



Order of Service for March 14, 2021  
Fourth Sunday in Lent  
Laetare Sunday / Mothering Sunday  
Service of Spiritual Communion  
9:30 am  
Officiating: The Reverend Fergus Tyson  
Preaching: The Rev'd Dr. Bob Mummery



*Stronger Than Death  
Restore to me the joy of your  
salvation, and sustain in me a  
willing spirit.  
Psalm 51:12*

Joy does not come from positive predictions about the state of the world. It does not depend on the ups and downs of the circumstances of our lives. Joy is based on the spiritual knowledge that, while the world in which we live is shrouded in darkness, God has overcome the world. Jesus says it loudly and clearly: “In the world you will have troubles, but rejoice, I have overcome the world.”

The surprise is not that, unexpectedly, things turn out better than expected. No, the real surprise is that God’s light is more real than all the darkness, that God’s truth is more powerful than all human lies, that God’s love is stronger than death. (Henri J.M. Nouwen)

**LORD, help me to see that I don’t have to overcome the troubles of the world by myself. Help me trust in what Jesus has already done.**

- Henri J. M. Nouwen and C. S. Lewis, *A Wondrous Love: Daily Lenten Meditations and Prayers* (2015).

# Service of Spiritual Communion

## The Gathering of the Community

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn: To God be the Glory (screens)

Greeting (screens)

Collect for Purity (screens)

Collect of the Day (screens)

## The Proclamation of the Word

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (screens)

### The First Reading

From Mount Hor they 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. NUMBERS 21:4-9

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gradual Hymn: We are the Church (screens also)

Refrain:

I am the church, you are the church,  
we are the church together.  
All who follow Jesus, all around the world,  
yes we're the church together.

The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple,  
the church is not a resting place, the church is the people!

We're many kinds of people with many kinds of faces. all  
colours and all ages too, from all times and places.

And when the people gather there's singing and there's  
praying, there's laughing and there's crying sometimes  
all of it saying:

I count if I am ninety, Or nine or just a baby, There's one  
thing I am sure about And I don't mean maybe:

At Pentecost some people received the Holy Spirit,  
and told the Good News through the world  
to all who would hear it.

### The Holy Gospel

People: *Glory to you, Lord Jesus 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 judgement, 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." JOHN 3:14-21

Leader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

### Sermon

The Apostles' Creed (screens)

### The Prayers of the People

Litany for Mothering Sunday (screens)

A Contagion of Hope: Prayer in Response to COVID-19 (screens)

Confession and Absolution (screens)

The Peace (screens)

## The Celebration of the Eucharist

Offertory Choir Anthem: There is a Redeemer (screens)

Prayer over the Gifts (screens)

Eucharistic Prayer (screens)

The Lord's Prayer (screens)

The Breaking of the Bread (screens)

The Communion (screens)

Prayer for Communion (screens)

Prayer after Communion (screens)

The Blessing

Closing Hymn: Bind Us Together (screens)

Dismissal (screens)

Virtual Coffee Time Zoom Link: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/87399496922?pwd=eWxvZDdTYUVuNjJZdUZ4MjFHWFdQdzog>

## Prayers for This Week

*(Bold italics indicate new or special emphasis this week.)*

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for the *Iglesia Anglicana de Chile*.

In the Anglican-Lutheran Prayer Cycle: In the Anglican Church we pray for *The Rt. Rev. Bruce Myers, Bishop, and the people and clergy of the Diocese of Quebec*; and in the Lutheran Church we pray for *Bishop Jason Zinko, the people and rostered ministers of the Manitoba-Northwestern Ontario Synod*.

In our Diocesan Cycle, we pray for the people of the parish of *Parkland Parish: St. Hilda, Arthurvale, St. David, Elnora, Holy Trinity, Pine Lake, and St. Paul, Hillsdown* and for their incumbent *Larry Keddie*.

We lift to you our friends, in our Companion Diocese, the Windward Islands.

In our Parish Cycle, we pray for the safety and well-being of all members of our Parish, and pledge to stay connected with one another and face the challenges of COVID-19 together; we remember our clergy, *Fergus, Cyril, Norman, Bob, and their families*; and we especially uphold all who are infirm, immune-compromised, or on the front lines in this battle.

We pray for our foster child *Desta Keweti*.

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health, comfort and strengthen those of our parish who are sick, injured or distressed, and those approaching or recovering from surgery, especially we lift up to you *the family of Joy (Abby's sister)*; *Antony; Judy; Paul; the family of Raymond (uncle of Paul)*; *Dinah; the family of John; Debra, Lori and family of Josie*; *Crystal (niece of Rosemarie)*; *Bill & Pat; Steve*; the family of *Bob*; *the family of Carmen*; *John; the family of Bonnie; Gerald; Gerald and Louise (Shannon's father and mother)*; *Megan and family, Molly (mother of Sian)*; *the family of Simon; Stephen; Dwight (Dorothy-Ann's cousin)*; *Donna*; *Jo*; *the family of Brenda (relative of the Collers)*; *the family of Joan (mother of Richard)*; *Tracy; Roxie and the family of Andy; Harry (friend of Ian and Kathleen)*; *Julia; the Herritt family in their bereavement*; *Gina; Gael; Verna and her family; Michael; Barb; Jen; the family of Leslie; Patrick, Jordan; the family of Lene; the family of Helen; Eleanor; Jackie K. (sister of Pauline)*; *Dorothy; the family of Mauricia (mother of Ella )*; *Max & Rebecca; Anne; Dozy & Obie & family; Karla; the family of Kathy; Kevin; Richard (friend of Anne)*; *Terry; Jerrod; Melissa and her family (friends of Jenn)*; *Dennis; Mike; Val; Martin; Chinazor; Sheila; Melissa and her family; Adrianna; Peggy; Bob and Joanne; Laura (sister of Kim)*; *the family of Douglas; Michelle; Ian; Pat; Christine; Rick (brother of Sheila)*; *Gwen; Jacquie; Gwen (aunt of Julie), Jackie (cousin of Julie), Ellen; Pauline*; *Monika (mother of Dennis)*; *Kathy (daughter of Bob & Joanne)*; *Trudy (cousin of Iona)*; *Len; Andrea and Andrew's family; Margaret; Marlene; the family of James (father of Allison)*; *Ginny; and the Rev'd Tim Webster*.

We pray for containment of the COVID-19 coronavirus worldwide; protection for nurses and all those on the front lines or especially vulnerable to its effects, in particular all who are homeless; and full restoration of health for all those who are ill.

We pray for all struggling economically, and all those affected by fires, floods, storms or other natural disasters. We pray for us all to stand together in hard times.

We pray for peace and justice in our own country and throughout the world. We remember the USA and Iran. We pray for the people Nigeria, and all whose lives have been torn apart by violence. We pray for safe haven for those whom violence has forced to flee their homes. We pray for an end to racism and discrimination, and all acts of hatred. We stand in solidarity with all whose lives have been devastated by human evil and all seeking to make the world as it ought to be. We pray for protection and guidance for all in law enforcement or our military in danger at home or overseas. May your Holy Spirit guide world leaders to seek just resolutions to all conflicts, that all people may come to know your peace that passes all understanding and war be no more.

We thank you for your healing touch, which sustains us every day; and for all the many healings that have taken place in our parish; and your unending mercy as you hear our prayers.



The flowers on the Altar are given to the Glory of God.