



6th March, 2022 Lent 1

LEARNING FROM THE DESERT

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather here assured of God's everlasting care for us. And so, at the beginning and throughout our Lenten journey we have confidence in God's presence with us in every time of trial and temptation. For everyone who calls on God for help is saved through the sacrificial love of Jesus, our Lord and our Saviour.

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND PRAISE

Liberator God, we praise you for acting to release people from whatever enslaves them. Your people of old remembered your great acts of mercy when you freed them from a land of oppression and led them into one flowing with milk and honey. Like them, we remember and celebrate the great gift of your mercy - your love in action. Love revealed forever in Jesus Christ. Through his sacrificial life and love, we have been released from enslavement to sin and death. We remember today the beginning of his journey towards an agonising death for him, but towards the gift of life for us. May words of praise and adoration for such love be forever on our lips and in our hearts. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

PRAYER FOR FIRST PEOPLES

Many people have gone before
who have honoured God
by caring for the Land,
in the ways they have lived
and in the stories they have shared.

We give thanks
for the nations and people,
who have held as sacred
the duty of protecting the Land
and living in harmony with it.

May God honour and bless them
– now and to eternity. (2017 A. Koh-Butler)



SONG

Deeper in Love – Don Moen

<https://vimeo.com/worshipwell/download/670999251/53071ee812>

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and merciful God, we confess to you our reluctance to enter the wilderness places where we are confronted with our true selves. The places where we are tempted to put worldly values before our desire for you, and when our hunger for power and wealth is greater than our hunger for seeking and doing your will:

Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.

When we are tempted to use the gifts you give us to benefit ourselves at the expense of serving others:

Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.

When we are tempted to use sensational means to increase people's faith, rather than being guided by the humility of Christ:

Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.

When we are tempted to use bribery to influence and control people:

Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.

When we are tempted to manipulate you, O God, to satisfy our own needs:

Forgive us, O God, and increase our trust in you.

A time of silence for personal confession

ALL: Merciful God, save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

Forgive us our sins and fill us with the joy and peace of your salvation. So strengthen us with your Spirit during this Lenten season that we put our whole trust in you as confidently as Jesus did.

This we pray in his name. Amen

ASSURANCE

As the Apostle Paul wrote: "...if you confess with your lips that Jesus Christ is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9) These words contain the good news that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(take this time to pray for each other, the community and world)

SONG

Come Holy Spirit, Fall afresh on me.

<https://vimeo.com/worshipwell/download/670998557/fe5d525158>

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, your love for us is revealed in the gifts of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. You call us to make these gifts evident in our lives. Receive and bless this offering as a symbol of our thanksgiving and as a sign of our commitment to be prophetic witnesses of your love and mercy. In Jesus' name, we pray. Am



READINGS

Ps 91: 1-2, 9-16

Luke 4:1-13

REFLECTION

Learning from the Desert

<https://vimeo.com/worshipwell/download/681764013/de70a71da4>

SILENT REFLECTION

When have you been led by the Spirit?

SONG

Jesus, Lover of my Soul

<https://vimeo.com/worshipwell/download/682079674/9900b671d8>

BLESSING

Go into this week secure in the knowledge that
the mercy of God enfolds you
the love of Jesus Christ holds you fast
the power of the Holy Spirit keeps you strong.

SONG

The Blessing Australia

<https://vimeo.com/worshipwell/download/587007764/bb8097d186>