



ANGLICAN PARISH OF GISBORNE



Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 13th/14th, 2021

St John's Riddells Creek Saturday 5.30 pm
St Paul's, Gisborne Sunday 9 am
Church of the Resurrection, Macedon 10.30 am

*The Anglican Parish of Gisborne acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land,
the peoples of the Kulin Nations,
and we pay our respects to their elders, living, past and emerging.*

The Parish of Gisborne is committed to being a Child Safe organisation.

WELCOME

We extend a very warm welcome to everyone who joins us for worship. Whether you are a visitor or a regular parishioner of the Anglican Church, you are invited to join us in Holy Communion. Please make yourself known to us and if you would like more information about our community and ministry, then please take a copy of our welcome brochure, visit our website or ask one of our sidespersons.

Today's worship

Numbers 21.4-9

Transitions do not come easily. They push us to grow. They challenge our expectations and often counter our experiences. Transitions, however, do offer a choice...which is so often framed by our expectations. In response to their complaints, God sends poisonous serpents. Throughout the biblical narrative, serpents and snakes are used allegorically. Various, they represent separation from God, idolatry, and death. At the same time, in this passage, the bronze serpent given by God offers life. Victor Avigdor Hurowitz explains that the use of a created serpent model would have signified a curative to the people of the time and that while the snake/serpent allegories in the Bible point primarily to physical and spiritual death, snakes have also represented healing. The use of a bronze snake at God's direction provides the antidote.

What happens when we instead turn the solution into the problem? When we live with such dissatisfied lives that there's no room for gratitude? When the constant need for consumption or persistent state of discontent stifles a life of gratitude? What community do we form when our concern for real human suffering and tragedy is pre-empted by our complaints about temporary inconvenience?

Our focus passage this week is a cautionary tale, but it ultimately provides a choice. In responding to their plea for mercy, God does not remove the danger; God delivers an antidote—a way to counter the problem. The bronze serpent represents choosing to trust in what God is creating, what God is doing, and how God is moving. The antidote does not negate their real concerns, it reminds them of the God who addresses them. God does not take them out of the wilderness; God invites them to become people of the wilderness...living a "life ordered by God, among a people marshalled by God, in a land created for this people by the promise of God." (Jacobson) It's their choice...and ours.

Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay
UCC

Readings:

This Sunday:	Numbers 21.4-9	Psalm 107.1-3, 17-22
LENT 4B	Ephesians 2.1-10	John 3.14-21
Next Sunday		
LENT 5B	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Psalm 119.9-16
	Hebrews 5.5-14	John 12.20-33

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The Gathering of the People

The ministers enter in silence.

The words printed in bold type are said or sung by the people.

✠ Bless the Lord who forgives our sins,
whose mercy endures for ever.

The Presider greets the people in these words.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Confession and Absolution

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we
have rebelled and wandered far off.

Silence may be kept.

Most holy and merciful God,
**we confess to you and to one another,
and before the whole company of heaven,
that we have sinned by our fault,
by our own fault,
by our own most grievous fault,
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

Lord Jesus, you desire to lead us from death into life.

**Holy God,
holy and mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
have mercy upon us.**

May also be sung

Lord Jesus, you were lifted up to draw all people to yourself.

**Holy God,
holy and mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
have mercy upon us.**

Lord Jesus, you shouldered the cross, bearing all our sins.

**Holy God,
holy and mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
have mercy upon us.**

Lord Jesus, you take away all our sin,
hear our prayers of contrition.

**Lord Jesus, Son of the Living God,
have mercy on us, sinners.**

The Presider pronounces God's forgiveness to which the people reply Amen.

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness to all
who turn to him in faith:
✠ pardon you and set you free
from all of your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Prayer of the Day (Collect)

Everlasting God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you:
give us purity of heart and strength of purpose
that no selfish passion may hinder us
from knowing your will,
no weakness prevent us from doing it;
that in your light we may see light,
and in your service find perfect freedom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

As we prepare to hear God's Holy Words through the scriptures:
open our hearts and minds, Lord. Amen.

The Ministry of the Word

The people sit for the reading/s from the scriptures.

If the Hebrew Scripture is omitted, then the New Testament reading goes here.

First Lesson:

Numbers 21.4-9

After the Lesson, the reader says

May your word live in us
and bear much fruit to your glory.

