



Welcome to Worship
Lent 4, March 22, 2020

Journeying from favouritism to love.

GREETINGS AND NOTICES

WE LIGHT THE CANDLE

We light the candle of community
and think of those whose journeys
have been unexpectedly interrupted,
by illness, by disaster, by law, by war.
We think of those who can no longer journey
to be with the ones they love.
May our journeys of the heart
Lead us gently into your presence.

WE PRAY

Life is a journey with others;
we travel as people, on a winding road.

We share our lives, our experiences, our hopes and fears.

With joy and hope we welcome other travellers
To share our lives.

We learn from one another.

We laugh and cry with one another.
we are at home with one another.
And together we celebrate God's presentness,

as we are refreshed and made ready

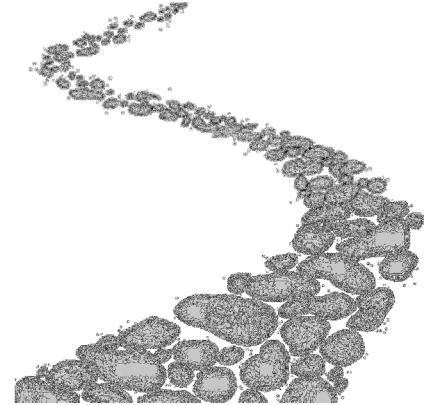
For recreation in our lives and our communities. Rex Hunt (alt)

WE SING

Give thanks, deep thanks, for this new day,
an offering from the Lord:
as new experiences come our way,
they're ours to be explored.
May they with Christian love be filled,
in them Christ's name adored.

Find faith, true faith, for this new day,
for challenge it will bring
that tests our faith, our truth, our way,
our own best offering.
With faith we can life's questions face,
and to them Christ's light bring.

Find love, real love, for this new day,
it will God's love require
for human needs will come our way,
and crises near and far.
In these may Christ be seen afresh
when we through love empower.



Find hope, sure hope, for this new day,
hope makes the three complete:
for lives that demonstrate these marks
all hatred can defeat.
So let the word of Jesus speak,
as this new day we greet.

Norman E. Brookes

FAMILY TIME On Psalm 23..... and being a sheep

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

*If you would like to watch this video clip, copy and paste this address
into your Internet browser and enjoy!*

WE SING: The Lord's my shepherd WS 54

WE PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN

Be with our children, wherever they may be.
May we also be good shepherds
for them as they learn to love and trust you. Amen



WE PRAY FOR OURSELVES

Loving God,
We confess we are afraid of what we do not understand.
We cause great harm when we choose to ignore someone
because they do not look, act, or think the way we do.
We are afraid of the unknown only when we forget that God is always with us.

**The Lord is our shepherd; we will fear nothing.
We will live as though God's love is for everyone.**

We confess we do not act in ways that show God's love to everyone. We create hierarchies and let our unconscious biases guide our decisions.

**We will know we are loved as we seek to love others.
We will live as though God's love is for everyone.
Amen**

CHOIR ANTHEM

BIBLE READING: Matthew 20:20-28

REFLECTION

WE SING Brother, Sister let me serve you WS 8

WE GIVE OUR OFFERINGS

All good gifts come from you, Creative God,
and from these riches we bring this offering.
Help us to use it wisely and well, for your Kingdom's sake.
Amen

WE PRAY FOR OTHERS

YOU GIVE US THE INSIGHT WE NEED FOR OUR WORLD, LOVING GOD.

You enable us to see the huge inequalities in income between the poor in our country and the poor in India and Ethiopia.

You enable us to understand how people suffer through government inaction, neglect, and prejudice.

You enable us to understand the constant struggle of those who suffer from debilitating illnesses.

You show us the areas of need in our own neighbourhood.

ENABLE US TO USE OUR NEW VISION TO BRING CHANGE.

YOU GIVE US THE INSIGHT WE NEED FOR OUR WORLD, LOVING GOD.

It is difficult to enter the daily suffering of those challenged with physical or mental conditions and now the Coronavirus sweeping round the world,

but empower us to make every effort to assist where there is need.

We pray for our own families and our church family in these difficult times.

ENABLE US TO USE OUR NEW VISION TO BRING CHANGE.

YOU GIVE US THE INSIGHT WE NEED FOR OUR WORLD, LOVING GOD.

You help us to understand that we need to listen to the wisdom of our young people as well as those of us of more advanced years.

You help us see those who quietly go about the essential jobs in our church, as well as those who are Leaders whose wisdom and guidance give us confidence and hope in an increasingly materialistic world.

ENABLE US TO USE OUR NEW VISION TO BRING CHANGE

YOU GIVE US THE INSIGHT WE NEED FOR OUR WORLD, LOVING GOD.

We will recognise when we are apathetic, and learn how to get involved.

Make us willing to use our huge capacity to bring hope and healing to all in need.

Let us look carefully at our relationships and make any changes that may be needed.

We will have the courage to act on the insights we receive for justice and peace through the words and example of Jesus.

ENABLE US TO USE OUR NEW VISION TO BRING CHANGE.

AMEN.

WE EXTINGUISH THE CANDLE

The candle is extinguished. Carry the light of Christ within you.

WE GO OUT

Go now out into the world in peace.

Let the majesty of the Father
be the light by which you walk,
the compassion of the Son
be the love by which you walk,
the presence of the Spirit
be the power by which you walk.

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



Up-Hill

Does the road wind up-hill all the way?
Yes, to the very end.
Will the day's journey take the whole long day?
From morn to night, my friend.

But is there for the night a resting-place?
A roof for when the slow dark hours begin.
May not the darkness hide it from my face?
You cannot miss that inn.

Shall I meet other wayfarers at night?
Those who have gone before.
Then must I knock, or call when just in sight?
They will not keep you standing at that door.

Shall I find comfort, travel-sore and weak?
Of labour you shall find the sum.
Will there be beds for me and all who seek?
Yea, beds for all who come.

Christina Rossetti