Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 22, 2020—11:00 A.M.

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am among them.—Matthew 18:20

We find ourselves in an unprecedented day of connectivity and yet isolation, of vast networks and yet surprising solitary-ness, oxymorons nowhere more evident than in the Church, the Body of Christ, that is accustomed to gathering for worship and enjoying the fellowship of the faithful. We are a tradition that places emphasis on common worship over personal piety and we are strengthened when we come together to pray, hear the word, and receive the sacrament.

Health authorities are clear that limiting the size of assembled groups is a factor in reducing the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19, and our ecclesial authorities stress the same. For the welfare of God’s children, therefore, we cannot gather beneath a single roof for a season, so we will stream adapted liturgies from the nave to the Body of Christ dispersed in our parish and throughout the world.

Out of concern for the size of the groups assembled for worship, we will limit the service participants to the three, full-time Bethesda priests and Hal Pysher. Because of difficulties with technology and the demands placed on Internet usage, our livestream technology has not been performing up to our expectations. We are addressing the issues and expect to have it working again within the next two weeks. Until then, we will pre-record the services so that we may upload them and stream them fully processed, thus avoiding buffering and/or playback problems some have experienced to-date. We will post the leaflet alongside each service as a PDF so that you may follow along and we encourage you to participate as fully as possible in the meditations and the readings in the comfort of your own home.

Beginning Monday, 23 March, the priests will offer the daily office (Morning Prayer) at 10:00 AM, which also will be streamed on bbts.org, and we invite you join the stream and read the office alongside the clergy. We all are learning to use new technologies to share and to receive our worship online. Please bear with us as we continue to develop and improve the ways we can stay connected during this season.

We know that Jesus, while his disciples were overcome with anxiety above deck, slept peacefully through the storm and finally awoke to calm the wind and waves. And Jesus is the very same who reminds us time and again not to be afraid, assuring us that he will not leave us comfortless. And we know that, as he shares with his disciples, when even a few come together in his name, he is in the midst of the gathering; so we know that we are still the Body of Christ gathered virtually, even if we cannot see our brothers and sisters next to us. We know that we are still the beloved children of God who loves and cares for each of us.

Please take the time to join us. While we all know that worshiping online is not the same experience as being together in our beautiful building, the time together still brings us closer to God and one another. Please continue to pray for our nation and our world as we care for one another and ourselves, and for your clergy, who hold you in our prayers every day.
Meditation on Hymn 371  Thou, Whose Almighty Word

_We will not sing this hymn, but during the organist’s improvisation on the tune, you may meditate on the text below._

Thou, whose almighty word chaos and darkness heard, and took their flight; hear us, we humbly pray, and, where the Gospel day sheds not its glorious ray, let there be light!

Thou who didst come to bring on thy redeeming wing healing and sight, health to the sick in mind, sight to the inly blind, now to all humankind, let there be light!

Holy and blessed Three, glorious Trinity, wisdom, love, might; boundless as ocean’s tide, rolling in fullest pride, through the world far and wide, let there be light!

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**The Word of God**

_The congregation stands._

**Lenten Acclamation**

**Celebrant**  Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.  
**People**  His mercy endures for ever.

**The Decalogue**  _The congregation kneels._

Hear the commandments of God to his people:
I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.  
You shall have no other gods but me.  
_Amen. Lord have mercy._

You shall not make for yourself any idol.  
_Amen. Lord have mercy._

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.  
_Amen. Lord have mercy._

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.  
_Amen. Lord have mercy._

Honor your father and your mother.  
_Amen. Lord have mercy._

You shall not commit murder.  
_Amen. Lord have mercy._

You shall not commit adultery.  
_Amen. Lord have mercy._
You shall not steal.  
*Amen. Lord have mercy.*

You shall not be a false witness.  
*Amen. Lord have mercy.*

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.  
*Amen. Lord have mercy.*

*The Celebrant adds a scriptural sentence.*

**CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION**

**Deacon**  
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*A period of silence is kept.*

**Officiant and People**  
*Most merciful God, 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 neighbors 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.*

*The Priest alone stands and says*  
Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

**KYRIE**  
*The congregation remains kneeling.*

**Celebrant**  
Lord, have mercy.  
**People**  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Celebrant**  
Lord, have mercy.

