

# SERVICE FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

29<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Once again you are encouraged to join in worship with us in any way you wish. Create a space at home and follow the whole service from start to end, dip in and out over the week. Even grab a slice of cake and call it Café worship!

This service includes links to a video sermon from Rev. Adam, prayers of intercession from John Logan, and hymns chosen by members of the congregation.

However you use this service we hope it brings a moment of joy, peace and reflection to you.



## A CALL TO WORSHIP

2  
SINGING  
THE FAITH  
503

Chosen  
by Ian and  
Celia Middleton  
in celebration of  
their Golden Wedding  
Anniversary this week.

Come and worship the resurrection God,  
the Lord of all creation,  
who is always present, no matter what.  
Worship him today in spirit and in truth.

1

<sup>1</sup> Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.

<sup>2</sup> Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above, pray,  
and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

<sup>3</sup> Finish then thy new creation, pure and  
spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation, perfectly  
restored in thee:  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place, till we  
cast our crowns before thee, lost in  
wonder, love, and praise!

Charles Wesley

# 3 LENT LITURGY

You can follow this liturgy at home. You will need a candle, if you have one.

As they walked together on the Emmaus Road the disciples said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us.' (Luke 24.32)

## Light Candle

As the season of Jesus' passion and death approaches the great biblical themes we have explored during the previous weeks - the mystery and holiness of God, God's absence and presence, the relationship

of human beings with God and with one another, the joys and sorrows of what it means to be human are recapitulated. We explore how they are woven together by God's love and sacrifice which, for Christians, find their most visible expression in the cross of Christ.

**Discuss:** What examples of love and sacrifice have you found remarkable this week?

On our Lenten display this week we place two sticks bound together in the shape of

a cross to remind us we are bound together in love and sacrifice.

Lord, as we open the scriptures today, open our eyes and set our hearts on fire for you.

Send us out to love and serve you. Amen



There are many different ways to read a Psalm. Take it in turns to read different bits. If you are on your own why not ring a friend and share the Psalm together? Take time to breath between the verses. Reread it a few times and let the psalm speak to you.

## PSALM 130 4

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.  
Lord, hear my voice!  
Let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,  
Lord, who could stand?  
But there is forgiveness with you,  
so that you may be revered.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,  
and in his word I hope;  
my soul waits for the Lord  
more than those who watch for the morning,  
more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the Lord!  
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,  
and with him is great power to redeem.  
It is he who will redeem Israel  
from all its iniquities.



# 5

## PRAYERS OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

Prayer and Pictures by John Logan

Lord,  
As I went for my daily walk today what did  
I see? I saw beauty in nature, sunshine and  
smiles; I saw parents kicking a ball with their  
children;

I saw hope.

my soul waits for the Lord  
more than those who watch for the  
morning,

Lord,  
As I went for my walk today, what did I  
hear?

I heard a cacophony of birdsong replacing the  
roar of aeroplanes and traffic;  
I heard people greeting each other,  
the shrieking of children playing outside.

I saw joy

my soul waits for the Lord  
more than those who watch for the  
morning,

Lord,  
As I went for my walk today, what did I  
feel?

I felt that despite the chaos and fear that  
surrounds us, people are rediscovering a  
ministry of caring, learning what it means to  
be family and what it means to be together,  
despite our distance.

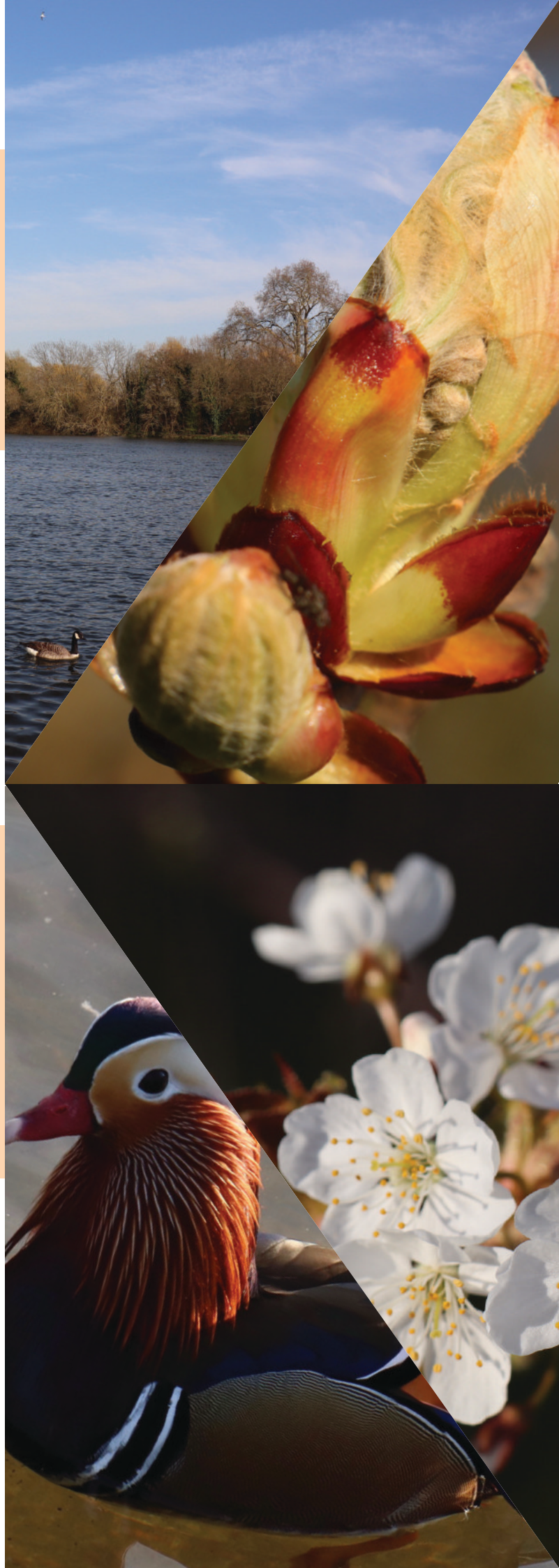
my soul waits for the Lord  
more than those who watch for the  
morning,

Lord,  
As I went for my walk today, you were  
there, walking among us

I saw you through the beauty of nature,  
through the people walking and chatting,  
through the children shrieking with laughter.

