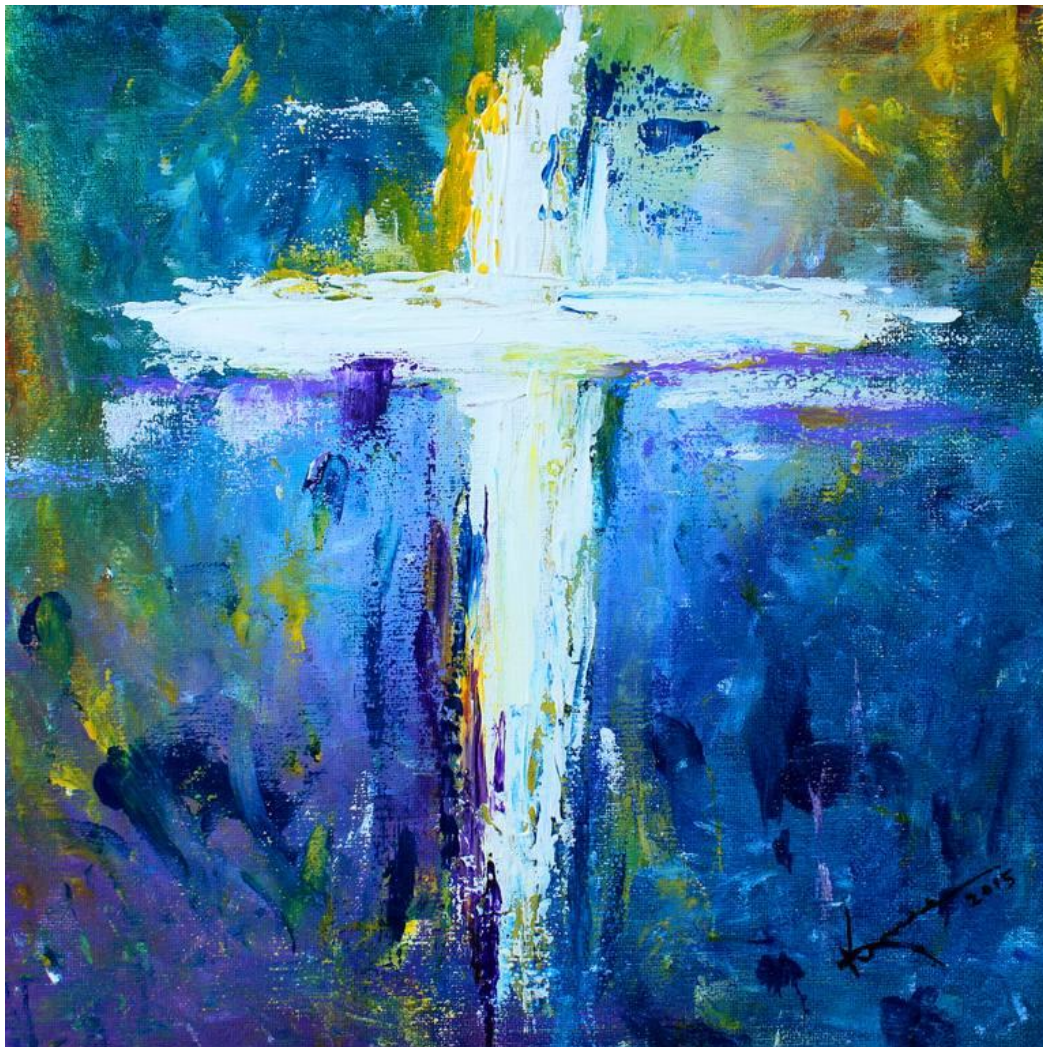


Leigh Memorial 21 March 2021

Lent 5



Travelling the road to freedom (and glory)

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Let us gather to worship God.

Call to worship:

To the church of Jesus Christ
Gathered on line, to all the saints at Parramatta:
the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
And also with you.

From Psalm 51:1-12

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right^[b] spirit within me.

¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing^[c] spirit.

Hymn

‘How great the mystery of faith’.

(Lyrics: Brian Wren; Tune: Ombersley)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJD7z21q7-w>

How great the mystery of faith,
how deep the purposes of God,
in birth and ageing, life and death,
unveiled, yet never understood!

Attracted by life’s deepest claim
we wait, assembled in this place,
with needs and hopes we cannot name,
a thirst for healing, truth and grace.

The best that we can do and say,
the utmost care of skill and art,
are sweepers of the Spirit’s way
to reach the depths of every heart.

