

Lent 4 – March 27th, 2022

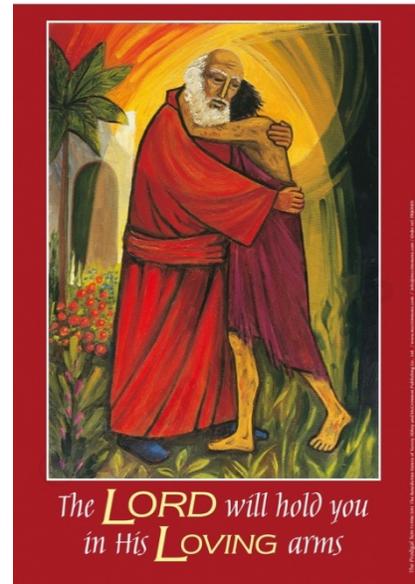
The Regional Ministries of Brome-Missisquoi

Prelude: Prelude on Rockingham by C.S.Lang (1891-1971)

Our Announcements

Our Collect

God of patient love, you await the return of all those who have wandered and gone astray, and eagerly embrace them in pardon upon their return. In Christ, you have clothed us with your glory and restored our inheritance: give us generous hearts to welcome all who seek a place at the table of your unconditional love. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



O God of Love

Tune: Rockingham CP#386.

1 O God of love, O King of peace,
Make wars throughout the world to cease;
Our greed and violent ways restrain.
Give peace, O God, give peace again.

2 Remember, Lord, your works of old,
The wonders that your people told;
Remember not our sins' deep stain.
Give peace, O God, give peace again.

3 Whom shall we trust but you, O Lord?
Where rest but on your faithful word?
None ever called on you in vain.
Give peace, O God, give peace again.

4 Where saints and angels dwell above
All hearts are joined in holy love;
Oh, bind us in that heav'nly chain.
Give peace, O God, give peace again.

Words Rev. Sir H. W. Barker, 1861

The Gathering of the Community

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **And also with you.**

A Prayer for Regional Ministry

O God, you have called us together in this Regional Ministry to bear witness to your loving presence here in the Eastern Townships. Scripture teaches us that while we are many, we all make up one body – the body of Christ. Fill us with your Holy Spirit so that we may fulfill the work you have given us to do in this place; for the sake of Jesus Christ and his Kingdom. Amen.

Land Acknowledgement

In this holy time and place, we acknowledge with respect that we gather on the traditional, ancestral territories of the Abenaki First Peoples. **May the living Christ lead us all on pathways of reconciliation and peace. Amen.**

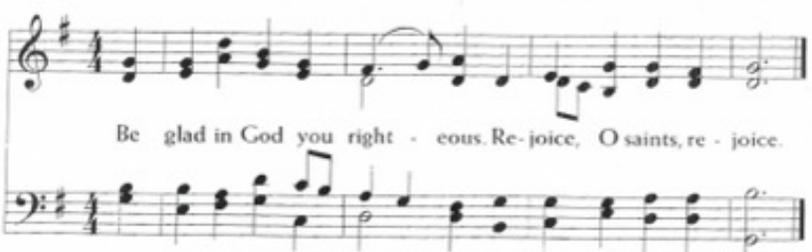
Almighty God to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Joshua 5:9-12 (read by John Dinsmore)

The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. 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. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. 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.

Psalm 32 PSALTER 759

Refrain *Memington ms., 17th century*
Harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward 1901



Be glad in God you right - eous. Re-joice, O saints, re - joice.

Blessed are those whose offences are forgiven,
whose sin has been put away.

Blessed are those to whom God imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit. R

When I kept silence, my body wasted away,
while I groaned all the day long.

For your hand was heavy upon me day and night,
my strength dried up as in a summer drought.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
my guilt I did not hide.

I said: "I will confess my sins to God";
and you forgave the guilt of my sin. R

Therefore let all the faithful pray to you in time of trouble,
when great floodwater rises,
it shall not come near them.

You are a hiding place for me,
you will preserve me from trouble,
you will surround me with shouts of deliverance. R

I will teach you,
and guide you in the way you should go.

I will keep you under my eye and instruct you.

Be not like a horse or mule, without understanding,
whose course must be checked with bit and bridle.

Many pains are in store for the wicked,
but whoever trusts in God,
is surrounded by steadfast love. R

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (read by Gail Booth)

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Hymn #520

1 The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never.
I nothing lack if I am his,
and he is mine forever.

2 Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth;
and where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.

3 Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me;
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 (read by Beverly Ireman)

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. 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. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. 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. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. 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! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned

against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." 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. 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.' 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. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. 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. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 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.'"

The Sermon: The Rev. Tim Smart

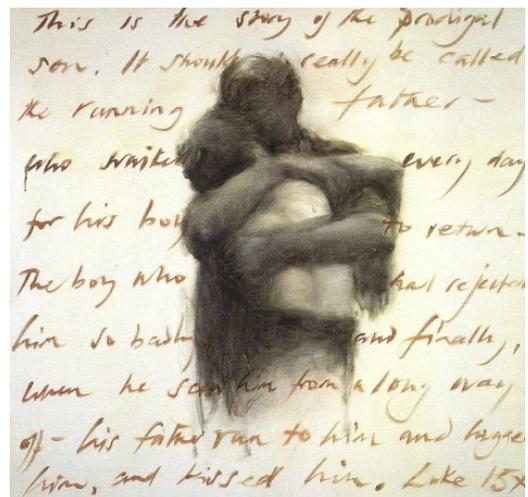
The United Church Creed

We are not alone, we live in God's world
 We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
 who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,
 who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.
 We are called to be the church:

to celebrate God's presence,
 to live with respect in Creation,
 to love and serve others,
 to seek justice and resist evil,
 to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
 our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
 God is with us.
 We are not alone.
 Thanks be to God."



The Prayers of the People – led by John Hoblyn

Confession and Absolution

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness:

Most merciful God,

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.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

May Almighty God have mercy on us, pardon and deliver us from all our sin, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace

Offertory Music: Gymnopedie No.1. Eric Satie (1866-1925)

Eucharistic Prayer # 2

(Musical setting CP#722 Sanctus Tune: Picardy)

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn during Communion #360 (Taizé)

Bless the Lord my soul,
and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me into life.

Prayer after Communion:

All your works praise you O, Lord/ And your faithful servants bless you.

Gracious God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

May we, who share his body, live his risen life. May we, who drink his cup, bring life to others.

We, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope that you have set before us, so that we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Hymn #565

1 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
 pilgrim through this barren land;
 I am weak, but thou art mighty;
 hold me with thy powerful hand:
 Bread of heaven,
 feed me now and evermore.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
 bid my anxious fears subside;
 death of death, and hell's destruction,
 land me safe on Canaan's side:
 songs and praises
 I will ever give to thee.

2 Open now the crystal fountain
 whence the healing stream doth flow;
 let the fiery cloudy pillar
 lead me all my journey through:
 strong deliverer,
 be thou still my strength and shield.

The Dismissal Go in peace to love and serve the Lord/ **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: Cwm Rhonda from *After the Last Verse* by Malcolm Archer (1952-)

Organist: Sarah Hoblyn

Announcements

Wednesdays at 11:00 am at Grace Church, Mass with the Rev. Linda Spear. Everyone is welcome.

Evening Prayer on Zoom, every Wednesday at 4:00 pm. (With the same link as Sunday mornings.)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92308993751>

Holy Imagination Day Saturday, April 9th, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at Grace Church parish hall.

A time to explore our relationship to God and with one another. Speak to Randy Gates fore more details. randykgates@gmail.com



THE RETURN HOME.