



The Parish of St. Laurence, Coquitlam

March 7, 2021

LENT III

**Gathering of the Community**

All are warmly welcomed to our worship.

*“You do not need to know precisely what is happening, or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognize the possibilities and challenges offered by the present moment, and to embrace them with courage, faith and hope.”* – Thomas Merton

Call to Worship

Presider O Holy One, I call to you; come to me quickly.

**All Hear me when I cry to you.**

Presider In your great mercy, have compassion on the world.

**All Incline your heart to us, and fill us with your grace.**

Presider Almighty God,

**All to you all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from you no secrets are hidden.**

**Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Kyrie Eleison

1. Kyrie eleison.  
Kyrie eleison.  
Kyrie eleison.  
Kyrie eleison.
2. Christe eleison.  
Christe eleison.  
Christe eleison.  
Christe eleison.
3. Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

Dinah Reindorf, b.c. 1927; arr. *With One Voice*.  
Tune copyright 1987 Dinah Rindorf, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## Collect

Presider God of the overturning,  
your passion sweeps away  
the calculating religion,  
the pious profiteering  
which keep us safely outside the holy places:  
may we find our way through the debris  
of all that protected us  
to find your dangerous heart  
and our world upside down;  
through Jesus Christ our wilderness Lord.  
Amen.

By Steven Shakespeare

# Proclamation of the Word

Reading 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup>For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." <sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Psalm 19

<sup>1</sup>The sky tells the glory of God,  
tells the genius of God's work.  
<sup>2</sup>Day carries the news to day,  
night brings the message to night,  
  
<sup>3</sup>without a word, without a sound,  
without a voice being heard,  
<sup>4</sup>yet their message fills the world,  
their news reaches its rim.

There God has pitched a tent  
for the sun to rest and rise renewed  
5 like a bridegroom rising from bed,  
an athlete eager to run the race.

6 It is springs from the edge of the earth,  
runs a course across the sky  
to win the race at heaven's end.  
Nothing on earth escapes its heat.

7 God's perfect law  
revives the soul.  
God's stable rule  
guides the simple.

8 Gods just demands  
delight the heart.  
God's clear judgments  
keep their truth.

9 God's faultless decrees  
stand for ever.  
God's right judgments  
keep their truth.

10 Their worth is more than gold,  
the purest gold;  
their taste richer than honey,  
sweet from the comb.

11 Keeping them makes me rich,  
they bring me light;  
12 yet faults hid within us,  
forgive me mine.

<sup>13</sup>Keep my pride in check,  
break its grip;  
I shall be free of blame  
for deadly sin.

<sup>14</sup>Keep me, thought and word,  
in our good grace.  
Lord, you are my saviour,  
you are my rock.

from *The Psalter*; Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication, Copyright 1998. Archdiocese

## Gospel

Reader May God be with you.

**All And also with you.**

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to  
John.

**All Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

## John 2:13-22

<sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup>Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” <sup>18</sup>The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in

three days I will raise it up.”<sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?”<sup>21</sup>But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Reader    The Gospel of Christ.  
All        **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily    The Reverend Carla McGhie

Prayers of the People

Angus Dei    *Lamb of God*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:

Have mercy, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:

Have mercy, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:

Grant us, O grant us your peace.

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## Confession

Presider God of mercy, come  
**Into the hidden places of our hearts.**

Presider Christ of compassion, come  
**All Into the broken places of our world.**

Presider Spirit of life, come  
**All Into the polluted places of our lives.**

Presider Most Merciful God,  
**All we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart: we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. Forgive us, heal us, redeem us, Lead us from death to eternal life. Amen.**

Presider Almighty God have mercy upon us,  
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,  
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,  
and keep us in eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
**All Amen.**

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**All And also with you.**

## Sharing of Peace

Offertory Hymn     *Inspired by Love and Anger*

1. Inspired by love and anger,  
disturbed by need and pain,  
informed of God's own bias,  
we ask him once again,  
"How long must some folk suffer?  
How long can few folk mind?  
How long dare vain self-int'rest  
turn prayer and pity blind?"

2. From those forever victims  
of heartless human greed,  
their cruel plight composes  
a litany of need:  
"Where are the fruits of justice?  
Where are the signs of peace?  
When is the day when pris'ners  
and dreams find their release?"

3. From those forever shackled  
to what their wealth can buy,  
the fear of lost advantage  
provokes the bitter cry,  
"Don't question our position!  
Don't criticize our wealth!  
Don't mention those exploited  
by politics and stealth!"

4. To God, who through the prophets  
proclaimed a different age,  
we offer earth's indifference,  
its agony and rage:  
"When will the wrong be righted?  
When will the kingdom come?  
When will the world be generous  
to all instead of some?"

