

L-4 Mini-LENT Series. **Can be shared**

L-4 Mini-LENT Series. [Leader's Printout] At St Andrew's, Gisborne
30th..March 2025, conducted by Revd Dr Clive Yates\

Hymn Words are on an Printed A-4 sheet if you cannot read the screen. ASK!
If you cannot HEAR, please sit closer to the front.

Prelude Music (already playing) "Master Tallis' testament' by Herbert Howells.

10-00 a.m. Greeting by the Minister

>>> The OFFERING in Silence ... and Short Prayer by Minister

>>> A VERY QUICK REVISION of Last Sunday's Thoughts.

>>> A VIDEO that is very different and a tentative conclusion??

>>> Introducing Theme "... Some 'Problems' bequeathed to US! ..."

*** >>> Our GATHERING PSALM 32 : vs 8 -11 (adapted)

L : The LORD says: "I will instruct you"

All : Do not be like a horse or a mule,
stubborn and without understanding
to be controlled with a harness.

L : The Lord's unfailing love
surrounds those who trust God.

All : Rejoice in the Lord, and be glad:
sing, and feel joy in your heart! TRULY, TRULY.

*** >>> OUR THANKSGIVING PRAYER

1 -HYMN Praise my soul the King of heaven [Words on TV & A4 H/out]

>>> TOPIC EXPANSION 'How Our Problems arose'

2 -HYMN Lead us, Heavenly Father, Lead us ...

>>> TOPIC EXPANSION "Three Problems for Today"

3 -HYMN The Lord is my shepherd Listen; you know the words

Meditational version with a new Tune= Goodhall.

*** >>> TWO READINGS (1)Colossians :: (2) A Historical Document.

MAIN TOPIC USUAL QUESTIONS (and discussion)

EMPHASIS ON BEING COMMUNITY / TOGETHER

4-HYMN Dear Lord and Father of mankind

>>>> VERY SHORT CONCLUDING REMARKS + NXT Week AD.

5 -HYMN All my hope on God is founded

EXIT MUSIC == 2 Guitar Playing 'Passacaglia' ::

A Community of two 'Saring, Listening and Co-operating' Together.

***** >>>Our GATHERING CALL**

from PSALM 32 : vs 8 -11 (adapted)

L : The LORD says: “ I will instruct you”

**All : Do not be like a horse or a mule,
stubborn and without understanding
to be controlled only with a harness.**

*L : The Lord’s unfailing love
surrounds those who trust God.*

**All : Rejoice in the Lord, and be glad:
sing, ...and feel joy in your heart!**

TRULY ::TRULY

L—4 Prayer of GRATEFUL THANKSGIVING :: COMMUNITY

Let us pray

In your PRESENCE , LET US BE SILENT for a moment **[count-8]**

Let us give thanks

... .. for all the gifts **of learning** in our daily lives,
we give you our grateful thanks.

As we learn, we acquire wisdom, ... slowly:: **we learn to** avoid
the things which upset us and continue to distract us.

Yet, when we take the time to look around us,

We see the beauty and wonder of creation around us;

We notice the simple things like 'fresh air' and 'warm sunlight':

For the sheer abundance of food which stocks our pantries;

For the seeming abundance of fish in the seas around us,

For the devotion and love we get from our animal friends.

THERE IS JUST SO MUCH to be thankful for.

*We thank you, **gracious Spirit***

for all that makes our lives so pleasant.

The way in which it is revealed in others

through the lives of so many other ordinary people,

who ARE our neighbours, and who reveal their love for YOU

in the way they respect us, .. and care for us.,

We give thanks for all that sustains us.

For our daily food and drink,

For our homes and families, and for our friends,

We give thanks

for minds to think, and hearts to show charity,

and hands to serve, and tend to those who are unwell.

For our health and strength to work,

and for our leisure when we rest, and relax.

For the memories we have of those who are no longer with us;

Who gave us our lives, and taught us so much;;

We try to honour them in the way we live now.

Above all, we give you thanks for the promises

given to us and to them by **our Teacher** Jesus of Nazareth;

MAY we, in the company of all the other faithful,

always remember to present our praises to YOU;

Giver of all good things

who works within us – and through us

*by **your Spirit**, in the here and now . AMEN*

L-4 30 March READINGS (2)

Reading 1 of 2

Paul's Letter to the COLOSSIANS Ch.3 : vs.12 – 15.. [CEV]

12 God **loves you** and **has chosen YOU** .. as his own special people.

So be gentle, kind, humble, meek, and patient.

Put up with each other, and forgive anyone who does you wrong, just as Christ has forgiven you. Love is more important than anything else. It is what ties everything completely together.

Each one of you is part of the body of Christ, and you were chosen to live together in peace. So let the peace that comes from Christ, control your thoughts,

... ***and be grateful*** Let the teachings about Christ completely fill your lives, while you use all your **wisdom** to instruct each other.

With thankful hearts, **sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs** to God. Whatever you say or do should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as **you give your thanks to God the Father** because of him.

PLINY's Letter to Emperor Trajan

TRANSLATED TEXT L-4 30March [2nd.] READING

This is a simple 'Introduction' to the TEXT.

Pliny the Younger was appointed the Roman governor of Bithynia and Pontus (a part of modern-day Turkey),

Pliny wrote his letter to Emperor Trajan around AD 110, seeking **LEGAL** guidance on the question of how to deal with members of an early Christian community that he had encountered as a Roman Governor and Magistrate.

This letter is one of the earliest ***non-Christian*** accounts of Early Christianity. It provides us with an insight into how the Roman authorities viewed and treated these Christians folk.

Pliny said that they had been denounced anonymously.

This is the 'gist' of the confused Letter he wrote:

Pliny's LETTER reported that these Christians **met together** in someone's **house** on a **specific day** in the week.

They **sang hymns** and songs to Christ (as their 'god').

They bound themselves with an **oath** [***a 'sacramentum'***] - that they would avoid theft, dishonesty, adultery, and other vices. They also enjoyed a **shared meal** together.

Pliny stated to Trajan that he had ***tortured*** a few Christians to find out this information, ***but he was unsure in LAW*** of '... exactly WHAT the specific crime OR offence was ...', -- to which these Christians were actually being accused.

He asked Trajan for advice on how to proceed with trials and punishments. Trajan responded that Christians should not be sought out.

But, ***if denounced and proven guilty*** of NOT worshipping the Roman 'gods', they should be punished. However, if they denied being Christians, and would prove this by worshiping Roman gods, then they could be pardoned. Anonymously posted accusations were to be discouraged. They were not keeping within the spirit of the age. <<<

The LETTER shows that the Romans were confused !

*Pliny's letter and Trajan's response reveal the Roman Empire's initial confusion and eventual policy of persecution towards Christians, who were perceived as a threat by their continual refusal to obey and worship Roman 'gods'. **END END***