

Season of Lent
15th March 2026
Led by Jo Clifford, Kate Owens
& Laurence Wareing

Welcome & Gathering

Call to worship

One: We are on a Lenten journey;
ALL: From a wilderness to a garden,
One: From longing to discovering,
ALL: From waiting to birthing.
One: God of transformation and new life,
ALL: We offer you our worship & praise.

Hymn: O threefold God CH4 114

O threefold God of tender unity,
life's great unknown that binds and sets us free:
felt in our loving, greater than our thought,
you are the mystery found, the mystery sought.

O blaze of radiance, source of light that blinds,
fierce burning fire in clear prophetic minds,
you live in mystery, yet in us dwell;
life springs from you as from a living well.

In every making, each creative dream,
and in the flowing of life's healing stream,
when love is born or people reconciled,
we share your life, O Parent, Spirit, Child.

O threefold God of tender unity,
life's great unknown that binds and sets us free:
felt in our loving, greater than our thought,
you are the mystery found, the mystery sought.



Into the seed
by
Jan
Richardson

*CH4 114 William L. (Bill) Wallace (b. 1933).
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Opening Prayer with movement

One: Holy One
In times of wilderness and uncertainty

ALL: Love and hope surround us.

*(action: *arms circle round, cross in front of body and lower)*

One: In times of abundance and clarity

ALL: Love and hope surround us. (action*)

One: In times of growth and change

ALL: Love and hope surround us. (action*)

We unite our prayers together in the Lord's Prayer or Jesus Prayer, using a form of words which are worshipful for us...

Source of Life,

Father and Mother of us all:

Creation honours you!

May your Realm of Justice & Joy

Sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another,
forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever. Amen

Time for all ages

Hymn: For everyone born CH4 685

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,

And God will delight

when we are creators of justice and joy.

Yes, God will delight

*when we are creators of justice,
justice and joy!*

For trans, woman, man, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for trans, woman, man, a system that's fair,
And God will delight

*when we are creators of justice and joy.
Yes, God will delight
when we are creators of justice,
justice and joy!*

*For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong,
And God will delight
when we are creators of justice and joy.
Yes, God will delight
when we are creators of justice,
justice and joy!*

*For all who are Queer, a place at the table,
a covenant shared, a welcoming space,
a rainbow of race and gender and colour,
For all who are Queer, the chalice of grace,
And God will delight
when we are creators of justice and joy.
Yes, God will delight
when we are creators of justice,
justice and joy!*

*For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free,
And God will delight
when we are creators of justice and joy.
Yes, God will delight
when we are creators of justice,
justice and joy!*

*CH4 685 Shirley Erena Murray
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Readings read by Francis, Jo and Laurence

1 Samuel 16: 1-13

Samuel Anoints David

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.

John 9: 1-25

A Man Born Blind Receives Sight

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.'

The Pharisees Investigate the Healing

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.'

Sermon by Kate Owens

Meditation by Stephen Ziffo

Offering & Dedication

Praise God from whom all blessing flow

Praise God all creature here below
Praise God above, You heavenly host
Praise Maker Christ and Holy Ghost

*Music: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510-1561.
Words: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711*

Communion led by Laurence Wareing

Hymn: Come to the table of grace

Come to the table of grace
Come to the table of grace
This God's table it's not yours or mine
Come to table of grace.

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One: We unite in prayer with followers of Jesus since the earliest times as we say:

God be with you

ALL: And with your spirit

One: Lift up your hearts

ALL: We lift them to God

One: Let us give thanks to God

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise

One: Holy Loving God,

For the universe you have crafted in all its variety and mystery

ALL: We praise and thank you

One: For the gift of Christ Jesus; vulnerable healer & guide

ALL: We praise and thank you

One: For your Salvation; love crucified and resurrected.

ALL: We praise and thank you

One: With people everywhere, past present and yet to come

ALL: We praise and thank you.

One: We offer you our thanks as we sing together...

Hymn: God bless to us our bread CH4 763

God bless to us our bread,
And give bread to all those who are hungry
and hunger for justice to all who are fed.
God bless to us our bread.

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Song: This is the body of Christ CH4 799

Broken that we might be whole.
This cup as promised by God,
True to God's Word,
Cradles our Lord

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Food the good of us all.

Closing Response

One: Together we are nourished by Jesus' life.

ALL: We go to share his life and love.

Notices

Hymn: The one who longs CH4 719 (tune: Kingsfold CH4 291)

1 The one who longs to make us whole
is waiting to embrace
our broken lives, so we can know
the power of healing grace.
God's love surrounds our suffering,
and keeps us through the night;
God helps us bear our deep despair
till we see morning light.

2 The one who saves us from ourselves
is waiting to release
our hearts from chains of self-reproach
and failure to find peace.
When harmful habits leave us bruised,
distraught by inner pain,
God comes to us through trusted friends,
and helps us hope again.

3 The one who understands our need
accepts us as we are;
and, like a loved one, welcomes us
when we have wandered far.
God never says we come too late
to be forgiven, free,
but promises we can become
the self we're meant to be.

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Blessing & Sung Amen

What's on @ AUC this week?

Event	Date	Time	Location	Notes
Sunday Worship	Sun 15 th Mar	11am	AUC & Online	Jo is leading and Kathleen is preaching
Post Service Zoom Social	Sun 15 th Mar	12 noon	Online	
Contextual Bible Study	Wed 18 th Mar	7.30-8.30pm	Online	John 9:1-41 Email centre.manager@augustine.org.uk for the Zoom link
Contextual Bible Study	Thu 19 th Mar	12-1pm	Online	John 9:1-41 Email centre.manager@augustine.org.uk for the Zoom link
Sunday Worship	Sun 22 nd Mar	11am	AUC & Online	Andrew is leading and Mike is preaching
Post Service Zoom Social	Sun 22 nd Mar	12 noon	Online	
Rota volunteer get together	Sun 22 nd Mar	1pm-3pm	AUC	

Zoom ID for worship: 84317815003

Zoom ID for all social events: 3140057633

Password: 1861AUC

Zoom Telephone number: 0131 4601196