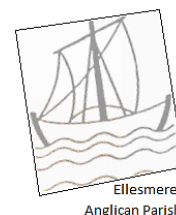


**Northwest Christchurch, Hororata
& Ellesmere Parishes**

**Church@Home Service
2nd Sunday Lent
5 March 2023**



Take a moment or two to be still and ask God to be present with you as you worship.

This is the day that the Lord has made:
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Our Theme today is: From Law to Grace

Opening Song

Yet Not I but through Christ in Me

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLcNMOp5Sps>

A time of confession

Happy are those whose sins are forgiven, whose wrongs are pardoned.
I will confess my sins to the Lord. I will not conceal my wrong doings.

A time of silence as we brings our sins and the sins of the world to the Lord.

God forgives and heals us:

**We need your healing, merciful God: Give us true repentance.
Some sins are plain to us; Some escape us, Some we cannot face.
Forgive us;
Set us free to hear your word to us; Set us free to serve you.**

God forgives us

Forgive others, forgive yourself.

Through Christ God has put away our sin; approach our God in peace.

Sentence and Prayer for the day

God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life.

John 3:16

Prayer

Come Holy Spirit, to all baptized in Your name, that we may turn to good whatever lies ahead. Give us passion, give us fire; make us transform the world from what it is, to what You have created it to be. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Ministry of the Word

1st Reading Romans 4:1-13

4 What then are we to say was gained by^[a] Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? **2** For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. **3** For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' **4** Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. **5** But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. **6** So also David speaks of the blessedness of those to whom God reckons righteousness irrespective of works:

7 'Blessed are those whose iniquities are forgiven,
and whose sins are covered;

8 blessed is the one against whom the Lord will not reckon sin.'

9 Is this blessedness, then, pronounced only on the circumcised, or also on the uncircumcised? We say, 'Faith was reckoned to Abraham as righteousness.' **10** How then was it reckoned to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. **11** He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the ancestor of all who believe without being circumcised and who thus have righteousness reckoned to them, **12** and likewise the ancestor of the circumcised who are not only circumcised but who also follow the example of the faith that our ancestor Abraham had before he was circumcised.

13 For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel John 3:1-17

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. **2** He came to Jesus^[a] by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' **3** Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.'^[b] **4** Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' **5** Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. **6** What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.'^[c] **7** Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You^[d] must be born from above."^[e] **8** The wind^[f] blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' **9** Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' **10** Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

11 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you^[a] do not receive our testimony. **12** If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? **13** No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.^[b] **14** And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.^[c]

16 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

17 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ, the Word.

Sermon **John 3:1-17**

A locally sourced sermon is not available this week.

For a reflection on today's Gospel reading please go to

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/revised-common-lectionary/the-holy-trinity-2/commentary-on-john-31-17-8>

Response Song: **Oh the Mercy of God**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ytsfep3jLTg>

Prayers of the People

The following is adapted from [Auckland Diocese Prayers](#)

We spend time in prayer as we pray

For the Church as it seeks to be transformed into the image of Jesus this Lent – that we may be open for a revival of faith and love as disciples sent out to the world.

(Silence) E te Ariki **whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou** (*Oh Lord, Listen to us*)

For a resolution of all conflicts in every land and nation – that we learn to co-exist in the shared world, promoting love, peace, and reconciliation.

(Silence) E te Ariki **whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

For the sick and hospitalized, their families and caregivers – that they may feel the strength of Jesus' grace in their trials and the support of the people in their communities.

(Silence) E te Ariki **whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

For those who have died recently and all our loved ones who have gone before us – may eternal rest be granted unto them, and may they rest in peace.

(Silence) E te Ariki **whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

For our local community of ... (an opportunity to pray for your local parish and community)

(Silence) E te Ariki **whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Concluding Prayer

Hear our prayers, O Holy God, and enlighten your Church during these forty days with the bright glory of your presence, that inspired by your word, we may open our hearts to your Spirit and be transformed into the image of the risen Lord, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, Holy 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
but deliver us from evil
For the kingdom the pow'r and the glory
Are Yours now and forever. Amen

The Peace: The peace of Christ be always with us.

We invite you to be ministered to through the following song

Song: **Be Still for the Presence**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZugvUQ4m90U>

Final Prayer

Almighty God, giver of all good things,
we thank you for feeding us with spiritual food
We thank you for your love and care
in assuring us of your gift of eternal life
and uniting us with the blessed company
of all faithful people.

Therefore, ever living God, keep us steadfast in your holy fellowship.

And now we offer ourselves, all that we have and are,

to serve you faithfully in the world,

**through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be all honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

Blessing

God the Holy Trinity, make you strong in faith and love, defend you and guide you in truth and peace and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you for ever. Amen!

Final Song **King of the Ages**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UsRs8aXLH1A>

Dismissal

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.

Amen. We go in the name of Christ.