The FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT

**At St Andrews , Gisborne**

**March, 19th. 2023**

**>>WELCOME and GREETING ( The Minister.)**

**We prepare ourselves for Worship by being quiet, Looking, and Listening:**

**Words to ‘*The Road Home*’ by Stephen Paulus** ( 1949 -2014.)

Tell me where is the Road that I can call my own?

That I left - that I lost -- so long ago?

All these years I’ve wandered

Oh! When will I know there‘s a way, there’s a road

That will lead me home.

After wind; after rain; when the dark is done.

As I wake from a dream, is the gold of day.

Throgh the air there’s a calling from far away;

There’s a voice I can hear that will lead me home.

Rise up ! Follow me ! Come away is the call.

With LOVE in your heart as the only song.

There is no such beauty as where you belong—

Rise up ! Follow me !

I will lead you home.

**\*\* WE FOLLOW THE EARLY CHURCH :: ( From Ephesians,: 5 : 18-20 )**

… “ *When you meet together, sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs*

*, as you praise the Lord with all your heart.*

*Always use the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*

*to thank God the Father for everythin*g “.

**Invitation to Worship ::**

*Reader : Here is the Bible lying open before you.*

*When it is read aloud, it becomes the Living Word.*

*It proclaims God’s promise to his people.*

**All : We are the people of the Bible:**

**Gathered in love; gathered in Christ.**

*\*\*Elder (lights candle) : There is the Christ Candle in our midst.*

*Being lit, the light is seen by one and all.*

*It invites our attention from every direction.*

**All : We are all God’s children :**

**Gathered to see the Light; gathered by Christ.**

*\*\*Elder : In our midst is the Table which symbolises Grace*

*It speaks of abundant and unconditional Grace for all.*

*We are the inheritors of this Grace.*

**All : We are the followers of the Jesus of Nazareth:**

**Gathered in Love; centred upon Christ.**

**\*\*1-PRAISE : Worship the Lord in the beauty of Holiness**. CH4 201 vv1-4

**Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!  
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his Name!**

**Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,  
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,  
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,  
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.**

**Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness  
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine;  
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,  
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.**

**These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,  
he will accept for the Name that is dear;  
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,  
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.**

