

Welcome to Saint Mary's Episcopal Church!
Third Sunday in Lent—March 20, 2022
Morning Prayer

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/TRANSITION TO WORSHIP

The Word of God

OPENING HYMN

Tree of Life (verses 1, 3, 7)

Marty Haugen

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Enriching Our Worship

Officiant Blessed be the God of our salvation.

People **Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

SUMMARY OF THE LAW

MARK 12:29-31

Officiant Jesus said, "The first commandment is this, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this, "Love your neighbor as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.'

CONFESSION

Officiant We turn our hearts to prayer, vulnerable before you and each other, naming the ways we fall short of who you have created us to be.

We trust that you are a God of tenderness and mercy, who loves us deeply as we are today and yet calls us to more wholehearted, brave, useful living. *Silence may be kept.*

We confess hardness of heart, lack of vision and grasping at simple solutions to complex problems.

We confess taking for granted the blessing and abundance in our lives; choosing convenience and comfort over self-sacrifice for the common good.

We confess the difficulty we have loving our enemies and forgiving those who have done us harm.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Officiant We confess not loving our neighbors as ourselves.

We confess the ugly rhetoric and polarizing caricatures we use to describe those who disagree with us.

We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.

We confess underestimating our power to change the world.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Officiant Aid us, forgive us, help us forgive each other, help us forgive ourselves. Inspire and send us, we pray, in the name of the Holy Trinity. Fill us with hope and help us start anew.

ABSOLUTION

Church of England

Officiant May the God of love and power forgive you/us and free you/us from your/our sins, heal and strengthen you/us by the Holy Spirit and raise you/us to new life in Christ. **Amen.**

KYRIE

Kyrie Eleison

Music: *Unity Mass*, Norah Duncan IV

OPENING COLLECT

Steven Shakespeare

Officiant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Living mystery whose way is not ours, whose name cannot be bought or sold: lead us from justice without compassion and sacrifice without mercy to a love which nurtures and a grace without price; through Jesus Christ, the true bread. **Amen.**

FIRST MESSAGE

Exodus 3:1-15

Officiant Let us prepare ourselves to hear the Word of God as it comes to us from Exodus.

People **Our hearts and minds are open.**

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations."

Officiant Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sung Psalm (choir only)

My Soul Is Thirsting

Michael Joncas

GOSPEL

Luke 13:1-9

Deacon The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He

replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

GOSPEL BASED DISCIPLESHP (8:00 AM)

Steve Andrews

HOMILY (10:00 AM)

Rev. Fr. John Worjloh Mitchell

Priest-in-Charge, St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Minneapolis

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH AND BAPTISMAL PROMISES

© *Iona Abbey Worship Book*

Officiant Please join together in affirming our faith.

People We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn; in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands, conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire. We believe in a with-us God who sits down in our midst to share our humanity. We affirm a faith that takes us beyond the safe place: into action, into vulnerability, and into the streets. We commit ourselves to work for change and put ourselves on the line; to bear responsibility, take risks, live powerfully and face humiliation; to stand with those on the edge; to choose life and be used by the Spirit for God's new community of hope. Amen.

Officiant And now we join together with members of the worldwide Anglican/Episcopal Communion in translating the beliefs in our hearts into action in our lives, in these baptismal questions. Please respond to each promise by saying, "I will with God's help."

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Officiant God of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ you promise to hear us when we pray to you in faith and thanksgiving:

We pray for one another, for our families and friends, through whom we learn to love and be loved, Thank you for all who care for us. Give us grace to serve Christ by serving our neighbors and our community, loving others as God loves us.

Sung Refrain: We open our hearts to you. (2x)

We thank you for the unfailing love you hold out to everyone in Jesus Christ. Comfort and heal those in sorrow, need, sickness or another trouble. Give them courage and hope in their distress, and bless those who minister to them.

Sung Refrain: We open our hearts to you. (2x)

We remember with gratitude your many gifts to us in creation and the rich heritage of our rivers, lakes and woodlands. Help us and people everywhere to share with justice and peace the resources of the earth. Give wisdom to those in authority among us and to all leaders of the nations.

Sung Refrain: We open our hearts to you. (2x)

We pray for your church throughout the world, thanking you for all who serve Christ and his realm. By your Spirit strengthen your people for their works and witness in your world. Unite us in your truth and love, that we who confess your name may also reflect your glory.

Sung Refrain: We open our hearts to you. (2x)

We remember with thanksgiving all who have died in Christ, and we rejoice at the faithful witness of your saints in every age, praying that we may enter with them into the unending joy of your heavenly kingdom.

Sung Refrain: We open our hearts to you. (2x)

SAINT MARY'S COMMUNITY PRAYERS: CONCERNS AND THANKSGIVINGS

Everyone is invited to offer concerns and thanksgivings.

CONCLUDING COLLECT

Officiant Lord, you have called us to serve you.

People **Grant that we may walk in your presence: your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds, your strength in our wills; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PEACE

Officiant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant As Jesus has taught us, we now pray.

Officiant &

People **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Philippians 4:8

Officiant **Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think on these things—and the peace of God will be with you.**

CLOSING SONG

When We Are Tested

Words: Ruth Duck
Music: SLANE, trad. Irish

DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth into the world and know that there are deeds of hope and healing that will never be done unless you do them, and words of hope and healing that will never be spoke unless you speak them. (adapted from Frederick Buechner)

POSTLUDE

SOCIAL TIME *with masks in place in the St Mary's Room for those worshipping in-person*

BREAKOUT GROUPS *for those worshipping virtually*