



ST STEPHEN'S UNITING CHURCH

197 Macquarie St, Sydney

An Oasis of Christian Worship, Thought and Action

Minister: Position Vacant

Director of Music: Mark Quarmby

Choral Conductor: Dr David Hood

Organ Scholar: Joshua Ryan



Ph: 02 9221 1688

www.ssms.org.au

15 March 2015 – 10 am

MORNING WORSHIP

Lent 4

Leader: The Revd Dr David Gill

Preacher: The Revd Dr Keith Garner,
Superintendent and CEO of Wesley Central Mission

The Gathering of the People of God

Organ Prelude

Erbarm' dich mein, O Herre Gott (O God, be merciful to me Ps 51)
J S Bach (1685 - 1750)

Please stand at the entry of the choir and clergy and remain standing for the...

Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

Call to Worship

Hymn 472 *Father of mercy* (Christe Sanctorum)

Prayers of Approach and Confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

...This is the Gospel.

Thanks be to God.

Doxology 118

To you, almighty God (Croft's 136th)



To you, al - migh - ty God, be end - less ho - nours done. The
un - di - vid - ed Three, and the mys - ter - ious One: where
rea - son fails with all her powers, there faith pre - vails, and love a - dores.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

The Service of the Word

Your Word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet: **A light to our path.**

First Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

4 From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. **5** The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." **6** Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. **7** The people came to Moses and said, "We have

sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. **8** And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." **9** So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Hymn 64 *O bless the Lord, my soul* (T: Diademata 228)

(paraphrase of Psalm 103)

Second Reading

Ephesians 2:1-10

1 You were dead through the trespasses and sins **2** in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. **3** All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. **4** But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us **5** even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved— **6** and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— **9** not the result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Anthem

God So Loved the World

Text: John 3:16, 17

Music: John Goss (1800 - 1880)

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. Amen.

Gospel Reading

St John 3:14-21

14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. **16** "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. **17** "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. **18** Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. **19** And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. **20** For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. **21** But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

May your word live in us:

And bear much fruit to your glory.

Hymn 211i *Jesus, lover of my soul* (Aberystwyth)

Sermon

Hymn 213ii *Father, whose everlasting love*
(Melcombe)

Concerns of the Church

Prayers of the People

Lord's 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.**

Offering

Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering.

The Sending Forth of the People of God

Hymn 209 *And can it be* (Sagina)

Blessing

... and remain with you always.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ.**

Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude

Prelude in G BWV 541

J S Bach (1685 - 1750)

Adapted from *Uniting in Worship 2* (2005)
Bible Readings taken from the *New Revised Standard Version* (1989)