

ST. BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR

Deer Isle Maine

Our **Mission** is to **love, praise**, **welcome,** and **serve**:
· to **love** one another as Christ loves us,
· to **praise** God in all things,
· to **welcome** and affirm all persons,
· to **serve** the needs of one another and of those
on the island, the peninsula, and throughout the world.

The Reverend Jennifer Reece, preaching
Connie Mayo, Music Director

Morning Prayer
Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 14, 2021

Prelude: *Wondrous Love* arr. David Johnson

A brief silence

Leader: Rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. *Joel 2:13*

Confession of Sin

Leader: God begs us to turn from those words, those acts, those obstacles which keep us from being God's people. I invite you to join me as we bring our brokenness to God, who desires to make us whole:

Congregation:
Merciful God,
for too long we travelled our own ways,
for too long have sought to satisfy our hidden desires.
We have trusted the falsehoods of the world,
and relied on that power which would consume our souls.
We have sought healing from impostors,
and rejected the one who was broken for our wholeness.
Have mercy on us, God, whose love overflows our deepest hopes.

Let our hearts be a sanctuary for your spirit;
Let our lives abound in service to others;
let our spirits reflect the one we call our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Silence

Leader: God seeks to pour a new spirit into us: the spirit of hope and joy.
Congregation: **We turn to the one who delivers us from our sins.**
We praise God with cleansed hearts. Amen.

Opening Hymn *Jesus when the Water Parted (in back of bulletin)* Jennifer Reece

The Invitatory

Leader: Our God is full of compassion and mercy:
Congregation: **O come, let us worship.**
Leader: Glory to God, Source of all being,
Eternal Word and Holy Spirit.
Congregation: **as it was in the beginning, is now,**
and shall be for ever. Amen.

Lesson: Numbers 21:4-9

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.
Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
Congregation: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 107 *(portion)*

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.
Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble
and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town;
hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.
Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress;
he led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town.

Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.
For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things.

Some sat in darkness and in gloom, prisoners in misery and in irons,
for they had rebelled against the words of God,
and spurned the counsel of the Most High.
Their hearts were bowed down with hard labor; they fell down, with no one to help.
Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress;
he brought them out of darkness and gloom, and broke their bonds asunder.

Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.
For he shatters the doors of bronze, and cuts in two the bars of iron.

Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction;
they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.
Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress;
he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction.

Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.
And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

Gospel: John 3:14-21
Leader: The Gospel according to John
Congregation: **Praise to you, O Christ**
Jesus said, "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 judgment, 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."
Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
Congregation: **Thanks be to God**

Sermon The Rev. Jennifer Reece

A brief silence

A Creed from the Iona Community

We believe in God whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives,
whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth,
whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all
and whose love, defeating even death, is our glorious promise of freedom.

Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt, in God we trust;
and, in the name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves, in the service of others,
to seek justice and to live in peace, to care for the earth
and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness,
to live in the freedom of forgiveness and the power of the spirit of love,
and in the company of the faithful so to be the church, for the glory of God. Amen.

Recognition of birthdays, anniversaries and other significant remembrances in March

Leader: The Peace of the Lord be always with you,
Congregation: **And also with you.**

You are invited to exchange the peace

The Prayers

Leader: The Lord be with you.
Congregation: **And also with you.**
Leader: Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer
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.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect of the Day
Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Congregation: **Amen.**

Collect of the Holy Cross *BCP p. 244*
Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross that he might draw the whole world to himself: mercifully grant that we, who glory in the mystery of our redemption, may have the grace to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting.
Congregation: **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Let us pray that we seek to turn your way, O God. May our Lenten observances bring renewal of spirit and clarity of vision in our service of the Gospel. We pray to the Lord.
Renew our Hearts, O Lord.

Let us pray for political leaders, religious leaders and people of faith everywhere that their efforts and ours to foster global peace and justice be rooted in a change of heart that turns away from violence and seeks the good of the poor, powerless, and defenseless of our world.
Renew our Hearts, O Lord.

Let us pray for all who suffer due to a lack of justice in our world. May they find hope and comfort in Christians' increased actions to improve the common good in this Lenten season.
Renew our Hearts, O Lord.

Let us pray for ourselves, that we might be strengthened to look past the doubts and fears which tempt us to abandon our Lenten efforts to live justly as God's people. We pray to the Lord.
Renew our Hearts, O Lord.

Please offer your own prayers at this time

All are invited to add their own prayers here.

Congregation: **Merciful God, You created us from the dust of the earth,**
and breathed your own life into our very being.
You recreated us in Christ through the waters of Baptism,
that we might share as a people your fullness of life.
During these forty days,
may our fasting strengthen us to seek your justice,
may our prayer lead us to become makers of peace,
and may our sharing quicken the seeds of your Rule,
present in all human hearts, and growing in mystery,
as we await with joyful anticipation, the resurrection of Jesus your Son.
We make this prayer to you in his name. Amen.

Benediction

Sending Hymn 474 *When I survey the Wondrous Cross (in back of bulletin)*

Postlude: *Voluntary* Edward Elgar

Dismissal

Announcements

You are invited to stay for Virtual Coffee Hour

Confession of Sin (Thom M. Shuman from *Ash Wednesday: Imposition of ashes and Communion*) and Creed (c) Iona Community / Wild Goose Publications. Used with permission. www.ionabooks.com

JESUS WHEN THE WATER PARTED



Jesus, when the water parted,
Saw the dove descend; so we
Sharing in the word "belovèd"
From all heartache can be free.
Joy to all who in this season
Come to celebrate God's love
All who hope to find new treasure
In the dwelling of the dove.

Holy God you make us happy
When you bless this Holy Lent
With your promise of forgiveness
For the evils we lament:
When our tears have washed our faces
Clean of anger, shame and fear,
You will kiss us with your beauty,
Make our hearts and pathways clear.

God, you made us all from nothing,
What you made you then called good:
With this earth we give you thanks in
Sisterhood and brotherhood.
Christ you call us now to follow--
Eagerly we tread your way,
By the Spirit cleans'd and strengthen'd
Until we see your Easter Day.

Jennifer M. Reece
Epiphany, 2021.

474 Jesus Christ our Lord



Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)
Music: *Rockingham,* from *Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature,* ca. 1780; harm. Edward Miller (1731-1807) LM