

# Abbotsford Anglican Church St Andrews

Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Service of Word and Prayer Form 4B

**WELCOME** - Fiona

## **AFFIRMING OUR FAITH TOGETHER**

Fiona

We have come together as the church of God to fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, to encourage one another to hold fast to the hope he has given us, and to spur one another to love and good deeds.

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

*Hebrews 1:1-2*

Together, let us affirm with Christians across the ages what we believe about God and his love for us.

*Please stand*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;**

**from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic\* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*catholic = literally "of the whole," universal, complete

*Please be seated*

## **HEARING GOD'S WORD** - Stewart

Gracious God, your word is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. Today, when we hear your voice, deliver us from hardness of heart. Help us to put away everything that keeps us from persevering in your way, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## **BIBLE READINGS**

**Jonah 3:10 - 4:11** - Minette

<sup>10</sup> When God saw what the Ninevites did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

<sup>1</sup> But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup> He prayed to the LORD, "Isn't this what I said, LORD, when I was still

at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. <sup>3</sup> Now, LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live."

<sup>4</sup> But the LORD replied, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

<sup>5</sup> Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. <sup>6</sup> Then the LORD God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. <sup>7</sup> But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. <sup>8</sup> When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live."

<sup>9</sup> But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?"

"It is," he said. "And I'm so angry I wish I were dead."

<sup>10</sup> But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. <sup>11</sup> And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?" (NIV)

**Luke 15:25-32** - Stewart

<sup>25</sup> "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup> 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

<sup>28</sup> "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

<sup>31</sup> "My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'" (NIV)

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** – Trevor

"God shares His salvation, celebrate His sharing"  
(Sermon Series: What a good God, God is")

## **A PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS** - Trevor

**Heavenly Father,  
we praise you for adopting us  
as your children  
and making us heirs of eternal life.  
In your mercy,  
you have washed us from our sins  
and made us clean in your sight.  
Yet we still fail to love you  
and serve you as we should.  
Forgive us our sins  
and renew us by your grace,  
that we may continue to grow  
as members of Christ,  
in whom alone is our salvation. Amen.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ was sacrificed once  
and for all to bear the sins of many. God  
therefore forgives those who look to his  
Son for mercy. **Amen.**

## **SONG – To God be the glory**

*On the screen to listen to...but at home sing along!*

To God be the glory  
great things He has done  
so loved He the world  
that He gave us His Son  
who yielded His life an atonement for sin  
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Chorus:*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord  
let the earth hear His voice  
praise the Lord, praise the Lord  
let the people rejoice  
Come to the Father through Jesus the Son  
and give Him the glory  
great things He has done.*

O perfect redemption,  
the purchase of blood  
to every believer the promise of God  
The vilest offender who truly believes  
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives  
*Chorus*

Great things He has taught us  
great things He has done  
and great our rejoicing  
through Jesus the Son  
But purer, and higher, and greater will be  
our wonder, our worship,  
when Jesus we see *Chorus*  
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## **PRAYING FOR GOD’S WORLD** - Diane

Let us pray for God’s world, his church, the  
community and the spread of the Gospel.

## **COVID 19 Prayer**

Sovereign Lord, you know all things and  
through all circumstances of life you  
accompany your people. Prosper the work  
of those who are seeking a vaccine for the  
coronavirus. Protect and strengthen those  
who are treating the sick. Comfort the sick  
and those who mourn the loss of loved  
ones or are living in fear of this disease.  
Give to the governing authorities wisdom in  
their management of this crisis, and grant  
to your people patience, compliance and  
peace, generous and wise hearts and a  
renewed trust in your sovereign goodness  
and glory. Turn the hearts of many  
experiencing fear and anxiety to you that  
they may find that peace which only you  
can give, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

*Further prayer for God’s world, his church,  
the community, and the spread of the  
gospel.*

Together, 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 forever. Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS** - Trevor

## **GOING OUT TO SERVE** - Fiona

Gracious God, you made an eternal  
covenant with us through the blood of your  
Son, and brought him back from the dead  
as the great Shepherd of your sheep. Equip  
us with everything good for doing your will.  
Work in us what is pleasing to you, through  
Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and  
ever. **Amen.**