

Sunday 30th March, 2025
The Fourth 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 224 The spring has come,

- 1 The spring has come, let all the Church be part of it!
The world has changed, and God is at the heart of it!
New light, new day,
new colour after winter grey,
new light, new day,
the spring has come, let all the Church be part of it!
- 2 The sun is warm, let all God's children play in it!
The world expands, let's spread the Gospel Way in it!
New leaf, new thrust,
new greening for the love of Christ,
new leaf, new thrust,
the sun is warm, let all God's children play in it!
- 3 The spring has come, new people are the flowers of it!
Through wind and rain, new life is in the showers of it!
New bud, new shoot,
new hope will bear the Spirit's fruit,
new bud, new shoot,
the spring has come, new people are the flowers of it!

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Call to Prayer

Prayer of Approach and Confession

Children's Address

Hymn 163 Grace is when God gives us

- 1 Grace is when God gives us
the things we don't deserve.
Grace is when God gives us
the things we don't deserve.
He does it because he loves us,
he does it because he loves us.
Grace is when God gives us
the things we don't deserve.
- 2 Mercy is when God does not
give us what we deserve.
Mercy is when God does not
give us what we deserve.
He does it because he loves us,
he does it because he loves us.
Mercy is when God does not
give us what we deserve.

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Joshua 5:9-12

⁹The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal⁹ to this day.¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Anthem

St. Luke 15:1-3,11b-32

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."³ So he told them this parable: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with^u the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'^u ²² But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. ²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a

young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹ Then the father^u said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

Hymn 553 Just as I am, without one plea

- 1 Just as I am, without one plea
but that your blood was shed for me,
and that you call us, 'Come to me',
O Lamb of God, I come.
- 2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come.
- 3 Just as I am you will receive,
will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:
because your promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come.
- 4 Just as I am—your love unknown
has broken every barrier down—
now to be yours, and yours alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.
- 5 Just as I am, of that free love
the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,
here for a season, then above—
O Lamb of God, I come.

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Sermon

The Offering (& Sung Doxology: Hymn 807)

Prayers of Intercession

Commissioning of an Officer in the Girls' Brigade 65th. Glasgow Company
Prayer of Dedication and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn 555 Amazing Grace! how sweet the sound

- 1 Amazing grace!-how sweet the sound-
 that saved a wretch like me!
 I once was lost, but now am found,
 was blind, but now I see.

- 2 'Twas grace first taught my heart to fear
 and grace my fears relieved;
 how precious did that grace appear
 the hour I first believed!

- 3 Through many dangers, toils and snares
 I have already come;
 God's grace has brought me safe thus far,
 and grace will lead me home.

- 4 The Lord has promised good to me,
 his word my hope secures;
 he will my shield and portion be
 as long as life endures.

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Benediction

Choral Amen