

Welcome to worship with St Paul's, Box Hill



*...he leads me beside quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul.*

Psalm 23:2b-3

Sunday 22 March – 4th Sunday in Lent

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Pastor Neville Otto

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge that almighty God, the creator of heaven and earth, has first given the land on which we meet today to the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation.

We thank God for the land's traditional custodians, and pay our respects to elders, past and present.

About today's service:

All the words of the liturgy and hymns will appear on the slides.

The pastor/lector shall speak the words in *italics*, and you are invited to respond with the words in regular type.

Our theme today is:

Amazing grace!

Opening Sentences

*Once you were darkness,
but now in the Lord you are light.*

Live as children of light.

(Eph 5:8 NRSV)

The Invocation

*In the name of the Father
and of the Son and † of the Holy Spirit.*

Amen.

Opening Song

Have faith in God

Bullock

O Lord, you lead me
by the still waters,
Quietly restoring my soul.
You speak words of wisdom,
the promise of glory
The pow'r of the presence of God.

*Have faith in God,
Let your hope rest on the faith
he has placed in your heart.
never give up, never let go
of the faith he has placed
in your heart.*

Oh Lord, you guide me
through all the darkness
Turning my night into day.
You'll never leave me,
never forsake me
The pow'r of the presence of God.

*Have faith in God,
Let your hope rest on the faith
he has placed in your heart.
never give up, never let go
of the faith he has placed
in your heart.*

The Confession of Sins

Friends in Christ:

Once we were in darkness, but now in the Lord we are light.

In Christ we are called to live as children of light, seeking what is good and right and true and pleasing to the Lord.

With faith and hope, let us confess our sin.

Lord God, our heavenly Father, I am a sinner and I have sinned against you, not only in my words and actions, but also in my secret thoughts and desires which I cannot fully know or understand, but which you know completely.

I am sorry that I have displeased you,
and repent of the evil I have done.
For the sake of your dear Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
have mercy on me, forgive my sins,
and graciously help me in my
weakness. Amen.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

The Absolution

....

Peace be with you.

Amen.



Lenten Kyrie

*Lord Jesus Christ,
who suffered in our place,
Hear our prayer and save us.*

Lord, have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

*Lord Jesus Christ,
who died to end our death,
hear our prayer and save us.*

Lord, have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

*Lord Jesus Christ,
who rose to bring us life,
Hear our prayer and give us peace.*

Lord, have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The Greeting

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

*Let us pray for faith in Jesus
our Saviour:*

The Prayer of the Day

Loving Father, when we were captive in the darkness of sin and death, your Son rescued us and brought us back to you. Teach us to trust in him and to live as your people. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Especially for children



The Readings

Introduction

The First Reading –

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel anoints David
as king of Israel

Response

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23 (*sung*)

TIS 10

1. The Lord's my shepherd,
I'll not want;

He makes me lie at ease

in pastures green, and he leads me
beside the quiet streams.

2. The Lord restores my soul again,
and makes me walk his way
along the paths of righteousness,
all for his own name's sake.

3. And though I walk
through death's dark vale,
no evil will I fear,
for with your staff you comfort me,
and you are always near.

4. A table you prepare for me,
in presence of my foes,
and you anoint my head with oil,
and my cup overflows.

5. Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house for evermore
My dwelling place shall be.

'Scottish Psalter' 1650
rev. David Schütz (2000)
Used with permission CCLI 157787

The Second Reading – Ephesians 5:8-14

Live as children of the light

Response

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel – John 9:1-41
Jesus opens the eyes of a man born
blind

*The Holy Gospel according to John,
the 9th chapter.*

Glory to you, O Lord.

