

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

11 March 2018

HYMNS

472 Father of mercy, God of
consolation

129 Amazing Grace

below Whatever our confusion
(tune: *Hail to the Lord's anointed*)

351 Lift high the cross

SENTENCE

The Son of Man must be lifted up,
that whoever believes in him may
have eternal life.



Whatever our confusion by John Campbell, from *Songs to Shake Us Up* (2016)

1. Whatever our confusion, however dark our night,
we each, with Nicodemus, may seek a guiding light;
if we but risk renewal, God's birthing from above,
our stumbling, painful progress can then be lit by love.
2. However fixed our habits, however set our ways,
God's spirit of renewal can blow through all our days;
we can't predict its coming or why it should be here,
but love's refreshing presence can blow away our fear.
3. However great our anguish, the hurts we seek to heal,
there is in Christ's uplifting a rescue rich and real;
for through this stark surrender, God's Son hung crucified,
we're offered life and healing as, for us, Jesus died.
4. With love that knows no limit and disregards its cost,
you've sought the undeserving, you've summoned all who're lost;
with puzzled Nicodemus, you challenge us to say,
will we accept your strangeness; with you, choose life each day?

COLLECT

Everlasting God

in whom we live and move and have our being,
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you:
give us purity of heart and strength of purpose,
that no selfish passion may hinder us
 from knowing your will,
no weakness prevent us from doing it;
that in your light we may see light,
and in your service find perfect freedom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

READINGS

A reading from Numbers:

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.' Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Numbers 21.4-9

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

We say the verses from Psalm 107 alternately:

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious, for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Let the redeemed of the Lord say this, those he redeemed from the hand of the enemy,

And gathered out of the lands from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Some were foolish and took a rebellious way, and were plagued because of their wrongdoing.

Their soul abhorred all manner of food and drew near to the gates of death.
Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

He sent forth his word and healed them, and saved them from destruction.

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his goodness and the wonders he does for his children.

Let them offer him sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of his acts with shouts of joy

Psalm 107.1-3,17-22

A reading from Paul's letter to the Christians in Ephesus:

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved - and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God - not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Ephesians 2.1-10

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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.

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. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

John 3.14-21

This is the Gospel of the Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

PRAYERS

Anglican Church: The Church of England (*Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby*); Diocese of Bathurst (*Bp Ian Palmer Clergy & People*); Chinese Ministry (*Richard Liu, Missioner*); Parish of St John's, Sorrento w. St Andrew's, Rye (*Nicholas Wallace*).

For the Parish: Give thanks for those who facilitate worship or nurture our faith: Eucharistic Assistants, musicians, St Aidan's Group, Torquay Home Group, Mainly Music Team, Group Meditation; and pray that they may be inspired by the way that Jesus nurtured the faith of others.

For the sick & in need: Keiran, Gail Lubie, Sally Newson, Joan, Michael, Lachie Richardson, John Bell, Hannah (*Pauline Reeve's granddaughter serving in Middle East*), Ron Donohue, Will, Deirdre Baker, Russ, Yvonne, Eileen Gleimius, and those in need of our prayers.

Community of the sick: Heather Weiss, Therese Cummins, Don, Alec Baker, Fiona Tunley, Jenny Stewart, Chris Erving.
This community are those who need ongoing prayers for strength, courage, and peace of heart, mind and soul as they journey onwards.

Year's Mind

12th Phillip Marriott (1996)
13th John Pettigrove (2008)

Birthdays & Wedding anniversaries

11th Nancy Cole
13th Sue Dyer
16th Ian Dyer