

Leader: Welcome to Holy Hermits Online Worship

It is the Second Sunday in Lent

**Today we are remembering
Holy Hermit St Paul of Thebes**

Service prep: Jamee

Music: Jamee

Proofreader: Team

Preacher: Jamee

Priest: Jamee

Deacon: Lauren

Broadcaster: Paul

Backup broadcaster: Jamee

Zoom buttons: Jamee

Chat leader: Viki

Welcomer: Chris

Leader: Julie

Cantor: Kieron

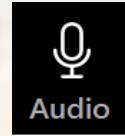
Reader 1: Liz

Reader 2: Helen

Fellowship: Jamee

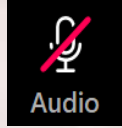
Hospitality

Leader: Our Cantor acts as our voice, together



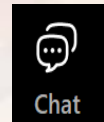
offering the responses, in **Bold Text**, which we say

Please mute ministry

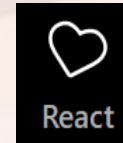


for the service unless invited to offer your voice as part of the service

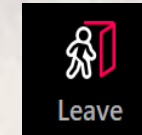
Feel welcome to use the chat



and reaction emojis





 Please take care of yourself in this space.  Come and go as you need



Have the video camera on or off



and turn the volume and brightness up or down

on your device if things are too loud   or too bright  

Hospitality

Leader: 😊 It is great to take rest in this space, so falling asleep is also OK 😊

👂 Remember, pastoral care is available to all in the community, if you'd like to speak to someone about anything spiritual. ❤️ Visit the [help page](#) at the website to reach out

A reminder of our Being Together ethos and safeguarding practices which can be accessed on the website at the help page also 🌐

🙌 Come as you are - we are all here together! 🙌



Being Together
Expectations of behaviour in our church community

Jesus told us to love one another as he loves us. As Christians we know our life together is strengthened when our behaviour is consistent with our faith.

However, our experience of being together can be difficult, particularly when there are differences. So, it is important to be clear about how we will behave towards each other.

- Being a community**
 - ✓ We will value the wellbeing and safety of others, especially children and other vulnerable people.
 - ✓ We will encourage each other to participate in the life of the church.
 - ✓ We will consider the impact of our behaviour on others.
- Relating to each other**
 - ✓ We will protect the safety of all, especially children and other vulnerable people.
 - ✓ We will treat each other with respect and dignity, irrespective of ability, gender, sexuality, race, age or contribution to the church.
 - ✓ We will act with integrity and honesty in our interactions with each other.
- Communicating with each other**
 - ✓ We will communicate respectfully with others, and not in a way that threatens, belittles or humiliates.
 - ✓ We will speak with integrity and honesty, and refrain from speculation and gossip.
- Acknowledging difference**
 - ✓ We will respect those who are different from us and not isolate or ridicule them.
 - ✓ We will listen to and seek to understand the beliefs, opinions and practices of others, even when we do not share their views.
- Responding to conflict**
 - ✓ We will accept responsibility for our part in a conflict.
 - ✓ We will be willing to play our part in resolving a conflict.

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

Leader: Our Holy Hermit today is Holy Hermit St Paul of Thebes

During the persecution of the Christians by Caesar Decius in 250, young Paul fled to the Desert in Thebes by the Red Sea and learned to enjoy his solitary life "alone with God alone" so much, that he remained there for the rest of his life.

He lived nearly ninety years in prayerful solitude, constant penance, and contemplation of God.

Before he died he was discovered by St Anthony the Abbot who spread the news about his holiness.

It's believed that St Paul was kept alive by the fruit of a palm tree and by a raven which daily brought him a piece of bread.

He died at the age of 113, at which time, as related by St Anthony, two lions dug a grave for him.



To read more about our hermits today please visit the send out for the link.

Leader: We settle into worship with an organ playing *Mothering God you gave me life*

[Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth](#)

As we come into worship let's take a few deep breaths,
Let go of anything that isn't serving us,
And become aware of God's presence here with us.

Leader and Cantor unmute

The Greeting

Leader: The Grace of the lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Gathering Prayer

Leader:

Loving God, we gather today
to explore your promise to always
have our best interests at heart.

Help us as we think about the promises we make too.

Amen.

Gathering Prayer

All:

The Lord is our light, now and always.

Come, gaze upon God's beauty.

Let us seek and sing of God's faithful goodness.

Let us raise the roof with our music to the Lord.

Amen.

Sentence

Leader: I now invite our cantor to proclaim the sentence for today.

Cantor:

Our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3.20

Leader: We pray the prayer of approach together.

All: We adore you, Lord. You promise to protect: now and always.

You promise to keep us safe and secure: now and always.

