



**WORSHIP BULLETIN**  
**Third Sunday in Lent – 19 March 2023**

**God welcomes us:**

**P:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**Confession:**

**C: We confess that we are born in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have failed to do. We have not loved you with our whole heart, and we have not loved our neighbour as ourselves. We deserve your eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us and lead us so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

**God forgives us:**

**P:** Upon your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the word, announce the grace of God to all of you. On behalf of my Lord Jesus Christ and by his command, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit. God forbid that any of you who reject his grace and forgiveness by refusing to repent and believe, and your sins therefore remain unforgiven. May he comfort you with his holy absolution, and strengthen you with his sacrament, that your joy may be full. Peace be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**We sing: *The Lord's my shepherd***

**The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;  
He makes me lie in pastures green.  
He leads me by the still, still waters,  
His goodness restores my soul.**

**Refrain: *And I will trust in You alone,  
And I will trust in You alone,  
For Your endless mercy follows me,  
Your goodness will lead me home.***

**He guides my ways in righteousness,  
And He anoints my head with oil,  
And my cup, it overflows with joy,  
I feast on His pure delights.**

**Refrain:**

**And though I walk the darkest path,  
I will not fear the evil one,  
For You are with me, and Your rod and  
staff  
Are the comfort I need to know.**

**Refrain:**

***For Your endless mercy follows me,  
Your goodness will lead me home.***

Stuart Townend Copyright © 1996 Thankyou Music (Adm. by CapitolCMGPublishing.com excl. UK & Europe, adm. by Integrity Music, part of the David C Cook family, [songs@integritymusic.com](mailto:songs@integritymusic.com))

**First Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14 - *Live as children of the light***

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.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel: John 9:1-41 - Jesus opens the eyes of a man born blind**

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. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**We sing: AT#155 - We believe  
We believe in God the Father,  
we believe, we believe.  
We believe he is the holy one,  
we believe, we believe.**

**He was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary;  
for us he died and was buried;  
on the third day he rose again.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, the Lord,  
we believe, we believe.  
We believe He is God's only Son,  
we believe, we believe.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
we believe, we believe  
We believe in the holy Church of God,  
we believe, we believe.**

**We believe in God's forgiveness,  
the resurrection from the dead;  
We believe in life everlasting,  
we believe, we believe. Amen, we believe.**

Reproduced with Permission under license #A1130, LicenSingOnline

**Young at Heart – Children's Message:**

**We sing the Offering Song: LH#863 - Blessed Assurance**

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine;  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood:**

**Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending, bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love:**

***This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long.***

**Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Saviour am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love:**

Frances Jane van Alstyne 1820-1915

**Offering Prayer:**

***C: Thank you, Lord, for sending us your light. Help us to live as people of the light,  
and to show your light and love to others. Amen.***

**Sermon: "How can we be well in the midst of the world's evils?"**

**We sing: AT#43 - How shall I call you**

**How shall I call you? Maker of heaven,  
Poet of sunset and painter of sky;  
Father almighty who's running to find us,  
Giving his Son who must suffer and die.**

***Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Spirit,  
Let's sing it again and again.  
Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Spirit,  
For ever and ever. Amen***

**How shall I call you? Spirit of comfort,  
Cloud in the daytime and fire in the night;  
Guide as we wander, protector in danger,  
Listener and helper and giver of sight.**

**How shall I call you? Lover of children,  
Shepherd and teacher and brother and  
friend;  
Healer of blind man and healer of leper:  
You are beginning and middle and end.**

**How shall I call you? Master and servant,  
Lord of the seasons and Lord of the years;  
Faithful and constant in loving and mercy,  
Giver of laughter and taker of tears.**

Robin Mann © 1977 Robin Mann. Used by Permission. CCL Licence Number 81475.

**We pray for ourselves, the church and the world:**

**C: Heavenly Father, thank you for opening the eyes of our hearts to see your will for our lives in Christ. As his light shines in our hearts to replace the darkness of our sin and weakness with his righteousness, help us to turn to you and seek your grace.**

**Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.**

**C: We pray for people who are blinded to Christ because of ignorance or because of sin and shame. We pray for those areas in our lives we have kept shut to his truth and grace. Father, bring the light of the gospel to these people and places.**

**Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.**

**C: Where people are in despair for whatever reason please bring your peace. Relieve the pressure on those who suffer for your name. Bless the church and all its work.**

**Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.**

**C: Lord, we pray for the people of Burketown and surrounding areas as they are faced with the devastation from flood. Give them comfort, courage and strength and be with all those who come to their rescue and aid. Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.**

**C: Give courage to those who are physically blind and support those who help them. Give faith and strength to the sick and those who care for them. Provide for all in need, including those known to us personally and whom we now name in our hearts...(brief silence). Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.**

**C: We lift our eyes to you, O Lord. Restore us and the world in which we live through the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

**The Lord's Supper:**

**We sing: LH#140 - Holy, holy, holy**

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty!**

**Early in the morning our song shall rise to  
Thee;**

**Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

**Holy, holy, holy, all the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around  
the glassy sea,**

**Cherubim and seraphim falling down  
before Thee,**

**Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.**

**Holy, holy, holy, though the darkness hide  
Thee,**

**Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory  
may not see,**

**Only Thou art holy; there is none beside  
Thee**

**Perfect in power, in love and purity.**

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty!**

**All Thy works shall praise Thy name in  
earth and sky and sea;**

**Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

**Blessing:**

**P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look with favour upon you and give you His peace. C: Amen.**

**We sing: LH#851 - Amazing grace (John Newton 1725-1807)**

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,  
that saved a wretch like me!**

**I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;**

**'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;**

**how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!**

**The Lord has promised good to me,  
his Word my hope secures;**

**he will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.**

## NOTICES - COMING EVENTS

- Worship 9.00am – Every Sunday

### WORKING BEE

There will be a working bee at the Church and Office from 8am to 11am on Saturday, 25 March 2023.