5. God asks, "Who will go for me?  
Who will extend my reach?  
And who, when few will listen,  
will prophesy and preach?  
And who, when few will welcome,  
will offer all they know?  
And who, when few will follow,  
will walk the road I show?"

6. Amused in someone's kitchen,  
asleep in someone's boat,  
attuned to what the ancients  
exposed, proclaimed, and wrote,  
a savior without safety,  
a tradesman without tools  
has come to tip the balance  
with fishermen and fools.

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## Lord's Prayer

Presider And now as our saviour has taught us, we are bold to say:

**All      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.**

## Closing Hymn    *I Am a Child of God*

### Verse 1:

I am a child of God,  
I am a glimpse of God's new creation.  
I am a child of God,  
I am a child of God.

### Verse 2:

I am an endless prayer,  
I am a yearning for contemplation,  
I am an endless prayer,  
I am an endless prayer.

### **Verse 3:**

I am an angry voice,  
I am compassion and consternation,  
I am an angry voice,  
I am an angry voice.

### **Verse 4:**

I am a cry for peace,  
I am commitment and dedication,  
I am a cry for peace,  
I am a cry for peace.

### **Verse 5:**

I am a song of joy,  
I am the moment of jubilation,  
I am a song of joy,  
I am a song of joy.

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## **Blessing**

Brothers and sisters,  
since we are surrounded  
by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith,  
let us rid our lives of every weight that slows us down,  
especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress.  
And let us run with endurance the race that God has set before  
us,  
knowing that the grace of God,  
the love of Jesus Christ,  
and the presence of the Holy Spirit  
goes with us. **Amen.**

## Dismissal

Presider Go Forth into this world, pilgrims on a Lenten Journey.  
All **with Grace and Thanksgiving. Amen.**



## FIRST READING

It is easy to forget that this passage - its commandments - are now largely unfamiliar to the majority of Christians in Western culture. Another reality is that a God of stern directions is out of fashion in contemporary Christian faith. Our primary understanding of God is as loving. There is nothing wrong with this as long as we realize that even human love can sometimes need a measure of sternness and discipline.

When God says "I am the Lord" we do not expect a cosy chat with an invisible easy going colleague. We are being invited to bow down and to obey, neither of which are popular stances in our culture.

## THE PSALM

In this wonderful song, the glory of God and the glory of the sun are mirrored in one another. In today's language the poet is saying that the moral law is one with God's natural creation. Only when we act morally in our relationship with God's creation will we find resolution to our contemporary ecological problems.

## SECOND READING

Paul has a tough case to offer the culture his time. To a Jew a crucified felon was the lowest of the low. To a Greek a new movement that paid no attention to philosophy was irrelevant. To a Roman a new movement that dared to question the pre-eminence of the Emperor was treason. In the face of these things Paul is saying that, while Christian faith seems to challenge these cultural norms, it is in this very challenge to such norms that the truth lies. It is not that Jewish spirituality or Greek thought are of no account, but that God has

stepped far beyond them in Christ. For our early 21st century, with its cultural norms, its exploding universe of information, and its immensely diverse spirituality, the same holds true. God in Christ is not a memory trying to keep up, but the eternal energy that calls from the future.

### THE HOLY GOSPEL

The Treasury of the Temple was one of the great banking houses of the empire. In this scene Jesus becomes disgusted. Disgust turns to anger, anger to action. Jesus is not dismissing the worship of the Temple. That magnificent spiritual tradition has formed his whole life. Jesus is attacking the perverted use of the this great tradition.. "Stop making my father's house a marketplace" he cries.

As John the Evangelist writes his gospel to us today, he is saying what Paul said long ago. It is the theme of all today's readings. Beyond all religious systems stands Jesus. He is in fact the judge of all such systems, our own included. There may be christian churches, christian faith, christian ethics, christian social thought, but they are all under the judgement of the One who was Born, Suffered, Dies and Rises, all to bring these things into being.

Herbert O'Driscoll

# News & Notes

March 7, 2021

For more information on St. Laurence and upcoming activities visit the parish website [www.saintlaurence.ca](http://www.saintlaurence.ca)



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*Thank you!*

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**You** have raised **\$484.10** so far by returning your empty bottles to an Encore Return-It station.

Take your empties to the location of your choice, use the church's phone number (604-936-5423) to log in and print your label.  
One label per bag.

**No need to sort** but remember to place the returns in a clear plastic bag or blue recycling bags.

## The Hermit's Cell

I had to listen for a silence  
that was born inside.  
It took a whole year to find  
and now it does not fail.

I need nothing:  
all I want is where I am.

I used to pray, and praying then  
was struggle with myself.  
Now I am made prayer, am hollowed out –  
a song that needs no sound.

I pick the blow of flowers, bring them back  
in blues and reds and golds,  
and in the slow of winter dark  
I watch for dawn and know  
that I am growing into light  
a little every day.

*By Kenneth Steven*

