

Abbotsford Anglican Church St Andrews

Sunday, 1 March 2026

All Age Service

A Service for Prayer and the Hearing of God's Word
AAPB p39

WELCOME - Roy

(Service Leader welcomes people to church and introduces people involved in the service)

Good morning. Welcome to church.

A special welcome to those who are visiting us today, or listening online.

My name is Roy.

Helping me in today's service are our musicians Rosemary, Young-Lan and Linda. Reading to us from the Bible will be Janice, and Trevor will bring us our Bible teaching.

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, you have brought us here today. This time we meet with you and your people is special. Help us not to take this moment with you and your people for granted. Take our anxious thoughts and let us know your peace, your presence and your power. May we listen to your word with expectation, engage in what we pray and say, and worship you with all our heart, mind, soul and strength through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

INTRO TO BIBLE TEACHING

(Service leader invites Bible teacher up to give a one-minute intro to their sermon)

MISSION FOCUS REMINDER

(Service leader reminds congregation of mission and Anglicare Chaplaincy focus for the month)

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

We have met together to thank God, to meet with Jesus, and to encourage one another while we wait for Christ's return. We shall praise God with our words and by what we do. We shall hear from his holy word, and we shall pray for the Church and for all people.

To prepare ourselves, let us hear from the word of God....

SENTENCE OF SCRIPTURE

Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favour and a good name in the sight of God and man. *Proverbs 3:3,4*

Sing to the Lord a new song.

For he has done marvellous things.

Please stand and let us sing our first song.

Sovereign Over Us

Aaron Keyes | Bryan Brown | Jack Mooring

**There is strength within the sorrow
There is beauty in our tears
And you meet us in our mourning
With a love that casts out fear**

You are working in our waiting

Sanctifying us

When beyond our understanding

You're teaching us to trust

Chorus

Your plans are still to prosper

You've not forgotten us

You're with us in the fire and the flood

Faithful forever perfect in love

You are sovereign over us

You are wisdom unimagined

Who could understand your ways

Reigning high above the heavens

Reaching down in endless grace

You're the lifter of the lowly

Compassionate and kind

You surround and you uphold me

And your promises are my delight

Even what the enemy means for evil

You turn it for our good

You turn it for our good

And for your glory

Even in the valley you are faithful

You're working for our good

You're working for our good

And for Your glory Repeat

Chorus

Your plans are still to prosper

You've not forgotten us

You're with us in the fire and the flood

Faithful forever perfect in love

You are sovereign over us

Faithful forever perfect in love

You are sovereign over us

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LITTLE PEOPLES BIBLE STORY TIME

and SONG - Trevor

GREETING TIME

Please, take a moment to greet the people near you. (Children leave for Kid's Church)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Our Bible reading this morning is Joshua 9:1-27. Please open your Bibles to page 220 or follow along on the screen or on the handout in your News & Notes.

BIBLE READING – Janice

Joshua 9:1-27

¹ Now when all the kings west of the Jordan heard about these things—the kings in the hill country, in the western foothills, and along the entire coast of the Mediterranean Sea as far as Lebanon (the kings of the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites)—² they came together to wage war against Joshua and Israel.

³ However, when the people of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, ⁴ they resorted to a ruse: They went as a delegation whose donkeys were loaded with worn-out sacks and old wineskins, cracked and mended. ⁵ They put worn and patched sandals on their feet and wore old clothes. All the bread of their food supply was dry and mouldy. ⁶ Then they went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and the Israelites, “We have come from a distant country; make a treaty with us.”

⁷ The Israelites said to the Hivites, “But perhaps you live near us, so how can we make a treaty with you?”

⁸ “We are your servants,” they said to Joshua.

But Joshua asked, “Who are you and where do you come from?”

⁹ They answered: “Your servants have come from a very distant country because of the fame of the Lord your God. For we have heard reports of him: all that he did in Egypt, ¹⁰ and all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan—Sihon king of Heshbon, and Og king of Bashan, who reigned in Ashtaroht. ¹¹ And our elders and all those living in our country said to us, ‘Take provisions for your journey; go and meet them and say to them, “We are your servants; make a treaty with us.”’”

¹² This bread of ours was warm when we packed it at home on the day we left to come to you. But now see how dry and mouldy it is. ¹³ And these wineskins that we filled were new, but see how cracked they are. And our clothes and sandals are worn out by the very long journey.”

¹⁴ The Israelites sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the Lord. ¹⁵ Then Joshua made a treaty of peace with them to let them live, and the leaders of the assembly ratified it by oath.

¹⁶ Three days after they made the treaty with the Gibeonites, the Israelites heard that they were neighbours, living near them. ¹⁷ So the Israelites set out and on the third day came to their cities: Gibeon, Kephirah, Beeroth and Kiriath Jearim.

¹⁸ But the Israelites did not attack them, because the leaders of the assembly had sworn an oath to them by the Lord, the God of Israel.

The whole assembly grumbled against the leaders, ¹⁹ but all the leaders answered,

“We have given them our oath by the Lord, the God of Israel, and we cannot touch them now. ²⁰ This is what we will do to them: We will let them live, so that God’s wrath will not fall on us for breaking the oath we swore to them.” ²¹ They continued, “Let them live, but let them be woodcutters and water carriers in the service of the whole assembly.” So the leaders’ promise to them was kept.

