

Morning Worship Online – 7th March 2021

The Third Sunday of Lent

Words of Welcome – Gareth

1. The Introduction

May the grace and peace of God, who is full of compassion and tenderness, and who calls us back with all our heart, be with you all.

And also with you.

We have come together as the family of God in our Father's presence, to offer him praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive his word, to bring before him the needs of the world and to seek his grace, that, through his Son, Jesus Christ, we may give ourselves to his service.

God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Confident of his saving love, let us acknowledge our failures and ask the Lord for pardon and strength.

Silence

Let us confess our sins to the Father and seek his pardon and peace.

**Almighty and merciful God,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word and deed.**

**We have not loved you with all our heart;
and we have not loved others as Christ loves us.**

We are truly sorry.

In your mercy, forgive us.

**Help us to amend our lives;
that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy on you and set you free from sin,
strengthen you in goodness and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The heavens are telling the glory of God
May our worship reflect God's glory.

The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.
May we see each other as the handiwork of God.

Let our prayer and praise,
our singing and proclamation project the love of God.
**We commune with Christians around the world,
with Christians throughout time.**

With Christians across geography and across time,
Let us worship!

—*from Jesus Sets the Table, resources by the United Church of Christ,
posted on their [Worship Ways](#) website.*

2. *The Ministry of the Word*

Hymn – Just as I am, without one plea (Choir of St John's Church, Maindee)

Reading – John 2:13-22 (NIV)

Jesus Clears the Temple Courts

¹³ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my

Father's house into a market!" ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written:
"Zeal for your house will consume me."

¹⁸ The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?"

¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

²⁰ They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" ²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon – Adam

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

3. *Prayers – Gareth*

The Lord is our refuge and strength.

When we call, God will answer 'I am with you.'

Let us open our hearts and our lives to his saving love,
as we pray for the Church and the whole world.

We pray for the Church:

that we may show all ages to come how infinitely rich in grace is God.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the young:

that guided along the right path,

goodness and kindness will follow them all the days of their life.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for understanding and tolerance between different religions:

that all religious people and leaders may seek peace

and proclaim a message of love.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the dying:

that they may be led to restful waters

and come to dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for our own nation and political leaders:

that we may be a source of good in the world,

seeking peace and reconciliation.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the bereaved:

that they may know the comfort and consolation of Christ,

the resurrection and the life.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We call to you, O Lord,

conscious of our own sinfulness but confident in your love,

for you are our refuge and strength.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We conclude our prayers by praying with confidence to the Father,
as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy
but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

4. *Conclusion*

Christ, give you grace to grow in holiness,
deny yourselves, take up your cross and follow him.
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Farewell Words – Gareth

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all, evermore. Amen.**

Final Hymn – In Christ Alone (BandLab Team)