**\*\*Prayer of Approach and Thanksgiving.**

*L : LORD --We are Your people, we have gathered in your presence:*

*we have welcomed each other in Your Name: now we greet You.*

**All : We know that You welcome us: You are in us and amongst us:**

**it is You who binds us together as a Community of people;:**

**shaped by Love; touched by Grace; and transformed by You.**

*L : When we often fail to live up to that reality;*

*when we remove ourselves from Your community,*

*we continue to struggle to keep ourselves apart from others*

*and we destroy Your purpose and intention of Community*

**All : In so many ways we act against Your hopes and wishes:**

**we are filled with prejudice and suspicion;**

**we thrive on competitiveness and self certainties.**

**Yet we are filled with fears and feelings of insecurity.**

**Forgive us all our divisions.**

**Forgive us our lack of listening.**

**Forgive us the pain and hurt we cause You and others.**

*[ Silence ]*

*L : You pardon us to be a renewed people with one faith.*

**All : Gathered together in Your Name.**

L : You unite us and bring us together, a diversity yet in unity

**All : Gathered together in Christ Jesus***.*

*L : You unite us together, in a school for sinners and for Saints.*

###### **All : Gathered together by your Holy Spirit**

*L : ... and we pray together in the words of the Lord's Prayer*

**All : God our Father and Creator,**

**it is Your name we worship.**

**We await Your Kingdom's presence,**

**when Your will is obeyed**

**at all times and in all places.**

**Satisfy our needs for living today.**

**Amd make it possible for us to forgive,**

**and to accept forgiveness,**

**and to avoid straying from Your ways.**

**For You have all the power and the glory forever, Amen**

**\*\*2-PRAISE: Psalm 23 : CH4 14 Crimond**

**The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.**

**He makes me down to lie**

**in pastures green: he leadeth me**

**the quiet waters by.**

**My soul he doth restore again;**

**and me to walk doth make**

**within the paths of righteousness,**

**even for his own Name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,**

**yet will I fear none ill:**

**for thou art with me; and thy rod**

**and staff me comfort still.**

**My table thou has furnished**

**in presence of my foes;**

**my head thou dost with oil anoint,**

**and my cup overflows.**

**Goodness and mercy all my life**

**shall surely follow me:**

**and in God's house for evermore**

**my dwelling-place shall be**.

**Reading ( 1) 1-SAMUEL 16 :(vs. 1 – 13 )**

**The Minister -- Our 5-Minute Ministry Spot**

**Reading ( 2 ) MATTHEW 12 : (vs. 1- 14.)**

**>>3-PRAISE:** **CH-4 555 Amazing Grace**

**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.**

**‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,**

**and grace my fears relieved;**

**how precious did that grace appear**

**the hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares**

**I have already come;**

**‘tis grace has brought me safe thus far,**

**and grace will lead me home.**

**The Lord has promised good to me,**

**his word my hope secures;**

**he will my shield and portion be**

**as long as life endures.**

**>>Sharing in Interpretation.** **“ .Old Rules ! New Rules ???”**

**\*\*Offertory and Dedication;**

*L : Lord our God and Father of us all:*

**All : You have given us more than we ask for,**

**and much more than we truly deserve.**

**May we always show a similar generosity**

**in our love for others in the name of Jesus our Lord. AMEN**

**\*\*4-PRAISE:** Here I am Lord CH4 251*WB 20*

**I, the Lord of sea and sky,**

**I have heard My people cry.**

**All who dwell in dark and sin**

**My hand will save.**

**I who made the stars of night,**

**I will make their darkness bright.**

**Who will bear My light to them?**

**Whom shall I send?**

***Refrain***

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?**

**I have heard You calling in the night.**

**I will go, Lord, if You lead me.**

**I will hold Your people in my heart.**

**I, the Lord of snow and rain,**

**I have borne My people's pain.**

**I have wept for love of them.**

**They turn away.**

**I will break their hearts of stone,**

**give them hearts for love alone.**

**I will speak My word to them.**

**Whom shall I send?**

**I, the Lord of wind and flame,**

**I will tend the poor and lame.**

**I will set a feast for them.**

**My hand will save.**

**Finest bread I will provide**

**till their hearts be satisfied.**

**I will give My life to them.**

**Whom shall I send?** *Based on Isaiah 6 Dan Schutte*

**R-Prayers of the People:**  *L :: We are one people:*

**all :: Gathered together in Your Name,**

**FINAL PRAISE:**  **CH4 192 Michael**

**All my hope on God is founded,**

**all my trust he will renew;**

**safe through change and chance he guides me,**

**only good and only true.**

**God unknown, he alone**

**calls my heart to be his own.**

**Human pride and earthly glory,**

**sword and crown betray God’s trust;**

**though with care and toil we build them,**

**tower and temple fall to dust.**

**But God’s power, hour by hour,**

**is my temple and my tower.**

**God’s great goodness lasts for ever,**

**deep his wisdom passing thought:**

**splendour, light, and life attend him,**

**beauty springing out of naught.**

**Evermore, from his store**

**new-born worlds rise and adore.**

**Day by day the mighty Giver**

**showers gifts on us below;**

**his desire our souls delight in,**

**pleasure leads us where we go.**

**See love stand at his hand,**

**joy awaits at his command!**

**Still from earth to God in heaven**

**sacrifice of praise be done,**

**high above all praises praising**

**for the gift of Christ his Son.**

**Hear Christ call one and all:**

**those who follow shall not fall.**

**As we leave, we give each other our Lenten Blessing...**

*L : May the truths of Christ be true for us at all times;*

*may the Risen Christ always guard and guide us.*

**All : We each go our way awaiting Christ's accompanying;**

**we each go confidently accepting Christ's Lordship;**

**we each go joyfully celebrating Christ's gift of peace.**

**May we each go separately in Christ's world,**

**but journeying on together in Christ's name.**

**[Sung] Amen - Amen - Amen**