**SALUTATION**

**Celebrant**  
The Lord be with you.  
**People**  
*And also with you.*  
**Celebrant**  
Let us pray.

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*
The congregation is seated.

**Lesson 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.

**Psalm 23** *(said in unison)*

1 The Lord is my shepherd; *  
   I shall not want.  

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; *  
   he leadeth me beside the still waters.  

3 He restoreth my soul; *  
   he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name’s sake.  

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; *  
   for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.  

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; *  
   thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.  

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *  
   and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.
As Jesus 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 neighbors 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 worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment 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.”

Deacon     The Gospel of the Lord.
People     Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily      The Rector
A brief period of silence follows the Homily.

The congregation stands.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
   maker of heaven and earth, of all that is—seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
   eternally begotten of the Father;
   God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
   begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
   Through him all things were made.
   For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
      by the power of the Holy Spirit
      he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
   For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
      he suffered death and was buried.
      On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
      he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
   He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
      and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
   who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
   With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
   He has spoken through the Prophets.
   We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
   We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
   We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.
Prayers of the People

Jesus Christ intercedes for us at all times. Together let us remember and pray to God through Christ, saying: Lord, in your mercy.

*Hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for the church, that the fasting of these forty days may clear away much that is needless and so open our eyes to the bright glory of the cross. Let us pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Peter, our Bishop; and the clergy of this parish.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, let us pray for the Church of Hong Kong; and for our companion Dioceses in the Dominican Republic, Madagascar, the Bahamas, and Haiti.

In our own Diocese, we pray for All Saints’ Church, Fort Lauderdale. Lord in your mercy,

*Hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for our divided and restless world, that those who hold power over others may be troubled and transformed by the demands of justice. Let us pray for Donald, our President; Ron, our Governor; and the Mayor and members of the Town Council.

Lord, in your mercy,

*Hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for all who suffer want, that God in mercy may turn our hearts toward one another. Lord, in your mercy,

*Hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for ourselves, that this church may walk both as burdened and as free as Jesus. Let us ask the God of peace to calm our fears and anxieties as we confront a world troubled by disease and unrest. Let us pray for everyone on our parish prayer list and for all persons who are or recently have been hospitalized, especially Alvin, Celia, Dean, Olga, and Tom. Lord in your mercy,

*Hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for all who have died, that they may be at peace. Let us pray for the repose of the soul of Mimi, as well as those we name now, either silently or aloud. Lord, in your mercy,

*Hear our prayer.*

Silence

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

The Peace

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

Greeting and Announcements
The Holy Communion

Organ Voluntary

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.
Celebrant: It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

The Celebrant adds a Proper Preface.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say:

Sanctus and Benedictus

Celebrant and People:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The congregation kneels, and the Celebrant continues.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”
As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ’s Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. AMEN.

Celebrant

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Celebrant and People (Second translation of the Lord’s Prayer, from The Book of Common 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. 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 ever. Amen.

Fraction Anthem

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Celebrant

The Gifts of God for the People of God.
Communion
In apartheid South Africa many prisoners were denied the sacraments and had to find other ways of taking Spiritual Communion. This found its way into the 1989 Anglican Church of Southern Africa Prayer Book as a help to others who could not receive:

Jesus, may all that is you flow into me. May your body and blood be my food and drink. May your passion and death be my strength and life. Jesus, with you by my side enough has been given. May the shelter I seek be the shadow of your cross. Let me not run from the love which you offer But hold me safe from the forces of evil. On each of my dyings shed your light and your love. Keep calling to me until that day comes When, with your saints, I may praise you for ever. Amen.

The congregation stands when the Celebrant returns to the altar.

