

Sunday, March 22

Pandemic 2, Lent 4

Who/what

tech set-up and on site tech – Keith
stage managing/cueing – Jo
musicians – John G, Keith
Add'l Tech Support, Zoom expertise (group muting, helping Ian) – Susie

Service map

10:15 – Peace/social – open time for people to reconnect online

10:30 – light candles

Territorial Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that our church stands on land occupied successively by the Wendat-Huron, the Haudenosaunee-Iroquois, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. This territory is covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant which we acknowledge also applies to us.

Today, again, we are also gathered online in a kind of landless space that has its own set of evolving norms, challenges and opportunities. Though many of us have participated in this space for some time, this feels like a special opportunity to affect the conversation of this place of interlocking networks and bring our vision of community and justice more firmly here.

• ***Welcome – Keith or Jo***

We will be trying some new things this week. We'll try some speaking together, but because of network delays, we'll need you to keep your mics off for this I'm afraid. Unfortunately, we won't hear you, but we still think there is power in sharing words aloud.

We'll also be trying a disparate agape meal together. If you haven't yet, you may wish to go get a bit of bread and a cup of tea, or something else you might offer me if I was there with you right now. We'll still use language of bread and wine, but since this is a meal of symbols, we can be just as holy with whatever fits our needs and availability.

We'll start now with a musical meditation.

• ***Musical Meditation – Keith and/or John***

- **Collect / Poem – Keith**

The Peace of Wild Things by Wendell Berry

Please join me in speaking these words aloud and settle into them together.

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

hold silence for a beat or two

1st Reading – Bill W via Zoom?

From a poem by John Terpstra from his book In the Company of All (2016)

How our roof is held up (Psalm 40)

You, on whom we rely
 our post and beam
we sit under these purlins and rafters
 and wait patiently

We give thanks, always
 for the grace that has been shown to us
in every way we have been enriched
 so that we lack nothing

By you our roof is held up
 by you the budget is met

You have put a song in our mouths
you have multiplied, O Earth-maker
 your surprising deeds
 your kind thoughts toward us
if we were to count them all
 we'd be late for lunch

if we were to say that we understand them all
 we wouldn't be telling the truth

You do not require sacrifice
you do not require offerings
you have an open ear...

Do not withhold yourself
let your love and care pour out
keep us safe forever

Let your love and caring
keep safe, and help, and heal
everyone in the circle of the ones we love

Do not withhold mercy
from our larger circles
our web of connections
keep safe, and help, and heal
our neighbours
fellow dwellers in this town

Please, we beg, hurry and help
all people
fellow dwellers on this planet

Be pleased to deliver the circle of this earth
our world, your creation
to wholeness...

hold silence for a beat or two

Reader Hear what the Spirit says to all people
All Thanks be to God

The Epistle – Ephesians 5:8-14 – Suzanne via Zoom?

Once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. The fruit of light is in all goodness and righteousness and truth. So walk as children of light, discerning what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what is done in secret. But everything exposed to light is illuminated, for it is light that makes everything visible. And so the hymn says, 'Awake, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine upon you.'

Reader Hear what the Spirit says to all people
All Thanks be to God

Gospel – John 9:1-41 – Jo or Joanna?

Reader May God be with you.
All And also with you.
Reader The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to John.

All

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

Walking along, Jesus saw a man who had been blind from birth. The disciples asked, `Rabbi, who sinned – this man or his parents – that he was born blind?’

Jesus answered, “It is not that this man or his parents sinned, but he was born blind so that the works of God might be manifested in him. While it is yet day, I must do the work of the One who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

With these words, Jesus spat on the ground, made mud with the saliva, put it on the blind man’s eyes, and said to him, “Go and wash in the pool of Siloam” – a name that means “sent.” So the blind man went there and washed, and came back seeing.

His neighbours and those who earlier had seen him begging said, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” Some said, “Yes, this is the same one,” and others said, “No, he only looks like him.” The man himself said, “Yes, I am the same one.” “So how were your eyes opened?” they asked. He replied, “The man called Jesus made mud, put it on my eyes, and told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.” So they said, “Where is this man?” But he answered, “I don’t know.” Then he was brought before the Pharisees, who themselves asked how he had gained his sight. The man replied, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and now I see.”

It had been a Sabbath day, however, when Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes.

Therefore some of the Pharisees said, “This Jesus cannot be from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” Others of them said, “But how could a sinner do such signs?” There was disagreement among the Pharisees, and they turned again to question the blind man, saying, “What have you to say about Jesus? Yours were the eyes he opened.” The man replied, “He is a prophet.”

The religious authorities still would not believe that the man had been blind and then received his sight, until they had summoned his parents and questioned them, saying, “Is this your son? Do you say that he was born blind? If so, how is it that now he can see?”

