

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021

Words of Welcome

Silence

A Litany of Penitence

Officiant Most holy and merciful God:

People **We confess to you and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and
deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

The Officiant continues

We confess to you, Lord, that we have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

We confess to you, Lord.

We have turned away from to your call to serve, as Christ served us.

We have not been true to the mind of Christ.

We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

We confess to you, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness:

the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives, our self-indulgent appetites and ways,
and our exploitation of other people.

We confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
our anger at our own frustration,

and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty;

our false judgments and uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,

and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us;

We confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us;

our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

We confess to you, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;
Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,
Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

The Celebrant pronounces absolution, saying

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Trisagion

Hymnal #S-102

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

Reader A reading from the book of Exodus.

Then God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 19:7-11, 14

Your law, O God, is perfect and revives the soul;*

your testimony is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.

Your statutes are just and rejoice the heart;*

your commandment is clear and gives light to the eyes.

The fear of you is clean and endures for ever;*

your judgments are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, *

sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

By them also is your servant enlightened, *

and in keeping them there is great reward.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, *

O God, my strength and my redeemer.

The Second Reading: John 3:16-21

Reader A reading from the gospel of John.

Jesus said, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Miranda Hassett

Office Hymn: "Precious Lord, take my hand"

**Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light,
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

**When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call,
Hold my hand lest I fall,
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

**When the darkness appears
And the night draws near
And the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand -
Guide my feet, hold my hand.
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

Celebrant We now enter a time of prayer. You may wish to bow your head, open your hands, or prepare your body for prayer in some other way.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Now, let us pray as God's beloved children, using the prayer Jesus taught us.

**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.**

The Prayers of the People

Send prayer requests to to prayers@stdunstans.com.

Officiant Let us continue in prayer. We will hold up our needs and blessings to God. You can speak your prayers out loud, type them into the Chat area, or hold them in your heart. As you are able, please hold others' prayer requests before God in

your heart as well.

Let us pray for all churches and their leaders, and for all God's people everywhere.

The people may offer their prayers aloud.

Officiant Let us pray for all those in authority. In this season, we pray especially for all newly-elected public officials, for those working to alleviate the pandemic, for all those working for justice and equity, and for those you now name.

The people may offer their prayers aloud.

Officiant Let us pray for all nations and peoples.

The people may offer their prayers aloud.

Officiant Let us pray for the earth and the whole created order.

The people may offer their prayers aloud.

Officiant Let us pray for our local communities. We pray for all essential workers and healthcare workers. This week I invite your prayers for , and those whom you now name.

The people may offer their prayers aloud.

Officiant Let us pray for those in any need or trouble, especially those on our parish prayer list:

You are invited to name others in need of prayer, and to hold up your own struggles to the light of God's love.

The people may offer additional names.

Officiant Let us pray for all who have died, and for those who mourn. We hold before you all those who have lost their lives to the pandemic, and all the bereaved.

The people may offer additional names.

Officiant Let us pray for our common life and work as God's people.

The people may offer their prayers aloud.

A Prayer to Mark One Year of the Pandemic

The Salt Project, alt.

Good Shepherd, thank you for walking with us through this valley of the shadow of death: through the suffering, the anxiety, the loneliness, the boredom, the longing for closeness and the longing for personal space, the confusion and fear, the impatience and hope, the good days and the bad.

Forgive us for our suspicions of each other, the ways this ordeal has made us more divided, as a country and a world. Forgive us for the inequities this pandemic has exposed. Kindle in our hearts a new commitment to justice as we build and rebuild our communities together. Keep us ever mindful of those most in need.

We pray especially for those of us who have lost loved ones, lost jobs, lost hope; for those on the front lines of the pandemic, and for all who are in harm's way. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted.

For new ways to connect with each other, we give you thanks and praise! For teachers and nurses and doctors and agricultural workers and grocery clerks and small business owners and frontline workers of all kinds, we give you thanks and praise!

For the beautiful hope of being together again in person one day, we give you thanks and praise! For the ways in which our eyes have been opened by this ordeal, for the ways in which our hearts have been broken and put back together differently, softer and more attuned to the needs of the most vulnerable, we give you thanks and praise!

God of life and hope, lift our spirits as we dare to look ahead, dare to hope and dream about the new world to come. Strengthen our efforts, deepen our wisdom, so we might hasten that day. And until that day, keep our eyes and hearts open to the signs of hope and life all around us. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, our crucified and risen Lord. Amen.

Song at the End of the Prayers

Composed by the St. Dunstan's Young Musicians

**Holy God, hear our prayer;
Holy God, hear our prayer.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you!

All **And also with you!**

We greet one another in the name of Christ.

The Blessing

Celebrant Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people who kneel before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the holy and undivided Trinity, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen!**

Dismissal

Officiant Let us bless the Lord,
People **Thanks be to God!**

**Wilt Thou forgive the sin where I begun
Which is my sin, though it were done before?
Wilt Thou forgive those sins, through which I run,
And do run still, though still I do deplore?
When Thou hast done, Thou hast not done, For I have more.**

**Wilt Thou forgive that sin by which I've won
Others to sin, and made my sin their door?
Wilt Thou forgive that sin which I did shun,
A year or two, but wallowed in a score?
When Thou hast done, Thou hast not done, For I have more.**

**I have a sin of fear that when I've spun
My last thread, I shall perish on the shore;
Swear by Thyself, that at my death Thy Son
shall shine as He shines now, and heretofore;
and having done that, Thou hast done; I fear no more.**