The people remain seated for the second reading. (if required)

Psalm 107.1-3, 17-22



O give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.
Let the redeemed of the Lord say this,
those he redeemed from the hand of the enemy,
And gathered out of the lands
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

Some were foolish and took a rebellious way,
and were plagued because of their wrongdoing.
Their soul abhorred all manner of food
and drew near to the gates of death.
Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.

He sent forth his word and healed them,
and saved them from destruction.
Let them give thanks to the Lord for his goodness
and the wonders he does for his children.
Let them offer him sacrifices of thanksgiving
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

Second Lesson

Ephesians 2.1-10

May your word live in us
and bear much fruit to your glory.

The people stand and the following may be sung for the gospel procession.



The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen
to his voice.
Harden not your hearts.

The people remain standing and the appointed minister proclaims the gospel, first saying

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

+Glory you, Lord Jesus Christ.

John 3.14-21

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Breaking open the Word

Following the sermon a short period of silence is observed.

The people stand and a minister introduces an Affirmation of Faith

Let us together affirm our faith.

**We believe in one God, creator of all life,
maker of past, present and future.
Lord of all people and of all memories and hopes.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
God's Word of grace, and love made flesh,
who came to declare good news to those in despair,
to liberate both the oppressed and the oppressor,
to proclaim God's mercy as our hope.**

**We believe in God's Holy Spirit,
who takes our shattered dreams and makes us whole again,
who lifts our dying spirits and gives us courage,
who resurrects us to new life.**

**We believe that the Church is of God
and will endure to the end of time,
and calls us into a life of love and service.**

Blessed is our God:

✠ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

The people may stand or sit for the prayers. The Presider says

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

The prayers end with this as the folder is placed on the Altar:

As we, with one voice, offer our prayers, we place the names of those for whom our prayers have been asked on the altar, offering them to you with our gifts as we pray:

**Loving God, we give thanks for all who care for us,
who have encouraged us and helped us grow,
who have forgiven us, and cared for us when we were unwell,
who have supported us when times were hard,
who have challenged us, who have told us about you.
Nurturing God, we give you thanks. Amen.**

Diocese of Bath & Wells

The Greeting of Peace and Offertory

All stand for the Greeting of Peace with these words.

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Please greet those around you, maintaining your 1.5m social distance.

The offertory hymn is sung during which the gifts of the people are prepared.

During the pandemic, we are asked not to pass the plate, which is adjacent to the entry of the Church. It will be there until the conclusion of the service.

Our Father God in heaven
On whom our world depends
To you let praise be given
For families and friends
For parents sisters brothers
A home where love belongs
But on this day for mothers
We bring our thankful songs

How well we know the story
That tells of Jesus' birth
The lord of heaven's glory
Become a child of earth
A helpless infant sleeping
Yet King of realms above
Who finds in Mary's keeping
The warmth of human love

What wealth of God's bestowing
For all the world to share
What strength of heart outgoing
To children everywhere
Our deepest joys and sorrows
A mother's path must trace
And earth's unknown tomorrows
Are held in her embrace

Our Father God in heaven
To you we lift our prayer
That every child be given
Such tenderness and care
Where life is all for others
Where love your love displays
For God's good gift of mothers
Let earth unite in praise

The gifts of the people are presented and the Presider says

With this bread that we bring
we **shall remember Jesus.**

With this wine that we bring
we **shall remember Jesus.**

Bread for his body,
wine for his blood,
gifts from God to his table we bring.

**Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature
by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The people remain standing and the Presider says

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

This preface may be used:

Divine Praise

It is truly right and just, our joy and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Father all-holy, eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All you who thirst, come to the water:

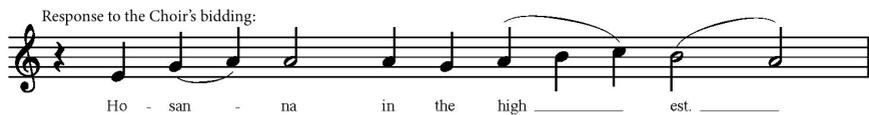
In the mystery of the Incarnation,
Christ has led humankind out of darkness
to walk in the clear light of faith,
and through the new birth given in baptism
has adopted us as your children.

The Angelic Song

And so, with the powers of creation,
we glorify your holy name in this, their ageless hymn of praise:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,
 Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest!
 ☩ Blessed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest.

or the following may be sung. The choir sing the 'cantor' part.

