

Recorded Service of the Word
The Anglican Parish of St. Mary of the Incarnation
Serving the Community of Metchosin BC since 1862
The Rev. Aneeta Saroop

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2020

Welcome and acknowledgement of territories

Hymn: CP 465 *Here in this Place New Light is Streaming*

Rachel and Shirley

GATHERING

Celebrant: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all

People: And also with you.

Celebrant Almighty God...
People to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison

Rachel

Cantor: Lord, Have Mercy
All: Lord, Have Mercy
Cantor: Christ, Have Mercy
All: Christ, Have Mercy
Cantor: Lord, Have Mercy
All: Lord Have Mercy
Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant

Almighty God, through the waters of baptism your Son has made us children of light. May we ever walk in his light and show forth your glory in the world; though Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, **Amen.**

WORD

1st Reading

Aneeta

Even though Saul, the first king in Israel, was still in place as the reigning monarch this morning's story from the book of Samuel tells of how one who would follow Saul was chosen. Although, according to the story, David appeared to human eyes as the least qualified among Jesse's sons to be a suitable candidate for kingship, Samuel confirms that he is God's chosen one. Why David? Because, as the writer of this story explains, *"the Lord does not see as mortals see....the Lord looks on the heart"* (Phillip Wadham)

A reading from . . . 1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the Lord said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord." Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord.' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen any of these.' Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the

one.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Aneeta: **Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.**
People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

Rachel

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
 he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
 for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
 I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
 your rod and your staff—
 they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
 in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
 my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
 all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
 my whole life long.

2nd Reading

The writer of this letter to the church in Ephesus sums up what it means to live as one illumined and guided by the light of Christ. (*Phillip Wadham*)

A reading from Ephesians 5:8-14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to

the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says, 'Sleeper, awake Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People Thanks be to God.

Hymn *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery*

CP 179 vs 1-3 Rachel and Shirley

Gospel

Leader The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Leader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according **John 9:1-41**

People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg? Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I

see.’ Some of the Pharisees said, ‘This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.’ But others said, ‘How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?’ And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, ‘What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.’ He said, ‘He is a prophet.’

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, ‘Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?’ His parents answered, ‘We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.’ His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, ‘He is of age; ask him.’

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, ‘Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.’ He answered, ‘I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.’ They said to him, ‘What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?’ He answered them, ‘I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?’ Then they reviled him, saying, ‘You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.’ The man answered, ‘Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.’ They answered him, ‘You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?’ And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ He answered, ‘And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.’ Jesus

said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.' He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him. Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your sin remains.

Reflection

The Rev. Aneeta Saroop

Let us pray: God of soulful love....a love that finds us and lifts us....in the most confusing and despairing of times with gratitude we enter this sacred space and time...not to remain as we are or have been, but to be led somewhere new. Shepherd us now....Hold us now....Cary us homewards, with one another...into the heart of love. Amen.

Hymn

CP 179 *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery* vs 4, 5, 6e

Rachel and Shirley

THANKSGIVING

Confession of Faith

Wally: Hear, O Israel,
The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

Aneeta: Love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your mind,
and with all your strength.

Wally: This is the first and the greatest commandment.
The second is like it"
Love our neighbour as yourself.
There is no commandment greater than these.

Prayers

Acknowledging our broken world, we come to God in prayer, asking for faith and healing.

God who gives sight to the blind, we confess that there are many things we do not see; the pain of our neighbours, your love for our enemies, your welcome of strangers. Open our eyes. In your unbounded mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God who brings healing to the sick, we offer our heartfelt thanks for those who bring your healing: doctors and nurses, first responders and volunteers. Show us how we can support them in your healing work. Open our eyes. In your unbounded mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God who restores us to community, in this time of isolation and fear, we ask for courage and faith. Show us new ways to care for the people around us, that even as we practice social distancing, we may not give in to social isolation. We especially remember those who work so that we may have food and safety. Open our eyes. In your unbounded mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God who calls your church to serve, we thank you for leaders who lead, for servants who serve, for the quiet who go about their ministry in the invisible corners of life. Strengthen us respond with love and compassion to these difficult times. Open our eyes. In your unbounded mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God who challenges our self-centredness, you call us to act on behalf of others. We remember all those who are isolated, who are fearful, and who are sick, especially those we name before you. [*Names of those who are of special concern may be offered.*]

Open our eyes. In your unbounded mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God who sends your church to the world, we are afraid, yet we are called. Increase our faith. Open our eyes. In your unbounded mercy, **Amen**

Confession and Absolution

Celebrant Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;
God welcomes sinners
and invites them to God's table.
Let us confess our sins,
confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept

Celebrant Most merciful God,

People we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy upon us,
pardon and deliver us from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and keep us in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Hymn CP 393 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Rachel and Shirley

Celebrant Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we sing as Jesus taught us.

♪♪ **Our Father in heaven. Hallow'd be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in Heav'n. Give us today our daily bread; for give us our sins as we for-give those who sin a-against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours; Now and for-ev-er.**

SENDING

Benediction The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord's face shine on you with grace and with mercy and in these days of uncertainty and God's assurance, the Lord + look upon you with favour and give you peace, **Amen.**

Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

****Join us next week for Sunday online worship. A link to the recording will be sent out via email along with a liturgy to follow along every week. Scott is arranging a Zoom “Children’s Chat” for 10:00 am Sunday mornings and we’ll begin our trial run this morning at 10:00 am. If you’d like to join and haven’t been in contact with Scott please email him at scott.dolff@gmail.com This Wednesday join us for online Zoom drop in prayer at 1:00 pm. If you haven’t been receiving pastor Aneeta’s emails with instructions, please email (asaroop@bc.anglican.ca) or call (250-812-5965)**

*****Thank you to Rachel, Shirley, and Ed W for producing this service and to Phillip for the preambles for the first two readings.***