

# ST PETER & ST PAUL'S CHURCH, AYLESFORD



## A Service of the Word

### All People

Lent 5 - 21st March 2021

#### Welcome and Gathering

##### Call to worship

We come into the presence of Jesus to worship him today. Let us make this a place where all are welcome and all are included.

##### A gathering prayer

**Lord of all,  
we thank you for giving your all to  
include us in your love. Help us to follow  
your example, and to take up our cross  
and follow you. Make us ready to receive  
and welcome all who come to us, so that  
they too 'may see Jesus'. Amen.**

##### Hymn

Que la alegría sea nuestro motor  
En cada lugar y corazón canta a el Señor  
Que de nuestras vidas, abundar en  
esperanza  
Que la alegría sea nuestro motor

Por la gloria del Padre  
Por la gloria del Hijo  
Por la gloria del Espíritu  
Qua la alegría ser a nuestro motor

Let us be known by our love  
Let every word and every deed, honour  
the son  
Let our light shine in every eye  
Let us be known by our love

For the glory of the Father  
For the glory of the Son  
For the glory of the Spirit  
Let us be known by our love

*Matt Armstrong, Micah Massey,  
Nate Moore & Ryan Flanigan*

#### Prayer of confession

Lord, forgive us for not welcoming others  
as you do,  
**for looking askance at the stranger in  
our midst.**

We confess that we are quick to note  
the differences between ourselves and  
others, but you treat all people the same.  
**Forgive us for revelling in the presumed  
privilege of being your children.**

Help us to break down barriers to you;  
**we cannot keep you to ourselves.**

Help us to welcome, unconditionally,  
all who seek you within these 'walls',  
**and to take your welcome wherever we  
go – to be church without walls.  
Amen.**

#### Assurance of forgiveness

Lord God, thank you for welcoming us  
back no matter what we have done;  
for that initial embrace that welcomed  
us, though we were sinners; for the  
forgiveness that greets us every time we  
turn back to you.

*Cont ...*

Help us to embody your forgiveness in our dealings with one another and with those outside the flock. May our welcome be the sign of the greater welcome that comes from you. **Amen.**

### The Collect

**Gracious Father,  
you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

### The Liturgy of the Word

#### First Reading

Jeremiah 31.31-34

"A new day is coming," announces the Lord. "I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel. I will also make it with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their people long ago. That was when I took them by the hand. I led them out of Egypt. But they broke my covenant. They did it even though I was like a husband to them," announces the Lord. "This is the covenant I will make with Israel after that time," announces the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds. I will write it on their hearts. I will be their God. And they will be my people. A man will not need to teach his neighbour anymore. And he will not need to teach his friend anymore. He will not say, 'Know the Lord.' Everyone will know me. From the least important of them to the most important, all of them will know me," announces the Lord. "I will forgive their evil ways. I will not remember their sins anymore."

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Hymn

Lord, you have my heart  
And I will search for yours  
Jesus, take my life and lead me on  
Lord, you have my heart  
And I will search for yours  
Let me be to you a sacrifice

And I will praise you, Lord  
And I will sing of love come down  
And as you show your face  
We'll see your glory here

#### *Repeat*

We'll see your glory here  
We'll see your glory here  
We'll see your glory here

*Martin Smith*

### Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 12.20-33

There were some Greeks among the people who went up to worship during the Feast. They came to ask Philip for a favour. Philip was from Bethsaida in Galilee. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." Philip went to tell Andrew. Then Andrew and Philip told Jesus. Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to receive glory. What I'm about to tell you is true. Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only one seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. "Anyone who loves his life will lose it. But anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it and have eternal life. Anyone who serves me must follow me. And where I am, my servant will also be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.

“My heart is troubled. What should I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No. This is the very reason I came to this hour. Father, bring glory to your name!” Then a voice came from heaven. It said, “I have brought glory to my name. I will bring glory to it again.” The crowd there heard the voice. Some said it was thunder. Others said an angel had spoken to Jesus. Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now it is time for the world to be judged. Now the prince of this world will be thrown out. But I am going to be lifted up from the earth. When I am, I will bring all people to myself.” He said this to show them how he was going to die.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### Reflection

#### Response

Lord, you have sown the seed of your love in our hearts.

**May we welcome and nurture your love.**

Calm our fears and make our prejudices fade away and die.

**May we welcome and nurture your love.**

Help us to open our hearts and our arms to others.

**May we welcome and nurture your love.**

Loving Lord, keep us in your love.

**May we welcome and nurture your love, now and for ever. Amen.**

#### Prayers

*Response:*

Your kingdom come  
**on earth as in heaven.**

*And ending with The Lord's Prayer*

As our Saviour taught us so we pray

**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.**

#### Sending

#### News and Notices

#### Hymn

I come with joy, a child of God,  
forgiven, loved and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall,  
in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,  
each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends.

The Spirit of the risen Christ,  
unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known,  
alive among us here.

Together met, together bound  
by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world  
the love that makes us one.

*Brian Wren (b.1936)*

## Offertory Prayer

God of thundering glory and wondrous love, you lifted up Jesus Christ from the earth to draw all people to your holy name. Like grains of wheat that fall to the ground, teach us to die to our fears - and so to bear much fruit, giving all we have for the sake of the gospel. **Amen.**

## A sending out prayer and blessing

Welcoming God, thank you for the welcome that Jesus offers out of his great love for all people. Help us to follow his example. Teach us to consider the needs of others even when this means we must lay something down.

**Bless us as we meet with others, day by day; give us a spirit of welcome and friendship. As you welcome us, help us to welcome those to whom you send us. Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you and with all those you love and miss, this day and always. **Amen.**

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