

St Columba's Church Havelock North



15 March 2020

Lent 3

Welcome to St Columba's

Rev Wayne Toleafoa is leading the service this morning.
Minister's Elder is Anne Keown
Duty Manager is Rex Bartlett
Organist is Ngaire Anderson
Floral artist is Cheryl Lattey

Visitors are invited to sign the Visitors Book in the Foyer.

Lent. The season of preparation and discipline, which began on Ash Wednesday and concludes at sunset on Holy Saturday. During the forty days and six Sundays, the church recalls the sacrificial life and ministry of Jesus leading to the cross - a time to renew our own commitment to discipleship. Liturgical Colour: Purple for 'Preparation' and 'Repentance'.

WE GATHER AS PEOPLE OF GOD

INTROIT:

Please stand as the Holy Bible is carried into the church.

'Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty' WOY 65

GREETING AND WELCOME:

NOTICES:

CHILDREN'S PRAYER:

Children are invited to collect word search or colouring sheets in the back of the church.

THEME: Lent 3

*The congregation is invited to say together words printed in **bold type**.*

LENTEN CANDLE LIGHTING – The candle of Trust:

God has proven trustworthy throughout history, but at times we question and doubt, and even deny, God's presence in our lives. We forget the larger picture at times and focus only on that moment, that period of time, when we experience God's absence. We worry and fret about what is happening and what will happen next, rather than trusting in our Saviour.

We light this candle as a symbol of our faith in Jesus Christ that his presence is with us, and that we are not alone.

PRAYER: God of hope, help us to remember the promise that you will never leave us or forsake us. As we journey towards the cross this Lenten season, remind us of your presence, and help us to remember to trust in you. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP: (from Psalm 95)

Come, let us sing to the Lord!

Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving!

Let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

Come, let us worship and celebrate God's loving presence with us.

We sing to God with our hearts and our spirits. AMEN.

OUR PRAYER OF APPROACH: (Exodus 17, Romans 5, John 4)

Loving and caring God, we come this morning in hope - hope that will sustain us in our trying times, our lonely times, our doubting times.

Refresh us this morning with the living water of your presence and love.

Open us to the possibilities of friendship – the possibilities of encountering you in unexpected ways, the possibilities of seeing the miraculous in everyday life. **Amen.**

WE SING: 'Here in this place' AA: 60

WE ARE RENEWED BY GOD'S GRACE

OUR PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Exodus 17)

Patient and ever-faithful God, we come to you this morning confessing that we - your church – can be a difficult, and unsatisfied people. When things are not perfect in our eyes, we murmur and complain, we grumble and doubt. We lose hope in the people around us and, even worse, we lose hope in you. Good and gracious God, we put you to the test, rather than trust your caring love.

Forgive our doubts and complaining. Forgive our loss of hope.

Let your healing, life-giving waters pour over us. Restore our souls. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Our hope and assurance rest in God's unfailing love and forgiveness.

Open our hearts and minds and souls, that the healing waters of God's never-ending love and forgiveness may flow into and over you.

Know that in this love and forgiveness you have encountered the living God.

Thanks and praise be to God. Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST:

Using sign language we share a sign of peace with those around us.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF PREPARATION:

Open the eyes of our hearts, O God, to comprehend your words of love and life. Through your Holy Spirit, make your presence real to us, that we be truly blessed in the readings and hearing of your Word revealed in the Holy Scriptures.. **Amen.**

OUR SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

First lesson: Exodus 17: 1-7 (page 56)

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second lesson: Romans 5:1-11 (page 917)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

WE SING: We Plough the Fields' CH 4

THE GOSPEL LESSON:

John 4: 5-42 (page 864)

This is the Gospel of Christ

Praise to Christ, the Word.

SERMON: 'Lent 3'.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

WE SING: I Heard the Voice of Jesus' CH4: 540

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING: (Romans 5, John 4)

We are called to live in hope and to share this hope with the world. Let us offer thanks to God for all God has given us by sharing generously of ourselves and of our resources. Through our gifts, may all experience the hope to be found in our living-giving God.

OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER: (Exodus 17, John 4)

Live-giving God, we offer you ourselves and our resources.

Use us and our gifts, that we may be water bearers to a world thirsty for love, for meaning, for justice and for hope.

May all your people encounter fullness of life, through the love of Christ, which lives within us. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: *Led by Anne Keown*

To the words: 'Lord, in your mercy',

the congregation is invited to respond: 'Hear our prayer'

Let us sing Our Lord's Prayer: WOV 676

BLESSING: (Exodus 17, Romans 5, John 4))

We have encountered the living God, through the love of the living Christ.

We have been refreshed by living water.

Go now to live in the hope this encounter inspires.

Be water bearers to a dry and parched world,

knowing that the God of Love and hope

goes before you and with you always.

Let us go in peace to love and serve.

We go in the name of Christ.

SUNG THREE-FOLD 'AMEN'

EXIT OF THE HOLY BIBLE: *Please stand as the Bible is carried from the church.*

Acknowledgements:

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