,
 the climate of the world be peace
and Christ its Sun;
our currency be love
 and kindness our law,
 our food and faith be shared as one
 forevermore.

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SCRIPTURE READING Mark 8: 31-38 (*inclusive reading*)

31 Then Jesus began to teach them that the Human One must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

34 He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel,[a] will save it. 36 For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38 Those who are ashamed of me and of my words[b] in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Human One will also be ashamed on returning in the glory of his Parent God with the holy angels.”

Response

*O God our nurturer,
may your word live in us.
And colour our living.
Amen!*

SERMON *Just suffering*

Jesus taught that the Human One must undergo great suffering...
And Peter took him aside... to rebuke him.

HYMN *When Christ was lifted from the earth (Tis, 248)*

- 1 Dear Christ, uplifted from the earth,
your arms stretched out above
through every culture, every birth,
to draw an answering love.
- 2 Still east and west your love extends
and always, near and far,
you call and claim us as your friends
and love us as we are.
- 3 Where age and gender, class and race,
divides us to our shame,
you see a person and a face,
a neighbour with a name.
- 4 May we, accepted as we are,
yet called in grace to grow,
reach out to others, near and far,
your healing love to show.

Source: Ancient and Modern: hymns and songs for refreshing worship #620a

OFFERING An offering of our lives and the gifts of creation.

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

Carry us deeply into your offer of life, Jesus Christ.
Remind us of all the ways
in which you have shown us what we can do, if only we will
believe and act from that faith.

silence

***Expand our vision for the present and the future so
that we may lift high your cross
and plant it in our lives,
as a sign that anything is possible,
if we will truly follow you.***

In this Lenten time, we pray that,
as we reflect on our community and our world,
we will see, through your eyes,
which people are waiting for honesty and courage from us.

We pray for these people now:
prayers for the people

Hear our prayers, Jesus Christ.
May we be those who accompany and restore hope
in and to the world around us,
challenging helplessness, cynicism
and the shrugging of shoulders
in the face of inequity, oppression and suffering.
***May the sharp challenges in your words lift our lives
to new heights of adventure and strength, Jesus Christ.
Amen.***

HYMN *Jesus Christ is waiting* (TiS 665)

1. Jesus Christ is waiting,
Waiting in the streets;
No one is his neighbour,
All alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am lonely too.
Make me, friend or stranger,
Fit to wait on you

2. Jesus Christ is raging,
Raging in the streets,
Where injustice spirals
And real hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am angry too.
In the Kingdom's causes
Let me rage with you.

3. Jesus Christ is healing,
Healing in the streets;
Curing those who suffer,
Touching those he greets.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I have pity too.
Let my care be active,
Healing just like you.

4. Jesus Christ is dancing,
Dancing in the streets,
Where each sign of hatred
He, with love, defeats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I should triumph too.
On suspicion's graveyard
Let me dance with you.

5. Jesus Christ is calling,
Calling in the streets,
"Who will join my journey?
I will guide their feet."
Listen, Lord Jesus,
Let my fears be few.
Walk one step before me;
I will follow you.

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BLESSING

Go into the second week of Lent to live and learn
as we enact our faith in the world.
And may the life of Jesus Christ be made real before us,
the Holy Spirit lift our faith to follow in the Way
and the Creator God make all things new. **Amen.**