



St. George's
Episcopal
Church

Celtic Evensong

St. George's

Episcopal Church

March 22, 2020

5:30 pm - Online Worship

You are welcome at
St. George's Church:
Regardless of race,
nationality,
sexual orientation,
gender expression,
or tradition.

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2020

Welcome to our online service! During the prelude, we invite you to prepare for worship by observing silence or taking time for private prayer. We are glad you are here!

Prelude: Glow Gently, Sweet Afton
Obaidh Na Nloinne

Scottish Folksong
Hebrides Folksong

One minute of silence follows the prelude.

Opening Reading: The Wilderness is A Place of Disruption
Prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

The wilderness is here to interrupt your
previously-scheduled programming.

Like water in the desert

And setting the slaves free,

The wilderness might be

The very thing we need,

The very thing we dream,

The very thing we plead

For.

I guess what I'm trying to say is --

It never seems appealing to let a bird
in the house,

But if you do,

Then you might as well

Open every window and door.

And if you do,

Then you might find yourself

Basking in the light,

Dancing in the breeze,

Overwhelmed with the beauty

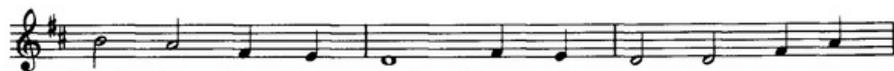
That an open door brings.

Hymn "Come thou fount of ev'ry blessing"

Nettleton



1 Come, thou fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my
 2 Here I find my great - est trea - sure; hith - er,
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly



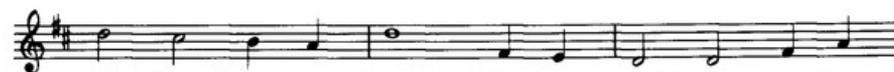
heart to sing thy grace! Streams of mer - cy nev - er
 by thy help, I've come; and I hope, by thy good
 I'm con - strained to be! Let thy good - ness, like a



ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee:



Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by
 Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger wan - dering
 prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to



flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise the mount! Oh, fix me
 from the fold of God; he, to res - cue me from
 leave the God I love; here's my heart, oh, take and



on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.
 dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
 seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Words: Robert Robinson (1735-1790), alt.

Music: Nettleton, melody from *A Repository of Sacred Music, Part II*, 1813

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Call to Worship

One: God is in the water that restores our soul.

All: And God is in the night when we lose our way.

One: God is in today and tomorrow, raising up leaders, prophets and dreamers.

All: And God is in the wilderness with us—every step of the way.

One: So with confidence we declare—

All: If God is in those spaces, then God is surely here.

One: Let us worship the God of creation.

All: Let us worship the God of wilderness spaces.

The Reading

John 9:1 - 41

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have

told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

All: Thanks be to God.

Silence is observed after the reading

Meditation

Two minutes of silence will follow.

The Rev. Joseph H. Hensley, Jr.

Music for Meditation: The Seagull

Hebrides Folksong

Prayers for Ourselves and Others *Please stand.*

Officiant: Let us pray for ourselves and others.

In the silences that follow each petition, please feel free to pray for particular people and situations, either silently or aloud.

Leader 1: We hold before God: those for whom life is very difficult; those who have difficult decisions to make, and who honestly do not know what is the right thing to do. *Silence*

Officiant: God, in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader 2: We hold before God: those who have difficult tasks to face, and who fear they may fail in them; those who have difficult temptations to face, and who know only too well that they may fall to them, if they try to meet them alone. *Silence*

Officiant: God, in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader 1: We hold before God: those who know that they can be their own worst enemies. *Silence*

Officiant: God, in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader 2: We hold before God: those who have difficult people to work with; those who have to suffer unjust treatment, unfair criticism, unappreciated work. *Silence*

Officiant: God, in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader 1: We hold before God: those who are grieving because someone they loved has died; and any who are disappointed in something for which they hoped very much. *Silence*

Officiant: God, in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader 2: We hold before God: those who are victims of violence, those who are neglected or misunderstood, those who are unemployed and frightened, and those who have no one to pray for them. *Silence*

Officiant: God, in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader 1: We pray for the health of the world, especially as we respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. We pray for all who are ill, all who are caring for them, all whose lives have been disrupted by sickness and closures. We pray for the leaders on global and local levels, for wisdom and strength. We pray for courage and grace for all of us to meet the challenges of this time with love and compassionate care, especially for those most vulnerable.

