



Services at MtE are now live-streamed (live broadcast) via our YouTube channel. Cameras are principally directed at the lectern and table/sanctuary but shots will sometimes be taken from the back of the building (generally during hymns and communion).

COVID-19 health measures

- Please wear a mask in the church, unless you have an exemption, have a leadership role, or need to remove it to receive communion. We will join in congregational singing in the service but masks should still be worn during the singing.
- Please observe the usual hand sanitation routines on entering and leaving the building
- Please observe the usual 1.5 meter distance between yourself and others who are not members of your family – whether seated or standing (family groups may move their seats closer together)
- Please see the relevant part of the service order regarding the distribution of the communion elements

Preparing for Worship Today

- Today's service is also being live-streamed for the participation of those who can't join us physically today.
- Congregational responses are printed in ***bold italics***.
- Pray for those who will be leading us in our worship today!



A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

LITBIT: The future we hope for—a future when justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream—hangs over our present and gives us a vision of what to work for in the here and now as we continue to pray, “Your kingdom come.” The temporality of Christian worship—macrocosmically expressed in the Christian year, microcosmically expressed in particular elements each Sunday—trains our imagination to be eschatological, looking forward not to the end of the world but to “the end of the world as we know it.” In worship, we taste “the powers of the age to come” (Heb. 6:5), which births in us a longing for that kingdom to come, because this taste is also a bit of a teaser: it gives us enough of a sense of what’s coming that we look around at our broken world and see all the ways that the kingdom has not yet arrived.

JAMES K A SMITH

Prelude

❧ Advent ❧

Processional

The gospel of the coming God

John 1.6-8, 19-28 *The voice of one crying out in the wilderness*

(The LORD says,) I will lead the blind
by a road they do not know,
by the paths they have not known

I will guide them.

I will turn the darkness before them into light,

the rough places into level ground.

These are the things I will do

and I will not forsake.

Isaiah 42.16

The third Advent Candle is lit

Prayer of invocation

Hymn 786 (tune 437)

1. Word of God, come down on earth,
living rain from heav'n descending;
touch our hearts and bring to birth
faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you;
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
2. Word eternal, throned on high,
Word that brought to life creation.
Word that came from heav'n to die,
crucified for our salvation.
Saving Word, the world restoring,
speak to us, your love outpouring.
3. Word that caused blind eyes to see,
speak and heal our mortal blindness.
Deaf we are, our healer be,
loose our tongues to tell your kindness.
Be our Word in pity spoken;
heal the world, by our sin broken.
4. Word that speaks God's tender love,
one with God beyond all telling.
Word that sends us from above
God the Spirit, with us dwelling.

Word of truth, to all truth lead us;

Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Words © James Quinn, admin. Selah Publishing Company.

All rights reserved. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE #737505-A.

From the God who is and who was and who is to come,
and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness,
the first-born from the dead,
grace and peace be with you all.

And also with you.

Revelation 1:4-5

With the Children

Epiphany

Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11 *They shall build up the ancient ruins*

Psalm 126 *May those who sow in tears reap with joy* [PCS 130]

Hal H. Hopson



The Lord has done great things, and we are glad in - deed.

Copyright 1989 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.
Used by permission.

This is the word of the Lord.

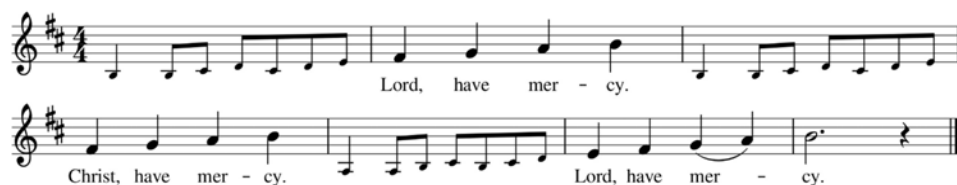
Thanks be to God.

The Preaching of the Word

*The text of the sermon will normally be
available after worship and online*

✠ Lent ✠

Prayer of Confession



Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

✠ Easter ✠

Declaration of Forgiveness

...hear, then, Christ's word of grace to us:
Your sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Doxology (TIS 173)

1. My soul gives glory to the Lord, in God my Saviour I rejoice. my lowliness he did regard, exalting me by his own choice. From this day all shall call me blest, for he has done great things for me;	2. His mercy goes to all who fear, from age to age and to all parts. his arm of strength to all is near; he scatters those who have proud hearts. He casts the mighty from their throne and raises those of low degree;
--	--

of all great names his is the best,
for it is holy; strong is he.

he feeds the hungry as his own,
the rich depart in poverty.