You were there

my soul waits for the Lord  
more than those who watch for the  
morning.





## 7

## THE EAGLE WHO THOUGHT HE WAS A CHICKEN

A Story adapted by John Logan from a traditional tale.

You see the story goes like this... a family was out walking in the woods one day, foraging for the food that grew out of the ground. They found lots of amazing mushrooms, all of which were safe to eat, so they put as many as they could find in their basket. Deeper into the woods they found a crop of wild garlic. "That will give so much flavour to the stew tonight" said Dad. The children and their parents kept hunting and found all sorts of amazing things to eat- dandelions, nettles and hawthorn. Eventually their basket was so full that they returned home.

In the farm kitchen they started to unpack their various items for the feast and to their surprise wrapped up in amongst it all they found a large, warm egg.

Quickly they took it out, placed it with the other hen's eggs, hoping mother hen wouldn't notice, and lo and behold the eggs all hatched producing a lovely batch of chickens and..... an eagle!

The chickens and the eagle grew and spent their days pecking the corn from the farmyard and no one thought any more of it.

One day, some time later, a naturalist came by and enquired as to why there was eagle living among the chickens. The farmer explained the strange story and the naturalist asked permission to train the eagle to fly. "He is meant to fly, it is his purpose!" exclaimed the naturalist. The farmer agreed.

The next morning the naturalist took the eagle and held him up with his face to the rising sun. "Eagle, you are an eagle! Now is the time to fly!" he shouted, throwing the eagle into the air and the eagle.....fell to the ground and ...peck, peck, peck... he carried on with what he was used to.

The next morning the Naturalist took the eagle to the top of the farm shed and tried again. Once again looking into the rising sun, "Eagle, you are an eagle! Now is the time to fly!" he shouted, throwing the eagle into the air and the eagle..... fell onto the shed roof, rolled down the side and fell to the ground. After a few moments to get over the shock, up he got and

... peck, peck, peck... he carried on with what he was used to doing!

Not giving up the next morning he took the eagle high up the hillside, to a place where he could see everything that surrounds him, the hills and fields in the distance, the rivers, trees and all that lay beyond the farmyard. As before he held him up with his face to the rising sun. "Eagle, you are an eagle! Now is the time to fly!" he shouted, throwing the eagle into the air and the eagle.....soared into the sky, floating majestically on the currents of wind and headed off into the sun! As for the Naturalist, his job was done!

# 7 TO CONSIDER...

God always has plans for you, for good and for you to prosper.

What plans do you believe God has for you at this time?

# 8

SINGING  
THE FAITH  
503

As the deer  
pants for the water

Chosen by Jo Barrett  
This hymn was sung at her adult  
baptism.

## 9 2 KINGS 6:24-28A NRSV

If you are using the Video Version of the sermon the readings are part of that video so you may wish to play them now or move on to the next hymn!

Some time later King Ben-hadad of Aram mustered his entire army; he marched against Samaria and laid siege to it.

As the siege continued, famine in Samaria became so great that a donkey's head was sold for eighty shekels of silver, and one-fourth of a kab of dove's dung for five shekels of silver.

Now as the king of Israel was walking on the city wall, a woman cried out to him, "Help, my lord king!" He said, "No! Let the Lord help you. How can I help you? From the threshing floor or from the wine press?" But then the king asked her, "What is your complaint?" She answered, "This woman said to me, 'Give up your son; we will eat him today, and we will eat my son tomorrow.'"



# 10

## MARK 10:46-47

NRSV

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

# 11

## IN CHRIST ALONE

Led by the Senior Choir of  
St. Mary's and St. Peter's CE Primary  
School, Used with Permission

Recorded just before the school closures by the Senior Choir. Listen to the audio here:

<https://www.hounslowmethodist.org.uk/sermons/worship-at-home-fourth-sunday-in-lent/>

Join in as you are able!

## SERMON 12

There are two ways to engage with Rev. Adam's sermon. A video version is available here:

<https://www.hounslowmethodist.org.uk/sermons/worship-at-home-fourth-sunday-in-lent/>

This version includes the readings and prayers of intercession. There is also a transcript available.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

# 13

Included in the video and the sermon transcript so you can join in as you are able.

It includes a response:

*Lord in your Mercy  
Hear our prayer*

# 14

## HE'S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HANDS

Led by the Reception Classes of  
St. Mary's and St. Peter's CE Primary  
School, Used with Permission

Recorded just before the school closures and Sung by the Reception children. Listen to the audio here:

<https://www.hounslowmethodist.org.uk/sermons/worship-at-home-fourth-sunday-in-lent/>

Join in as you are able (you could even do actions!)

# 15

## A SENDING OUT PRAYER

As we wait on you, Lord God,  
renew our strength, our hope, and our vision  
to be your arms in this world,  
reaching out and enfolding with love  
all those we meet this week.

**Amen.**

*From Roots on the web*

## COLLECTION

Should you wish to keep up your weekly collection you can give online here:

<https://www.hounslowmethodist.org.uk/donate>

You can give a one off donation or set up regular giving so you don't forget. There is a space for your envelope scheme number if you use it.