Come, walk among us, Holy Friend,
as all are gathered and prepared,
that scattered lives may meet and mend
through open Word and worship shared.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Prayer of Approach

Prayer of Confession

The apostle Paul wrote:

Only let your manner of life
Be worthy of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Jesus said:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
With all your soul, and with all your mind.

Jesus said:

Love your neighbour as yourself.

Forgive us, God of mercy,
God of compassion,
When we forget to love;
When we put others to shame;
When we look away from those in need.

Forgive us, God of mercy,
God of compassion,
When we forget you,
When we forget the way of Jesus,
When we hurt others
And hurt ourselves.

Silence

Song: 'Come as you are'

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qD4KAq_W8tY

Come as You Are
Come as you are, that's how I want you.
Come as you are, feel quite at home.
Close to my heart, loved and forgiven;
come as you are, why stand alone?

No need to fear, love sets no limits.
No need to fear, love never ends.
Don't run away shamed and disheartened.
Rest in my love, trust me again.

I came to call sinners, not just the virtuous.
I came to bring peace, not to condemn.
Each time you fail to live by my promise,
why do you think I'd love you the less?

Come as you are, that's how I love you.
Come as you are, trust me again.
Nothing can change the love that I bear you.
All will be well, just come as you are.

Declaration of Forgiveness

So, if anyone is in Christ.
There is a new creation:
Everything old has passed away;
Behold, the new has come.

Hear then Christ's word of grace to us:
Your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

The Peace

The peace of the Christ be with you
And also with you

Learning Together:

Comparing The Greatest Showman on Earth with John's Jesus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5J29YsEfYlo>

'Check it out now: To God be the glory'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGnYkZs7d7U>

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Bible Reading (1) Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband,^[a] says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember

Bible Reading (2) John 12:21-33

²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

²⁷ “Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰ Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people^[a] to myself.” ³³ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Hymn: ‘Travelling the road to freedom’.
(Lyrics: John Bell, Graham Maule).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUEZPOP95-M>

Travelling the road to freedom,
Who wants to travel the road with me?
Feted by noise and branches
And banners hanging from every tree;
Cheered on by frenzied people,
Puzzled by what they hear and see:
Travelling the road to freedom,
Who wants to travel the road with me?

Travelling the road to freedom,
Who wants to travel the road with me?
Partnered by staunch supporters
Who, come the dark, will turn and flee;
Nourished by faith and patience,
Neither of which is plain to see,
Travelling the road to freedom,
Who wants to travel the road with me?

Travelling the road to freedom,
Who wants to travel the road with me?
Tipping the scales of justice,
Setting both minds and captives free;
Suffering and yet forgiving,
Ev’n when my friends most disagree:
Travelling the road to freedom,
Who wants to travel the road with me?

Travelling the road to freedom,
I am the Way, I'll take you there.
Choose to come on the journey,
Or choose to criticise or stare.
Earth's mesmerizing evil
Only a traveller can repair.
Travelling the road to freedom,
I am the Way, I'll take you there.

Sermon **'Travelling the road to freedom'.**

Hymn: **'Jesus Christ is waiting'.**

(Tune: Noel Nouvelet: Lyrics John Bell, Graham Maule)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CSzEviUc_o

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

Offering Prayer

Notices

Prayers of the People & 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 from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Hymn 'Lord Jesus Christ, shall I stand still'.

(Tune: Rockingham TiS 342: Lyrics: John Bell, Graham Maule)

1. Lord Jesus Christ, shall I stand still
And stare at you hung on a tree:
Or shall I move to where you move
And die and live again for me?

2. Shall I sin and failure cling
Consorting with the guilt I hate:
Or shall I on your shoulders fling
The wrong I breed and contemplate?

3. Shall I your story read and tell
To note your mark on history;
Or shall I make your story mine
And live by faith and mystery?

4. Shall I embrace the love you show
And covet this sweet holy thing:
Or of that love shall my heart speak
My hands relate and my voice sing.

5. Shall I retreat from where you fell
And seek a safer path through life
Or shall I join you in the world
Where peace is scarce, injustice rife/

5. Lord Jesus Christ the God who lives
To love and die and rise again,
Make me the who and you the why
Your way the how and now the when.

Benediction:

May the love of God
The creator in whose image
We are made:
Surround and support you
All your days.

May the peace of Christ
The beloved Son:
Be with you
Through all the ups and downs of life.

May the Spirit of God,
The life giver,
Raise you to new hope:
Now and always, **Amen.**