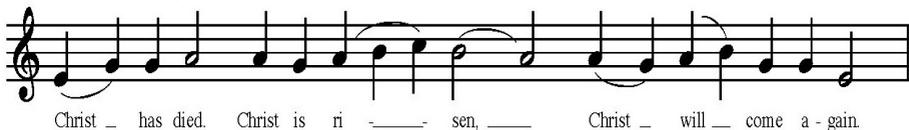


Choir: Hosanna in the highest.
 Response: **Hosanna in the highest.**
 Choir: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
 Response: **Hosanna in the highest.**
 Choir: Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 Response: **Hosanna in the highest.**
 Choir: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Response: **Hosanna in the highest.**

The Prayer continues...

A minister says

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.



Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

now and for ever. Amen or:



As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray:

**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 Breaking of Bread and the Communion

The Presider says

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

The people then say or sing:

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

or the following response is given to the cantor's tropes (verses)

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G-clef (treble clef). The first staff contains the melody for the words "Have mercy on us." with a long note on "us." followed by a fermata. The second staff is labeled "Final time:" and contains the melody for "Grant us peace." with a long note on "peace." followed by a fermata. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined.

The Presider invites the people to come and receive Communion with these words.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Happy are those called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord.
All are welcome at his supper. Come.

Communion today will be in one kind only.

Anthem at Church of the Resurrection
Here is bread, Graham Kendrick

The Sending Out of God's People

The Presider says a post-communion prayer.

In this sacrament, O God,
we receive the pledge
of things yet hidden in heaven
and are fed in our earthly sojourn
with food and drink from on high.

**Let this gift work within us
so that we may bear the fruit
which will endure to eternal life.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A hymn of Thanksgiving is sung:

God of Eve and God of Mary
God of love and mother-earth
Thank you for the ones who with us
Shared their life and gave us birth

Thank you that the Church our Mother
Gives us bread and fills our cup
And the comfort of the Spirit
Warms our hearts and lifts us up

As you came to earth in Jesus
So you come to us today
You are present in the caring
That prepares us for life's way

Thank you for belonging shelter
Bonds of friendship ties of blood
And for those who have no children
Yet are parents under God

God of Eve and God of Mary
Christ our brother human Son
Spirit caring like a Mother
Take our love and make us one

CCLI Song # 7045299
CCLI Licence # 341440

Notices may follow.

The Presider says a prayer over the people in place of the usual blessing during Lent.

Christ our Saviour draw you to himself,
that you may find in him crucified,
a sure ground for faith,
a firm support for hope,
and the assurance of sin forgiven. **Amen.**

A minister says

We go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

At Church of the Resurrection:

Vater unser im Himmelreich, (Our Father in heaven), D Buxtehude.

COMING UP

Sunday, March 21 st	Seraphim Trio Church of the Resurrection
Sunday March 28 th 10 am	Palm Sunday at St Paul's
April, 1st to 3 rd	Triduum (Sacred Three Days)
April 4 th	Easter Day
Sunday April 18 th	Mission Luncheon, Riddells Creek

Missions Lunch in aid of ABM-A project in Myanmar.

Sunday, 18th April,
12.30 pm Riddells Creek Hotel.

Bookings essential

Keep an eye out for more details and associated fundraising.

Rosemary Homewood.

Autumn Festival

Planning is underway for the 2021 Autumn Festival in the Macedon Ranges. Our Parish has undertaken to provide temporary additional; car-parking for visitors wishing to take in the colours of Honour Avenue, Macedon.

We need volunteers to assist as car park attendants for the 6 weekends from the end of March to ANZAC Day. If you have some time to assist, please see the Autumn Festival Car Park Roster on the Parish website – please register your interest and dates/times available to assist. Please contact Margarita Caddick for further details. 0448368774.

Child Safety Update and Clearances

Due to ongoing changes to the Child Safety provisions by law, the Diocese requires each of us to add to our WWCC two more addresses:

Kooyoora Ltd, PO Box 329, Canterbury, Vic, 3126

 9416 1008

Anglican Diocese of Melbourne, 209 Flinders Lane, Melbourne 3000

 9653 4220

Using your SERVICE VICTORIA app (QR code thingy!) you can update this yourself. Over the next few weeks, you will be contacted by either myself, Lyndsey, Marilyn or Alison, and we'll guide you through this. We will also apply for your interim clearance check that is now required.