Postcommunion Prayer  From Enriching Our Worship
God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Prayer over the People  From The Book of Occasional Services
Deacon Bow down before the Lord.
The congregation bows.
Celebrant Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people who kneel before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Meditation on Hymn 493  O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing  Azmon
We will not sing this hymn, but during the organist’s improvisation on the tune, you may meditate on the text below.

O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer’s praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

Jesus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our sorrows cease; ‘tis music in the sinner’s ears, ‘tis life and health and peace.

Glory to God and praise and love be now and ever given by saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heaven.

Dismissal
Response Thanks be to God.
Lenten Services | Wednesday, March 25 | 12:05 p.m.
Our 12:05 pm Wednesday Eucharist during Lent will, like our Sunday Eucharist, be livestreamed on our website and able to be viewed shorty there after.

Prayers for healing and wholeness have been asked for... Alexis, Alice, Amelia, Amy, Andrew, Angela, Anita, Ann, Anne, Anthony, Arlo, Arthur, Austin, Bill, Bill Ed, Bob, Bobby, Carmen, Celia, Charles, Chip, Chris, Christian, Christine, Claude, Connie, Dalia, David, Dawn, Dean, Debbie, DJ, Don, Donna, Dorothy, Edwin, Elena, Elinor, Emmy, Eva, Evan, Frank, Fred, Freddie, Gay, Gerry, Georgie, Hannah, Holly, Hunter, Jack, James, Jane, Jeanne, Jennifer, Jesse, Joan, Joaquin, John, John Joseph, Kay, Kelley, Kelly Ann, Ken, Kendall, Kyle, Larry, Libby family, Louis, Lucy, Lynn, Mac, Magdalena, Mallory, Marcia, Marge, Mariette, Marguerite, Maria Elena, Mariela, Marilyn, Mark, Martin, Mary, Mary Ann, Mary Louise, Matthew, Michael, Michelle, Miriam, Nancy, Nat, Nathan, Nealy, Nolan family, Olga, Pam, Pat, Patricia, Peggy, Peter, Ralph, Raymond, Regine, Reysean, Richard, Ricky, Robbie, Robert, Rosa, Russell, Sally, Scott, Sharon, Shaune, Shawn, Spencer, Stellway family, Stephanie, Stephen, Stewart, Sue, Susan, Suzy, Sylvia, Taryn, Taylor, family, Ted, Terry family, Thom, Thomas, Tom, Vincent, Viola, Ward and those serving our country... Alex, Benjamin, Christian, Clara, Eric, George, Harold, Herbert, John, Lorne, Luster Michael, Thomas, Tommy, and William.

We pray for the repose of the soul of Marie Clarkson Montgomery

Give Now Online!
You may “Give Now” electronically in one of two ways: 1. Scanning the QR code with your smartphone; or 2. Visiting bbts.org and clicking the red “Give Online” button.
Bethesda’s Mission is to experience the clear and strong presence of God and to understand and spread Christ’s teachings through collective worship, learning, and service.

**Rector and Associates**

The Rev. James E. Harlan, *Rector*

The Rev. Burl Salmon

Associate for Christian Education, Pastoral Care, and Outreach

The Rev. Margaret E. McGhee

Curate

Fred E. Staley

Associate for Administration

**Non-Stipendiary Assisting Clergy**

The Rev. Canon Elizabeth R. Geitz

Assisting Priest

The Rev. W. Frisby Hendricks III

Assisting Priest

The Rev. Clayton B. Waddell

Deacon for Port Ministry

**STAFF**

**Program Director**

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Turia Roebuck-Hayden, Outreach & Development Coordinator

Jessica Hitchcock, Children & Youth Ministries Coordinator

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Keith Risley, Sexton for Grounds

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William Thompson III, Sexton for Building Preservation & Lead Sexton

**The Church Mouse and The Shoppe Staff**

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Evaristo Riestra, General Manager

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The Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea

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