Some of the jobs to be completed:

- # Cleaning of Church chairs and windows and dusting
- # Cleaning of Church and office windows and tidy up downstairs
- # Preparing Baby Bundles
- # Refresh garden in front of church office.
- # General tidy

Thank you for helping keep our facilities in good repair.



### COFFEE & CHAT – Thursday, 23 March 2023 @ Bosco's @ 10am

Come along for a "Coffee and Chat" on Thursday the 23<sup>rd</sup> at Bosco's, IRT Woodlands, Lacebark St, Meridan Plains. It's an informal morning where we can catch up and enjoy a lovely coffee (or tea and/or some yummy food if you wish) and great conversations.

Anyone is welcome. Would you please let Janelle know (phone 0488 556 150) if you are coming, or just turn up. Lots of space!

### LENTEN OFFERING

Mission and Vision Team decided at their last meeting in February that the Lenten offering this year would go towards the Manse repayments.

There will be two offering baskets during Lent. Your regular offering will go in the first basket. If you would like to make a special Lenten offering, would you please place in the red basket. This will go towards the repayments on the Manse.

If you wish to transfer via Bank transfer, bank details are as follows:

BSB: 704-942      Account: 15062951      Name: St Marks Manse Account

Thank you.



### ABOUT THE MANSE

The church manse at 11 Elvena Cct, Little Mountain was purchased for our pastor and family in December 2013 at a cost of \$440,000. A Lutheran Laypeople's League loan was taken out for \$330,000, and the length of the loan is 20 years.

Currently our loan after nine years is \$199,563.99 and the repayments have just increased to \$1,943 per month from 1 January 2023, with the increased interest rate of 4.2%.

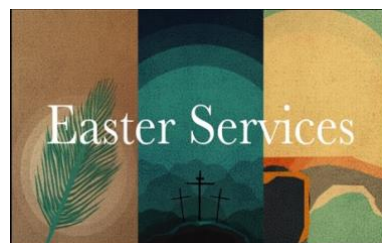


### EASTER AT ST MARK'S

Maundy Thursday, 6 April – 6.30pm

Good Friday, 8 April – 9.00am

Easter Sunday, 9 April – 7.00am & 9.00am





## PASTORAL CARE

You're welcome to contact any of the Deacons for pastoral care.

Pastor Ray 0429 856 532  
Mary Engel 0412 771 718  
Bruce Heirdsfield 0466 103 173  
John Kleinig 0417 837 678



Ann Aiken 0412 321 030  
Julie Martin 0410 492 740  
Cedric Smith 5492 8684

## BABY BUNDLES

Baby Bundles is a ministry of St Mark's where baby items are donated or purchased to create a basket as a gift to young mums. A lot of the times these mums are dealing with domestic violence situations - and a new baby. We will be preparing some Baby Bundles in the church office on the day of the Working Bee. If you are able to help, please come along. Any new or nearly new baby clothing, baby items, nappies, toiletries etc can be left in the red wheelie bin at the entrance to the church.

## MISSION POSSIBLE - THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

***Every week, donations are made by you for the homeless and those escaping domestic violence and left in the wheelie bins at the entrance to the church. And every week there are goods left in there! These donations are very welcome and are distributed every week.***

## DEVOTION John 9:1-13

Music has always been an important part of our lives - all kinds of music, but the music I love the most is the music that we sing about Jesus. Here is one of my favourites, "To God Be the Glory." We sang that as a closing hymn at St Mark's last week. What a great hymn of praise to God! This is one song that is definitely on my list of all-time favourites: "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine." Did you know these favourites that I have named have something in common? They were written by the same person. In fact, there are many hymns in our hymnal written by that person. Her name was Fanny Crosby. She wrote over 8,000 hymns and poems to glorify God and had nearly 200 different pseudonyms during her career.

When Fanny was six weeks old, she had an eye infection. Her regular doctor was out of town, and a man posing as a doctor gave her the wrong treatment. Within a few days, she was blind. If that happened to me, I am afraid I would be very bitter and I would probably spend a lifetime feeling sorry for myself. Fanny was never bitter and she never felt sorry for herself. When she was only eight years old, she wrote this poem:

***Oh, what a happy child I am,  
Although I cannot see.  
I am resolved that in this world,  
Contented I will be.***

***How many blessings I enjoy  
That other people don't.  
To weep and sigh because I'm blind,  
I cannot and I won't.***

Instead of being bitter and feeling sorry for herself, Fanny used the gifts that God had given her to write over 8,000 hymns and poems to praise and glorify God. One day Jesus was walking with his disciples when they passed by a blind man. When they saw him, the disciples asked Jesus who was to blame for the man's blindness. Was it because of his sin or was it because of his parent's sins? Jesus answered them and told them that no one was to blame, he was blind so that God's works could be shown in him. Then Jesus healed the man and the people praised and glorified God for his goodness.

What about Fanny Crosby? God didn't heal her blindness. Perhaps if God had healed her, she might never have written all of those beautiful hymns -- and the world would never have heard of Fanny Crosby. She used the tragedy of her blindness to glorify God. I pray that tragedy will never come into your life, but if it does, remember that everything that happens can be used to praise and glorify God!

***Dear Lord, the difficulties in our life seem small when compared to what others may be facing. Help us not to grumble and complain, but to praise and glorify you in every situation. Amen.***