

March 7, 2021 – Third Sunday in Lent

Celebrant & Preacher:	Rev. Robert Cooke
Music:	Rhonda Wicks
Readers/Prayers:	Lois Jeffery
Production:	Kevin McGrath

Opening Hymn:      Take My Life, and Let it Be

Take my life, and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move  
At the impulse of thy love;  
Take my feet, and let them be  
Swift and purposeful for thee.

Take my lips, and let them be  
Filled with messages from thee;  
Take my intellect, and use  
Every power as thou shalt choose.

### Greeting

The grace and peace of our Saviour Jesus Christ be with you,  
**and also with you.**

As we prepare for Easter, when we shall reaffirm the baptismal covenant, let us continue to observe a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word.

### Kyries

May your loving mercy come to us, O Lord,  
and your salvation according to your word:  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Your word is a lantern to our feet and a light to our path:  
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

O let your mercy come to us that we may live,  
for your law is our delight:  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.  
**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

Collect

Lord of the overturning,  
Your passion sweeps away the calculating religion, the pious profiteering  
which keeps 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 exiled Lord. **Amen.**

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

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. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." 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? 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. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-25

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## A Reading from the Gospel According to John

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. 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. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. 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.

JOHN 2:13-22

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

### An Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God,

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God:  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

## Prayers of the People

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

## Lord's Prayer

Trusting in the compassion of God, we pray as our Saviour 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.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## Confession and Absolution

Dear friends in Christ,  
as we prepare for the Feast of Easter,  
let us make ready our hearts  
to reaffirm the covenant of our baptism.

Let us ask God to bring to light  
the things now hidden in darkness,  
and to disclose to us the secret purposes of our hearts.

How faithfully have we continued  
in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,  
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?  
Lord, have mercy,  
**Lord, have mercy, and complete your work in us.**

How faithfully have we persevered in resisting evil,  
and whenever we fell into sin,  
repented and returned to the Lord?

Lord, have mercy,

**Lord, have mercy, and complete your work in us.**

How faithfully have we proclaimed  
by word and example  
the good news of God in Christ?

Lord, have mercy,

**Lord, have mercy, and complete your work in us.**

How faithfully have we sought and served Christ  
in all persons, loving our neighbours as ourselves?

Lord, have mercy,

**Lord, have mercy, and complete your work in us.**

How faithfully have we worked  
for justice and peace among all people,  
respecting the dignity of every human being?

Lord, have mercy,

**Lord, have mercy, and complete your work in us.**

How faithfully have we worked to safeguard  
the integrity of God's creation,  
respecting, sustaining and renewing the life of the earth?

Lord, have mercy,

**Lord, have mercy, and complete your work in us.**

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

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## Blessing

What does the Lord require? That you do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God. And the blessing of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn:            Rise Up, O Saints of God

Rise up, O saints of God!  
From vain ambitions turn;  
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts  
With nobler zeal might burn.

Speak out, O saints of God!  
Despair engulfs earth's frame;  
As heirs of God's baptismal grace  
The word of hope proclaim.

Rise up, O saints of God!  
The kingdom's task embrace;  
Redress sin's cruel consequence;  
Give justice larger place.

Give heed, O saints of God!  
Creation cries in pain;  
Stretch forth your hand of healing now,  
With love the weak sustain.

## Dismissal

The worship has ended; the service begins. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**