The parents answered, “We know he is our son, and we know he was born blind. But how it is that now he can see, or who opened his eyes – that we do not know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.” (The parents answered this way because they were afraid of the religious leaders who had already agreed that anyone who acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah would be expelled from the synagogue. That was why the parents said, “He is of age. Ask him.”)

So for a second time the religious authorities summoned the man who had been blind, and said, “Speak the truth before God! We know this Jesus is a sinner.” The man replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. I only know that once I was blind, but now I can see.”

They asked, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered, “I have told you already and you wouldn’t listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you also want to become his disciples?”

At this, they hurled abuse at him and said, “You can be his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don’t even know where he comes from.”

The man answered, “Now that is remarkable! You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We all know that God doesn’t listen to sinners, but only listens to those who are devout and do God’s will. To open the eyes of someone born blind – that is unheard of since time began. If Jesus were not from God, he could do nothing.”

“What –“they exclaimed, “you were steeped in sin from your birth! How dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out.

When Jesus heard of his expulsion, he sought him out and asked, “Do you believe in the Chosen One?”

The man replied, “Who is that, sir? Tell me, that I may believe.” Jesus answered, “You are looking at him. He is speaking to you.” Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and bowed down in worship.

Jesus said, “It is for judgment that I have come into this world: that the sightless may see, and those who see may become blind.”

Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to Jesus, “Do you mean that we are blind?” Jesus answered, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but since you claim that you can see, your sin remains.”

Reader The Gospel of Christ.
All Praise to Christ our Saviour

Homily – Ian via Zoom (Susie to assist)

[silence]

Offertory – The Lord is my shepherd (Psalm 23) – Bobby McFerrin

Ian especially requested this psalm and this setting. I think most of you are familiar with the Bobby McFerrin version of Psalm 23 and I hope you will sing along with us with your mic still off. I hope the act of singing this beautiful piece lifts your heart.

The Lord is my Shepherd, I have **all I need**,
She makes me lie down in green meadows, beside the still **wa-ters**, **She will lead**.
She restores my soul, She **rights my wrongs**,
She leads me in a path of good things, And **fills my heart with songs**.

Even though I walk through a **dark and dreary land**,
There is nothing that can shake me, She has said She won't forsake **me**, **I'm in her hand**.
She sets a table before me, in the **presence of my foes**,
She anoints my head with oil, and **my cup overflows**.

Surely, surely goodness and kindness will follow me all the **days of my life**,
and I will live in her house, forever, forev-**er and ever**.
Glory be to our Mother, and Daughter, and to the **Holy of Holies**,
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, **world without end. Amen**

- The Prayers of the People

⌘ Anglican Communion cycle: Pray for the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui.

⌘ Anglican Church of Canada cycle: Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson, the people and clergy of the Diocese of Montreal.

⌘ Diocese of Toronto cycle: Mississauga Deanery.

⌘ The national Indigenous cycle: For the elimination of racial discrimination, and for people struggling against racism.

Agape Feast - Joanna

East and west of Yonge

one: Out of mingled darkness and light,
ALL: THE POWER OF GOD WAS REVEALED
east: in the running wave and the flowing air,
west: in the quiet earth and the shining stars.
one: Out of the dust came life;
ALL: AND THE IMAGE OF GOD WAS REVEALED
east: in the human face and the gentle heart,
west: in the warmth of flesh and the depth of soul.
Leader: Out of justice came freedom;
ALL: AND THE WISDOM OF GOD WAS REVEALED
east: in the need to grow and the will to love,
west: in the chance to know and the power to choose.
Leader: And God looked at the creation,
ALL: AND BEHOLD, IT WAS VERY GOOD.

One: Taste and see that God is good.

Sharing

after the sharing we will say together:

The Saviour's Prayer

Eternal Spirit, Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Love-Maker,
Source of all that is and shall be,
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The Hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your Justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your Commonwealth of Peace and Freedom sustain our hope and come on earth!
With the bread that we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn – Deep Life All Abounding

Words: Ian Sowton, 1985

Tune: Olwen (Voices United #68)

1. Deep life all abounding
whose voice goes on sounding
the word of creation through space;
Your love still is schooling

prime stars in their moving,
and new worlds unfurl in Your grace.
We hear tell the story
of Your ample glory
from creatures that roll off Your tongue:
The swimmers, the fliers,
all diggers and sliders,
the brood that You rear us among.
So praise to You, Maker,
our Father and Mother
and Child whom so loving You send
in fondness to nurse us,
in love to immerse us,
already and always our friend.

2. Along the horizon
warm gardens of Zion
lie fragrant with justice and cure.
But foul runs our error
of waste, hurt, and terror,
and rancid our use of the poor;
we structure their lacking
then blame them for slacking
and leave them despair's putrid crust.
Return us to sharing
that talent for caring
You gave us which we have let rust.
Forgive us, Provider,
our Mother and Father
and Child whom so loving You send
in justice to bend us,
in mercy to mend us,
already and always our friend.

Channel open for a while for continued socializing.
Is it possible to enable people to select their way into smaller groupings?