



3rd Sunday of Lent

March 7, 2021



Welcome & Announcements ~ Jan Richardson

Candle Lighting & Centering

The flames of the Spirit dance brightly before us, summoning each of us by name and inviting us to journey forth.

Gathering

Eternal God, we see your signature all around us in the creation of the universe. Connect our temporary praise to your timeless rhythms, your ageless melodies. Breathe life into our speaking, our listening, our praying. In our worship we reach out to you, O God, knowing that we are already enfolded into your divine embrace. Amen. <http://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/COCU21B.Lent3B.Midweek.2018.pdf>

Hymn: *When Long Before Time* #248 VU

Words, Music: © 1981 Peter Davison. Arrangement: © 1981 George Black. Used with permission of OneLicence.net Annual Renewal A-605521 Hear an anthem version of the hymn at: https://youtu.be/_JQPmcZXu3w

Prayer

Creator God, you have given us abundant gifts for living, but our greed and conceit harm our relationships with you and one another. We confess that we have distorted the beauty and destroyed the energy of creation. Forgive us. Recreate the world with your healing power and renew us to be faithful stewards and loving children of your creation. Amen.

Written by Kay Cho. Page 83 of *Faith on the Move: daily reflections on hope and change*, UCRD.

Theme/Story Time ~ *Three Little Monkeys*, written by Quentin Blake and illustrated by Emma Chichester Clark. Video Version: this book is read aloud by British actor, Benedict Cumberbatch https://youtu.be/_ZvrCI98094

This week's story and gospel text invite us to explore healthy ways to express emotions that so often make us uncomfortable, taking time to consider the positive role they play in our relationship with God and one another.

Sung Response: *Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary* #18 MV

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true;
With thanksgiving I'll be a living, sanctuary for you. (repeat)**

A Reading from John 2:13-22

The towering, glittering Temple may have impressed Jesus as a boy: now he finds the outer court, the Court of the Gentiles, turned into a noisy market serving the Temple treasury but distorting its purpose.

Response to the Gospel: (words on screen © Jeff Shrowder, 2012. <http://thebillabong.info/>)

Like a well-barnacled ship,
the gospel lumbers through time
encrusted
with layered domestication.
We find it difficult
to think of Jesus
angry.
Love God.
love you neighbour.
love your enemy.
But anger?
Jesus' anger disturbs
yet reveals
there's a time for anger.

When we focus on places in which to worship
rather than people to serve
there's a time for anger.
When we focus on self

and ignore the extreme need of many
there's a time for anger.
When we accept poverty, injustice, war
as part of the natural order
there's a time for anger.

There's a time for anger
that results in action
that
heals the hurting
supports the suffering
relieves the exploited
frees the enslaved
brings God's love to bear.

There's a time when it's wrong
not to be angry.

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Minister's Message/Reflection

Prayers of the Community & The Prayer Jesus Taught

Hymn: *Jesus Christ is Waiting* #117 VU

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Video version: Recorded, with organ accompaniment, at Norwich Cathedral https://youtu.be/_CSzEviUc_o

Sending Words (inspired by 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, 3:18-20)

They are right,
those who doubt what we do.

It is purely the product of over-active imaginations.
Who but the foolish would look at barren ground and imagine food for all,
see past desolation and believe it will become an oasis,
would not be stopped by war, but live for the day it will be peace,
and reach deep into the world's fear in the prayer it would bring life.

So, if faith is the terrain of the deluded
then may you leave here with the faith of the fools
who have loved the world since it's beginning
and will live for its redemption until its end.

~ written by Cheryl Lawrie, and posted on **[hold this space]**. <http://holdthisspace.org.au/>

Choral Amen: (*Fourfold Amen*) #208 MV

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