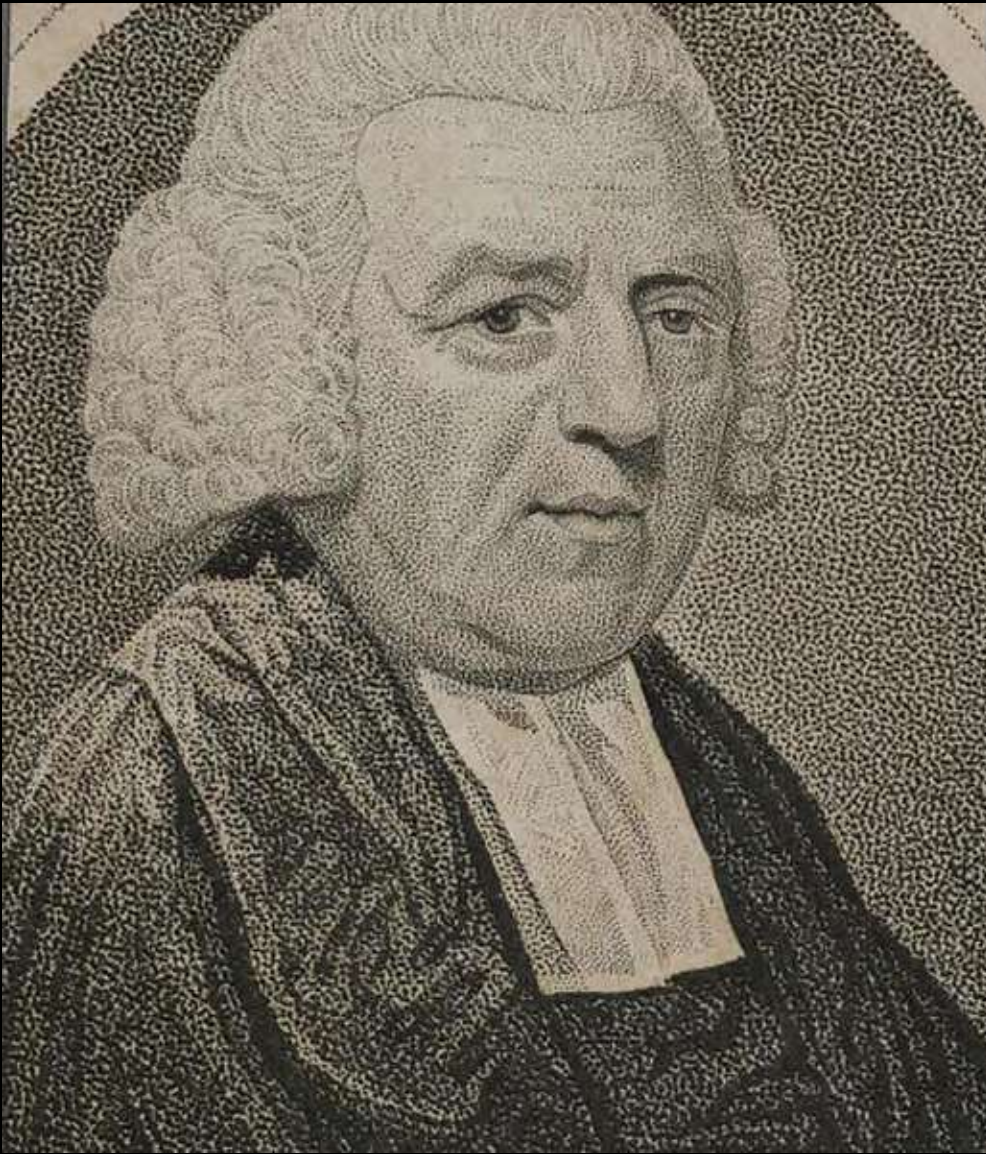
After the Gospel:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Address

There will be a time of reflection
after the address.



John Newton
1725 - 1807



The man who healed me



Prophet from God



Lord, I believe



William
Wilberforce
1759 – 1833

Two things I know:

I am a
great sinner
and
Christ is a
great Saviour.



A time of reflection

1. Sing and speak the words of Newton's 'Amazing Grace'.
What strikes you as you hear and read and sing and meditate on the verses today?
2. How can you/we together show Jesus' amazing grace to light the way ahead in these dark times of the coronavirus, COVID-19?



A time of reflection

3. Who can you reach out to in our church community? Who can you reach out to in our wider community, to bring the amazing grace of God in your serving and in your caring?
4. Pray to our gracious God that he would bring a 'great time of turning' to all people: that they turn to Jesus and have eyes opened to the Saviour of the world.



The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of the Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father
and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the
prophets.

We believe in one holy *catholic
and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection
of the dead, and the life of
the world to come. Amen.

* or: Christian; 'catholic' here means 'universal'

Hymn

Amazing Grace
LH 851

Please return your message card
in the offering bowl.

Thank you to those who have
given their offering via REG.

1. Amazing grace, how sweet
the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart
to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

3. Through many dangers, toil,
and snares

I have already come:

'tis grace has brought me safe
thus far,

and grace will lead me home.

4. The Lord hath promised good
to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

John Newton 1725-1807
In the public domain

Blessing

Organ Scholar

Georgia Maroske

Choral Scholar

Stephanie Hughes

The Prayer of the Church

Response

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

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.

Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

*The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.*

*The Lord look upon you with favour,
† and give you peace.*

Amen.

The Commission

Go in peace,

and live as children of the light.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Closing Song

In your hand my Saviour

AT 235

1. In your hand, my Saviour,
there's a home for me.

It's the safest place on earth to be.

There you make me welcome,

give me a new start,

for your peace has healed my

wounded heart.

*When I'm near my Saviour,
he gives joy to me.*

*God alone, he is my
sword and shield.*

*When I'm near my Saviour,
he gives peace to me.*

*God shines on each flower
in his field.*

2. In your hand, my Saviour,
joyful I can be,
for you offer precious gifts to me:
Mercy and forgiveness,
even though I stray.
Life is now worth living, come what
may.

*When I'm near my Saviour,
he gives joy to me.*

*God alone, he is my
sword and shield.*

*When I'm near my Saviour,
he gives peace to me.*

*God shines on each flower
in his field.*

3. In your hand, my Saviour,
I can freely cry,
speak my fears,
and ask my questions why.
Viciousness and evil
nailed you to a tree.
'Pardon' cries your cross,
and sets me free.

*When I'm near my Saviour,
he gives joy to me.*

*God alone, he is my
sword and shield.*

*When I'm near my Saviour,
he gives peace to me.*

*God shines on each flower
in his field.*

4. In your hand, my Saviour,
finally I rest,
where my life has been so richly
blessed.

By your hand you bring me
to a future bright,
filled with endless peace and joy
and light.

*When I'm near my Saviour,
he gives joy to me.*

*God alone, he is my
sword and shield.*

*When I'm near my Saviour,
he gives peace to me.*

*God shines on each flower
in his field.*

Closing Remarks

St Paul's is running Alpha, from
Thursday 30th April, at 7.30pm.
Enrol on 9899 0623



*Thank you for worshipping with us!
Please join us again next week.*



How are you?

Please reach out to Pastor Neville or Pastor Phil
if you need prayer or a listening ear.

A time of reflection

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