

# A Liturgy of the Word Fourth Sunday in Lent

Date : 19 March 2023

The full service or the sermon can be viewed on the website.

## Hymn



Open our eyes Lord  
We want to see Jesus  
To reach out and touch Him  
And say that we love Him

Open our ears Lord  
And Help us to listen  
Open our eyes Lord  
We want to see Jesus  
Open our eyes Lord  
We want to see Jesus  
To reach out and touch Him  
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Open our ears Lord  
And Help us to listen  
Open our eyes Lord  
We want to see Jesus  
Open our eyes Lord  
We want to see Jesus

Author: Robert Cull

The Lord be with you  
And also with you.

## Call to Worship



When the world is dark and full of hate and fear,  
when we cannot see God  
**We will turn on the light.**

When we cannot find our way back to love and peace.  
**We will turn on the light.**

When our vision dims due to the darkness within  
**We will turn on the light.**

Christ open our eyes with the gift of sight  
**The light of the world is Jesus Christ.**

Come and worship the One who brings sight to the blind.  
**Praise God, the light of the world.**



Loving shepherd  
thank you for the opportunity to come together in worship.  
Open our eyes to see your presence among us,  
Open our ears to hear familiar words in new ways—  
ways that will change us and challenge us to become  
the people you created us to be.  
Grant us the power and the courage to come out  
of the darkness and into the light of Jesus Christ.  
We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

### *The Penitence*



God's light makes everything visible.  
Let us ask that God's presence shine  
into both the light and darkness of our lives.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father  
in penitence we confess  
that we have sinned against you  
through our own fault  
in thought, word, and deed  
and in what we have left undone.  
For the sake of your Son, Christ our Lord  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you  
in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.**

### *Absolution*



Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you:  
pardon your sins and set you free from them;  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness  
and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ  
our Lord. **Amen.**

### *The Collect*



**Eternal Father,  
Your son is the light of the world:  
Dispel the darkness of our sins  
With your celestial brightness;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you  
And the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

### *The Word of God*



1 Samuel 16:1-13  
Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5:8-14

### *Gospel Reading*



John 9:1-41



## The Sermon



The Revd Margaret Place

## Affirmation of Faith



Let us declare our faith in the words of the Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession



God our Father, in your unfailing love and goodness, hear us as we bring to you our prayers for the world and for all people.

In this period of Lent we come to you aware of our unreadiness for the enormity of the Easter message, that Christ suffered and died for us and was raised in glorious victory. Grant us healing in our souls Lord, and in the souls of all who search for meaning in their lives.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

We give you thanks for your beautiful world, for all its richness and complexity. We pray for better awareness of the needs of our planet and sensitivity to the conservation of its resources. We give you thanks for our senses which enable us to enjoy the splendour of your world around us, the sight and scent of flowers, the sound of birds, the feeling of warmth from the sun.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

We remember the troubled nations of the world, praying for an end to warfare and for negotiations for peace throughout the world and especially this nation and its leaders.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayers for the nations.**

We pray for your church in places near and far - that this season of Lent might be a time of renewal in faith and mission and that together we may learn the path of servanthood toward all humanity. We pray for our church leaders that like Samuel they may have the grace of discernment to read into our hearts and the commission to pour out God's anointing in the assembly

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Lord, we thank you for the gift of our families and friends who support us and surround us with their love. We thank you for this community here at St Michaels Bryanston which sustains us and keeps us rooted in Your love. We pray for all our children who received their first Holy Communion yesterday. Give them a hunger for this sacred food so they turn to you for guidance. We ask your blessing on all who are at turning points in their lives give them courage and hope.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

We thank you Father for your many miracles of healing, and we pray for all who work with the sick and infirm. We name in our hearts those we love who are in need of your healing touch. We pray that your blessing be upon them and those who love and care for them and we pray that they may find encouragement and peace, that their concerns be transformed into comfort, and their loneliness into fellowship with you.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

We remember those who we love but see no longer, that Jesus the light of the world may raise them up to the realms of light and peace. Almighty Father, be with all those who are grieving today over the loss of a loved one. May they feel your light upon them this day and always.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Give us spiritual eyes open wide to your vision for us. Deepen our love for you, for each other and for those who have yet to call you "Lord". Meet us on the road and change us as we learn more of your grace and love in our Lenten journey. In all things, hear our prayer that we might be more like Jesus, in whose name we pray. AMEN

*Prayer for Offering*



Loving God

Thank you for the many gifts you offer to us which reveal your love. Thank you for the ways you encourage us to be generous with the treasures and the time which is ours. Please accept the gifts shared today and help us use them to act out Good News for this congregation, our community, and your whole creation. AMEN

*Lord's Prayer*



As Christ has taught us we are bold to pray:

**Our Father in heaven hallowed be your Name  
your kingdom come  
your will be done  
on earth as it is 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**

*Final Hymn*



Amazing grace - how sweet the sound -  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear,  
the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come;  
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God, who called me here below  
Will be for ever mine.

Author and Lyrics: John Newton

### Final Blessing



May the God of all hope open your eyes.  
May the God of all peace still your anxious mind.  
May the God of all love fill your heart to fullness beyond measure.  
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you, now and always.

**Amen**

### Dismissal



Go into the world, carrying the light of Christ,  
with hearts full and eyes open.

**In the name of Christ. Amen**



### Giving



Thank you for your continued financial contribution to the church at this time so as to enable St Michael's to meet its obligations in mission and ministry.

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