

Passing the Peace

In love, hope and unity, with vision and service, let us greet each other with a sign of peace. May the peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

WE REFLECT ON WORDS FOR OUR TIME

Isaiah 42: 1-9

42 “Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations.

² He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets.

³ A bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;

⁴ He will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope.”

⁵ This is what God the Lord says— the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it:

⁶ “I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles,

⁷ to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

⁸ “I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols.

⁹ See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you.”

Psalm 29

Refrain (tune TiS 713; sing twice each response)



Dona nobis pacem cordium (repeat)

(Grant us peace of heart)

Acts 10:34-43

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favouritism ³⁵ but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. ³⁶ You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. ³⁷ You know what has happened

throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

³⁹ “We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross,⁴⁰ but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen.⁴¹ He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Matthew 3: 13-17

The Baptism of Jesus

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

¹⁵ Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

Reflection - When did you change?

Music for Reflection

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

Hymn: TIS 653 – This is a day of new beginnings

Offerings

Prayers of the People¹

The Care Candle is lit

Our deepest hope, our most tender prayer,
Is that we learn to listen.

May we listen to one another in openness and mercy
May we listen to plants and animals in wonder and respect
May we listen to our hearts in love and forgiveness
May we listen to our deep spirit in quietness and awe.
'Let us listen'

We listen with our hearts and minds.

And in this listening,
May we find the wisdom to cooperate
With a healing spirit, a divine spirit,
which beckons us into peace and community and creativity.
'Let us listen'

We listen with our hearts and minds.

We hope and strive for a better world.
We ask for deep listening.
And in this listening,
May we find the wisdom to cooperate
With a healing spirit, a divine spirit, an ecumenical spirit
which beckons us into a global community embracing peace 'Let us listen'

We listen with our hearts and minds.

Lord's Prayer

Eternal Spirit,
Life-Giver,
Pain-bearer,
Love-maker,
Source of all that is
and that shall be,
Father and Mother
of us all,
Loving God,
in whom is heaven:
the Hallowing of your Name
echo through the universe.

¹ Adapted from Prayer of deep listening by Jay McDaniel www.sacredartstudio.net/prayer-for-deep-listening/

May the Way of your Justice
Be followed by the people of the world.

Your Heavenly Will be done by all created beings.
Your commonwealth of Peace and Freedom
Sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today
Feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another
Forgive us.

In times of temptation and test,
Strengthen us.

From trials too sharp to endure,
Spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil.
Free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
Now and for ever. Amen.²

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

Hymn: TIS 687 – God gives us a future

Words of Blessing³ *We say together*

May you always see the beauty of the Earth.

May you always taste the sweetest fruit.

May you always hear the laughter of the People.

May you always feel the warmth of the Flame.

May you always smell the perfume of the flowers.

May you dreams always be happy ones.

May your friends always be with you when you have need.

May your stomach always be full.

May you never feel hurt.

² Lord's Prayer <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/01/alternative-lords-prayer.html>;

³ Joanna Love, The Church of Scotland, *Second Sunday after Christmas – 3 January 2021*,
https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/72450/3-January-2-Sunday-after-Christmas.pdf

The Worship and Community Candles are extinguished

Postlude

Notices & Sharing

Acknowledgements:

LicenSingOnline license #609357; Call to Worship adapted from <https://www.pastorjasonelder.com/liturgy/28-modern-and-biblical-calls-to-worship>; Prayer of deep listening by Jay McDaniel www.sacredartstudio.net/prayer-for-deep-listening/; Lord's Prayer <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/01/alternative-lords-prayer.html>; Blessing - Joanna Love, The Church of Scotland, *Second Sunday after Christmas – 3 January 2021*, https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/72450/3-January-2-Sunday-after-Christmas.pdf