

Order of Service - Lent 5

March 26th, 2023



Raising of Lazarus, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, Tenn.

Music

- *Trust and Obey* [Trust and Obey \(Hymns with Lyrics\) - YouTube](#)
- *Breathe on me, breath of God* [Breathe on me breath of God - YouTube](#)

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Country

For thousands of years Indigenous people have walked
in this land, on their own country.

Their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives.

We acknowledge the Wurrundjeri people of the Kulin Nation and their stewardship
of this land throughout the ages.

We honour their history, their elders, past, present and emerging and commit to work
for reconciliation between all people, God and the land.

Welcome everybody to worship!

Lighting the Candles: Jesus said: 'I Am the Light of the World'.

Call to Worship

God, Creator of Life,

you call us out of our dark places,

offering us the grace of new life.

When we see nothing but hopelessness,

you surprise us with the breath of your spirit.

Call us out of our complacency and routines,

set us free from our self-imposed bonds,

and fill us with your spirit of life, compassion, and peace,

In the name of Jesus, your anointed one, we pray. Amen.

*(Based on Psalm 130, written by Rev. Nancy J., and posted on her wonderings through life and other such nonsense.
<http://ruminari.wordpress.com/>)*

Song: *O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing* [Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing \(Tune: Lyngham - 5v\) \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)

Opening Prayer

God of resurrection and life,

We choose not to give in to fear:

Even when we are threatened by violence and abuse,

we choose to believe in the power of love.

We choose not to be led by despair:
Even when dreams fail and the world seems to grow colder and more broken,
we choose to believe in the power of hope.

We choose not to be blinded by cynicism:
Even when joy and celebration feel naïve and frivolous,
we choose to believe in the power of faith.

We choose not to be over-awed by death:
Even when grief shuts out all other voices,
we choose to believe in the power of life.

In every time,
in each place,
with all people,
may your resurrection rise up within us,
and lead us to new, creative, healing choices. Amen.

(Prayer found at [Lent 5A – Sacredise](#))

Bible Reading - John 11:1-16 (NRSVA)

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' ⁸ The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' ⁹ Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' ¹² The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

Passing the Peace

Shalom my friends
God's peace my friends
Go with you now
And stay with you
In all you do
Shalom, shalom.

Bible Reading: John 11:17-45 (NRSVA)

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at

home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' ²³ Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' ²⁴ Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' ²⁵ Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' ²⁷ She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' ³⁷ But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Children's Talk: Bottle of Tears

Reflection: Questions of Life and Death

Prayers for the church and world:

Remembering:

- People affected by recent natural disasters.
- Those known to us struggling with their health.
- **Indigenous people** after the announcement of the referendum question
- For those who wait to hear about their visas
- Our friends at **Sanctuary and the Houses of Hope** in Footscray and our neighbours at **Westhaven**
- Families attending the **'Come & Try' Playgroup**
- Places of tension, unrest & conflict especially **Iran, Israel, Myanmar, Peru, Syria, Ukraine**

- **Baptist Mission Australia** – Work and workers in Outback Australia, especially with communities have been relocated due to floods. Also work in the Silk Road Area and Zambia.
- **Baptist World Aid** – as we approach Easter, praise God for the death and resurrection of Jesus, and celebrate that a better world is coming.

Silence - in the silence and through our minds and imaginations we bring prayers which words cannot contain (p. 56-7 A Wee Worship Book)

[Prayers for our community and world](#)

God of life, we pray now for your world and the people in it.

For those whose lives are broken by distress

May the God of healing restore you.

For those whose lives are broken by war and conflict

May the God of healing restore you.

For those whose lives are broken by fear

May the God of healing restore you.

For those whose lives are broken by anger

May the God of healing restore you.

For those whose lives are broken by pain

May the God of healing restore you.

For those whose lives are broken by illness

May the God of healing restore you.

For those whose lives are broken by grief

May the God of healing restore you.

For those whose lives are broken by regret and past mistakes

May the God of healing restore you.

For those whose lives are broken by lost opportunities

May the God of healing restore you.

For those whose lives are broken by homelessness or hunger or thirst

May the God of healing restore you.

For those whose lives are broken by addiction

May the God of healing restore you.

God of healing

gently touch these lives

with your Spirit,

Bring warmth and comfort,

life and wholeness,

restoration

into fractured lives and souls.

Amen.

(Based on prayer by John Birch, and posted on Faith and Worship. <http://www.faithandworship.com/>)

[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.

[Song: Comfort, Comfort All My People](#) [Comfort, Comfort All My People - YouTube](#)

Offering & Prayer

God of new life,

Take these our offerings and our very lives, use them to wipe away the tears of the grieving, to unbind those who are bound and to bring new life and new possibilities to those in our neighbourhood. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams 2023, based on John 11)

Offerings can be made by using our direct debit facility or placed in plates at entrances and exits of the church.

Footscray Baptist Church

BSB: 083 437

Account No: 515383063

News & Notices

- **Thanks to all who worked at the working bee yesterday!**
- **140th Birthday for Footscray Baptist** – this will be held on **May 28th**, which is also Pentecost Sunday. A list of tasks was circulated at the Church Meeting last Sunday.
- **Bible Study** – Our Lenten series continues today March 26, immediately following the service in the office.
- **Church Lunch** – April 2nd, please bring a plate of food to share. Help needed to set up prior to morning service.
- **Knitted Goods** – Forouzan is taking orders for knitted goods – hats, headbands, slippers. See Cheryl for samples.
- **Myanmar Sunday** – the BUV has set aside April 30th for churches to focus on Myanmar.
- **Reflective Prayer** – Monday March 27th at 5pm on zoom. Please speak to Ros or Cheryl for an invite.
- **Baptist World Aid Appeal for Earthquake Victims** – see their website for details,
- **Food Donations** (non-perishable items – rice, pasta, beans, lentils, oil etc) for the Houses of Hope can be left in the tub in the church.
- **Food for the homeless** (baked beans, snacks, vegemite, peanut butter, tinned tuna, spaghetti etc) can be left in the box in the office.

[Song: Amazing Grace, my chains have gone](#) [Amazing Grace \(My Chains are Gone\) - YouTube](#)

[Pentatonix - Amazing Grace \(My Chains Are Gone\) \(Official Video\) - YouTube](#)

Benediction

God of the living and of the dead, unbind us and call us forth into Your world – to live by Your Spirit, rejecting the ways of death and instead conforming to the way of the Spirit.

May we bring life and peace to wherever we are sent.

Amen

(26 March, 5th Sunday in Lent | The Church of Scotland)

Go in Peace