Officiant: God, in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

Officiant: Lord God, may our prayers, rising before you like incense, be pleasing to you; and may our outstretched hands be filled with your mercy, through Jesus Christ, your Son.

All: Amen.

Officiant: During this season of Lent, let us confess our deep need for God's renewing and forgiving love.

All: Gracious God, You invite us to plant a garden of love and harmony, but we grow weeds of prejudice and hatred. You invite us to sow joy and gratitude, but we scatter seeds of greed and envy. You call us to tend the soil of fear and denial, but instead we close our eyes and let the earth suffer. Forgive us. You invited us to plant a garden, and we lost ourselves in the wilderness. Clear our hearts. Breathe life into these weary bones and grant us a fresh start. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Additional Prayers of Intercession + Thanksgiving + Healing

During the instrumental music and hymn, and at any time hereafter, you are welcome to share a prayer request by submitting via the comment or chat function.

Music for Meditation: Donull nan Donull
Alasdair Mac Colla

Hebrides Folksong
Hebrides Folksong

Hymn: "Bless the Lord, my soul"

Taize

Bless the Lord, my soul. And bless God's holy Name.

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

Please rise or rise in spirit.

Officiant: Let us pray:

All: Eternal Spirit Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all. Loving God, in whom is heaven. The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

The Peace

Christ, the Good Shepherd, binds us with a bond of love that cannot be broken. My sisters and brothers, the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

All now exchange a sign of peace.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. We invite you to share your gifts in support of our ministry within and beyond our congregation, especially during this time when we cannot receive those offerings in person. Make your offering online (<http://bit.ly/stggive>) or by mail to the church.

Announcements

For the latest updates and messages of encouragement, check our website (StGeorgesEpiscopal.net) and subscribe to our email newsletter (<http://bit.ly/stgenews>)

Officiant: Let us now join in the prayer that Jesus taught us.

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 forever. Amen.

Prayer for People Facing Great Uncertainty *said in unison*

God of the present moment,
God who in Jesus stills the storm
and soothes the frantic heart;
bring hope and courage to all
who wait or work in uncertainty.
Bring hope that you will make them the equal
of whatever lies ahead.
Bring them courage to endure what cannot be avoided,
for your will is health and wholeness;
you are God, and we need you. **Amen.**

Taken from A New Zealand Prayer Book—He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa'
(adapted)

Hymn: "Be thou my vision"

Traditional

1. Be Thou my Vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Be Thou my Wis - dom, and Thou my true Word;
 3. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that Thou art—
 I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!

Thou my best thought by day or by night,
 Thou my great Fa - ther and I thy true son,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
 Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with Thee one.
 still be my Vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

The Dismissal

Officiant: Go into the world in peace, have courage, hold on to what is good, return no one evil for evil, strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor everyone, love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: The Lobster Pot

Irish Aire

Acknowledgments

The Opening Prayer, Call to Worship, and Confession by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. The Eucharistic Prayer by the Rev. Janet Trisk for the Order of the Holy Cross in Grahamstown, South Africa. The Prayer for the Evening and the Lord's Prayer from A New Zealand Prayer Book, Harper Collins, 1977. Prayers and blessings adapted from the following sources: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Richmond, VA; The Northumbria Community; the Iona Community.

In this time of uncertainty and dynamic change, please know that although we cannot physically gather, God is ever-present. We are here too. If you would like someone to chat and pray with you, please submit a request online (bit.ly/stgprayer) and if it is an emergency (for e.g. sudden illness, death), please contact the pastoral emergency phone (540.361.8573) where you will reach a clergy person on call. Know that we are holding you in our prayers and look forward to a time when we will be able to gather again. God's peace be with you.

St. George's Episcopal Church

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