²² Then Joshua summoned the Gibeonites and said, “Why did you deceive us by saying, ‘We live a long way from you,’ while actually you live near us? ²³ You are now under a curse: You will never be released from service as woodcutters and water carriers for the house of my God.”

²⁴ They answered Joshua, “Your servants were clearly told how the Lord your God had commanded his servant Moses to give you the whole land and to wipe out all its inhabitants from before you. So we feared for our lives because of you, and that is why we did this. ²⁵ We are now in your hands. Do to us whatever seems good and right to you.”

²⁶ So Joshua saved them from the Israelites, and they did not kill them. ²⁷ That day he made the Gibeonites woodcutters and water carriers for the assembly, to provide for the needs of the altar of the Lord at the place the Lord would choose. And that is what they are to this day. (NIV)

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

BIBLE TEACHING – Trevor

A mistake God chose to turn into a blessing

(Bible Teacher returns to the congregation and Service Leader comes forward and invites congregation to sing the next song)

Please stand, and let us sing again.

Sovereign Over Us

Aaron Keyes | Bryan Brown | Jack Mooring

**There is strength within the sorrow
There is beauty in our tears
And you meet us in our mourning
With a love that casts out fear**

**You are working in our waiting
Sanctifying us
When beyond our understanding
You're teaching us to trust**

Chorus

**Your plans are still to prosper
You've not forgotten us
You're with us in the fire and the flood
Faithful forever perfect in love
You are sovereign over us**

**You are wisdom unimagined
Who could understand your ways
Reigning high above the heavens
Reaching down in endless grace**

**You're the lifter of the lowly
Compassionate and kind
You surround and you uphold me
And your promises are my delight**

**Even what the enemy means for evil
You turn it for our good
You turn it for our good
And for your glory
Even in the valley you are faithful
You're working for our good
You're working for our good
And for Your glory Repeat**

Chorus

**Your plans are still to prosper
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A PSALM

Let us turn to a time of prayer.

Join me in saying Psalm 36:5-9.

**Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the skies.
Your righteousness
is like the highest mountains,
your justice like the great deep.
You, Lord, preserve both people
and animals.
How priceless is your unfailing love,
O God!
People take refuge in the shadow of
your wings.
They feast on the abundance of your
house;
you give them drink from your river of
delights.
For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light. (NIV)**

Glory to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
**As it was in the beginning so now and
forevermore. Amen.**

CONFESSION/FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sins to almighty God...

Most merciful God, we humbly admit that we need your help. We confess that we have wandered from your way: we have done wrong, and we have failed to do what is right. You alone can save us. Have mercy on us: wipe out our sins and teach us to forgive others. Bring forth in us the fruit of your Spirit that we may live as disciples of Christ. This we ask in the name of Jesus our Saviour. Amen.

God wills that all people should be saved and in response to his call we acknowledge our sins. He pardons those who humbly repent and truly believe the gospel. Therefore, we have peace with God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be blessing and honour for ever. **Amen.**

FURTHER PRAYER – Trevor

Let's continue in prayer...

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lord, teach us to pray.

**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 forever. Amen.**

Be exalted, Lord, above the heavens
let your glory cover the earth.

Keep our nation under your care,
and guide us in justice and truth.

Let your way be known on earth,
your saving power among all nations.

Send out your light and truth
that we may tell of your saving works.

Hear our prayers, O Lord,
for we put our trust in you.

*Further prayers for the community, the world,
mission focus and for the work of the church.*

Let us pray that we may respond to the
Word of God.

God our Father, help us to hear your Son.
Enlighten us with your word, that we may
find the way to your glory. We ask this
through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**
Set prayer for the 2nd Sunday in Lent

*Prayer leader returns to the congregation and
Service Leader returns to the lectern, closes with
this prayer and gives announcements.*

CLOSING PRAYER

Almighty God, you have given us grace to
bring before you with one accord our
common supplication, and you promise that
when two or three are gathered together in
your name you will grant their requests;
fulfil now Lord, the desires and petitions of
your servants, as may be most expedient
for them, granting us in this world
knowledge of your truth, and in the world to
come life everlasting. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A prayer in regard to our giving.

Heavenly Father, accept our giving towards
ministry in this place and beyond. We bring
them to you as a token of our love and
gratitude; grant that they maybe wisely
used towards your kingdom work and glory,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENTENCE OF SCRIPTURE

Let love and faithfulness never leave you;
bind them around your neck, write them on
the tablet of your heart. Then you will win
favour and a good name in the sight of God
and man. *Proverbs 3:3,4*

Please stand to sing our final song

Great Is Your Faithfulness

William N. Runyan

**Great is your faithfulness, O God my
Father**

**You have fulfilled all your promise to me
You changest not, your compassions,
they fail not;
All you have been you forever will be.**

Chorus

Great is your faithfulness!

Great is your faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see

**All I have needed your hand has
provided**

Great is your faithfulness, father, to me

**Summer and winter and springtime and
harvest**

**Sun, moon, and stars in their courses
above**

**Join with all nature in eloquent witness
To your great faithfulness, mercy, and
love** *Chorus*

**Pardon for sin and a peace everlasting
Your living presence to cheer and to
guide**

**Strength for today and bright hope for
tomorrow
these are the blessings your love will
provide.** *Chorus*

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Let us say together...

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God, and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit be with us all
evermore. Amen.**