You promise to teach us: now and always.

You promise to be our guide and helper: now and always.

We adore you, Lord, and look to you in all things: now and always.

We adore you, Lord: and trust in what is now and what is not yet seen.

Amen.

Commissioning of The Rev'd Lauren Martin as a new minister at HHO

Rev'd Lauren and Jamee unmute.

Priest: Today we welcome Rev'd Lauren as a Deacon at Holy Hermits Online, alongside her role at the Cathedral as Assistant Curate.

Lauren, you have been called to share leadership of our worship and to be involved in the life and ministry of the Holy Hermits Online community.

We thank God that we are blessed with your presence amongst us.

Lauren, do you in the presence of this community commit yourself to ministry alongside us at Holy Hermits Online?

I do.



Everyone invited to unmute.

Friends, members of this community, will you who witness this new beginning support Lauren and join her in bringing praise to God through the witness of your lives?

We will, with God's help.

Lauren, accept the privilege and responsibility of being a minister in the Holy Hermits Online space. May God, who laboured in love to create all life, continue creating within you new hope, new joy, and new visions. God grant you true love for all people and a real desire to share with them the Good News through the witness of your life. The Lord bless your prayers and actions in the digital space from this time forward and for evermore.

We say together,

All: Lauren, we recognise your ministry among us.

We look forward to journeying with you.

Let us travel together in the power of God's presence. Amen.

We greet Lauren with applause, reaction emojis and chat comments.

Leader: Our first hymn is
Gather us in

<https://youtu.be/j3qkB7gucDk?si=F0tQ1OqwG26fc>

YAs

We will all mute once again to sing together
or allow the music to nourish us.

Leader mutes

The Deacon Introduces Confession

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God,
though we have rebelled and wandered far off.

Silence may be kept.

Let us then ask for mercy, confessing our sins in penitence
and faith.

All:

**Merciful God, our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:**

we have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;

we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.

**Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you
in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

The Priest offers the Absolution

Almighty God who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to God in faith; pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Collect Prayer

Leader:

God of our ancestors,
whose chosen servant Abraham
was given faith to obey your call
and go out into the unknown:
endow your Church with such faith
that we may follow you with courage;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The first reader unmutes

Leader: I now invite the 1st reader to unmute and offer the 1st lesson when ready.

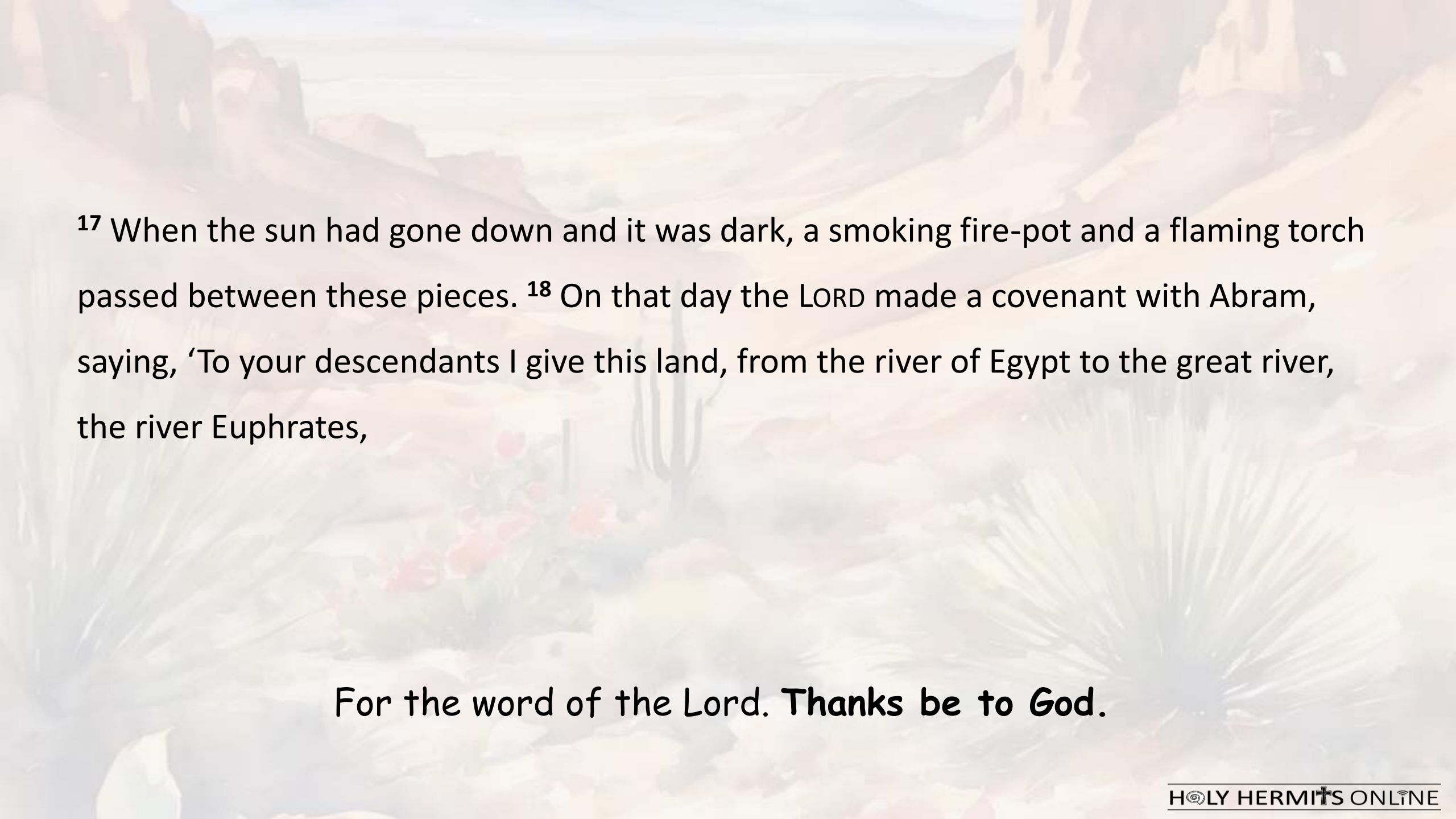
Reader 1: The 1st Reading is from Genesis 15.1-12; 15.17-18