3. He raised his servant Israel,
remembering his eternal grace,
as from of old he did foretell
to Abraham and all his race.
O Father, Son and Spirit blest,
in threefold name are you adored;
to you be every prayer addressed,
from age to age the only Lord.

Words John T. Mueller; music Michael Jones: GIA Publications.

All rights reserved.

Used with permission under One License #737505-A.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Affirmation of Faith: We are a pilgrim people

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
We proclaim Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen One,
confessing him as Lord
to the glory of God the Father.
In the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we acclaim Jesus as the Lord of the Church,
the Head over all things,
the beginning of a new creation.

We acknowledge that we live and work
 between the time of Christ's death and resurrection
 and the final consummation of all things
 which he will bring.
 We are a pilgrim people,
 always on the way towards a promised goal;
 on the way Christ feeds us with word and sacraments,
 and we have the gift of the Spirit
 in order that we may not lose the way.

We will live and work within the faith and unity
 of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church,
 bearing witness to that unity
 which is both Christ's gift and his will.

We affirm that every member of the Church
 is engaged to confess the faith of Christ crucified.
 Together with all the people of God,
 we will serve the world for which Christ died.
 And we await with hope the day of the Lord Jesus.

Adapted from the Basis of Union of the Uniting Church in Australia

✠ Pentecost ✠

LITBIT: The Eucharist is a mystery not because it is mysterious, but because it is a sign of God's secret purpose, which is to unite all things in Christ. In the Eucharist we celebrate that the mess of human history, with its violence and sin, its wars and genocides, is somehow, in ways that we cannot now understand, on its way to the kingdom. It is God's will that we be gathered into unity, reconciled with each other. And so we begin the Eucharist asking the forgiveness of our brothers and sisters, the angels and the saints, the whole vast community of the kingdom. It is a sign that we are willing to be gathered into God's peace with the rest of creation.

TIMOTHY RADCLIFFE

Hymn 518

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. For the bread and for the wine,
for the pledge that seals him mine,
for the words of love divine,
we give you thanks, O Lord. | 4. Till he comes we take the bread,
type of him on whom we feed,
him who lives and once was dead:
we give you thanks, O Lord. |
| 2. For the feast of love and peace,
bidding all our sorrows cease,
foretaste of the kingdom's bliss,
we give you thanks, O Lord. | 5. Till he comes we take the cup;
as we at his table sup
eye and heart are lifted up:
we give you thanks, O Lord. |
| 3. This the bread and this the wine,
yet to faith the solemn sign
of the heavenly and divine!
we give you thanks, O Lord. | 6. For that coming here foreshown,
for that day to man unknown,
for the glory and the throne,
we give you thanks, O Lord. |

*Horatius Bonar, 1808-89 (alt.)
 Words and Music: Public Domain.*

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

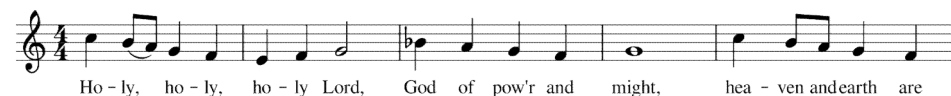
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.





*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory,
hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!*



*Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.*



*Blessing and honour, glory and pow'r
are yours forever and ever,
are yours forever and ever.*

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 Breaking of the Bread



*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us, have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us, have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace, grant us peace.*

The Communion

The Uniting Church recognises this Table as the Lord's and, so, open to all who would normally commune in their home congregations.

The Eucharist in the context of COVID-19. Given the present health crisis, the distribution of communion will be limited to one of the church's historic practices – 'under one kind', or receiving the bread only. The bread will be broken at the table after the hands of the celebrant have been sanitised, and the bread will be covered until that point.

The bread will be served to members who present themselves in a single file down the centre of the church; please maintain the usual C-19 distancing while waiting to receive. AND, please feel free to refrain from receiving under the current circumstances, if this feels appropriate to you.

Prayers of the People

(Names for inclusion in the prayers may be recorded in the book in the narthex)

Offering

Notices

The Sending Forth of the People of God

Hymn 272

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free,
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee. | 3. Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring. |
| 2. Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart. | 4. By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne. |

Charles Wesley, 1707-88. Words and Music: Public Domain

Word of Mission and Blessing

Postlude

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

All music printed in this order of service and live-streamed is either in the public domain or is covered by the congregation's CCLI licence (#449158) or its ONE LICENSE with license (#737505-A). All rights reserved.