

Sunday 6th April, 2025
The Fifth Sunday in Lent
Minister: Rev. Ian Taylor, A.C.I.B.S., B.D., Th.M., Dip. P.S.R.P.
Musical Director: Mr. Alan Craig. B.Mus., P.G.C.E.

Members of the congregation who are able to stand are invited to do so as the Bible is brought in and taken out of the Church.

Intimations

Introit

Call to Worship

Hymn 482 Come, let us to the Lord our God

- 1 Come, let us to the Lord our God
with contrite hearts return;
our God is gracious, nor will leave
the desolate to mourn.
- 2 His voice commands the tempest forth,
and stills the stormy wave;
and though his arm be strong to smite,
but also strong to save.
- 3 Long has the night of sorrow reigned,
the dawn shall bring us light;
God shall appear, and we shall rise
with gladness in his sight.
- 4 Our hearts, if God we seek to know,
shall know him and rejoice;
his coming like the morn shall be,
like morning songs his voice.
- 5 As dew upon the tender herb,
diffusing fragrance round;
as showers that usher in the spring,
and cheer the thirsty ground:

- 6 So shall his presence bless our souls,
and shed a joyful light;
that hallowed morn shall chase away
the sorrows of the night.

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Call to Prayer

Prayer of Approach and Confession

Children's Address

Hymn 262 For the world and all its people,

- 1 For the world and all its people,
we address our prayers to God.
*Confidently, all can worship
in the presence of the Lord.*
- 2 All the powerless, all the hungry
are most precious to their God.
Chorus
- 3 For the poor, God has a purpose,
for the desperate, a word.
Chorus
- 4 Christ is here, and Christ is stronger
than the strength of sin or sword.
Chorus
- 5 God will fill the earth with justice
when our will and his accord.
Chorus

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Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the LORD,
 who makes a way in the sea,
 a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse,
 army and warrior;
 they lie down, they cannot rise,
 they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸ Do not remember the former things,
 or consider the things of old.
¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing;
 now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
 I will make a way in the wilderness
 and rivers in the desert.
²⁰ The wild animals will honour me,
 the jackals and the ostriches;
 for I give water in the wilderness,
 rivers in the desert,
 to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹ the people whom I formed for myself
 so that they might declare my praise.

Anthem

St. John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them[Ⓜ] with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii[Ⓜ] and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave

her alone. She bought it[Ⓜ] so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

Hymn 341 Blest are they, the poor in spirit,

- 1 Blest are they, the poor in spirit,
 theirs is the kingdom of God.
 Blest are they, full of sorrow ;
 they shall be consoled.
Rejoice and be glad !
Blessèd are you,
holy are you !
Rejoice and be glad !
Yours is the kingdom of God !
- 2 Blest are they, the lowly ones ;
 they shall inherit the earth.
 Blest are they who hunger and thirst ;
 they shall have their fill.
- 3 Blest are they who show mercy ;
 mercy shall be theirs.
 Blest are they, the pure of heart ;
 they shall see God.
- 4 Blest are they who seek peace ;
 they are the children of God.
 Blest are they who suffer in faith ;
 the glory of God is theirs.
- 5 Blest are you who suffer hate,
 all because of me.
 Rejoice and be glad ; yours is the kingdom.
 Shine for all to see.

David Haas (b. 1957) based on Matthew 5: 3-12 Reproduced from CH4 CD-ROM edition, number 341 Words and Music: © 1986, GIA Publications Inc., 7404 S. Mason Avenue, Chicago, IL 60638, USA. Used by permission.

Sermon

The Offering (& Sung Doxology: Hymn 807)

Prayers of Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Hymn 159 Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided

- 1 Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.
- 2 Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.
- 3 Lord, for our land, in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.
- 4 Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.
- 5 Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us,
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

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Benediction

Choral Amen