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.’ ² But Abram said, ‘O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?’ ³ And Abram said, ‘You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.’ ⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, ‘This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.’ ⁵ He brought him outside and said, ‘Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.’ Then he said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’

Continues...

⁶ And he believed the LORD ; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness. ⁷ Then he said to him, 'I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' ⁸ But he said, 'O Lord GOD , how am I to know that I shall possess it?' ⁹ He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' ¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. ¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

Continues...



¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

For the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Leader: We now say the psalm antiphonally,
I invite the first reader to lead and we will all respond along with our cantor as our voice.

¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?: the Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalm 27

² **When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes, come upon me to devour me: they shall stumble and fall.**

³ If an army encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid: and if war should rise against me, yet will I trust.

⁴ **One thing I have asked from the Lord, which I will require: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,**

⁵ To see the fair beauty of the Lord: and to seek God's will in the temple.

Continues...

⁶ For God will hide me under God's shelter in the day of trouble: and conceal me in the shadow of God's tent, and set me high upon a rock.

⁷ And now God will lift up my head: above my enemies round about me.

⁸ And I will offer sacrifices in God's sanctuary with exultation:

I will sing, I will sing praises to the Lord.

⁹ O Lord, hear my voice when I cry: have mercy upon me and answer me.

¹⁰ My heart has said of you, 'Seek his face': your face, Lord, I will seek.

¹¹ Do not hide your face from me: or thrust your servant aside in displeasure;

¹² For you have been my helper:

do not cast me away or forsake me, O God of my salvation.

Continues...

13 Though my father and my mother forsake me: the Lord will take me up.

14 Teach me your way, O Lord:

and lead me in an even path, for they lie in wait for me.

15 Do not give me over to the will of my enemies: for false witnesses have risen against me, and those who breathe out violence.

16 But I believe that I shall surely see the goodness of the Lord:

in the land of the living.

17 O wait for the Lord; stand firm and God will strengthen your heart:
and wait, I say, for the Lord.

Leader: Thanks 1st reader, I now invite the 2nd reader to unmute and offer the 2nd reading when ready.

Reader 2: The 2nd Reading is from Philippians 3.17-4.1

3 ¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. **4** ¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*We pause for a
moment to
reflect and
breathe
before the Gospel*



The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke chapter 13, beginning at the 31st verse

All: Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' ³² He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." '

This is the Gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

We pause for a
moment
after the
Gospel
to reflect and
breathe



Holy Bible

The Leader and Cantor mute

Sermon

Leader unmutes

Our next Hymn:

Mothering God you gave me birth

<https://youtu.be/3Qkcry7y9ts?si=1NQfFQP5BIHRgDvO>

*We will stay on mute to sing together
or allow the music to nourish us.*

Leader and Cantor mute

The Leader and Cantor unmute

The Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ
All: God's Spirit is with us

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

Leader: A sign of peace may now be exchanged

*You might like to type "Peace" into the chat,
use the 'raise hand' or other reaction buttons,
or just simply wave via screen with your video turned on*

(Broadcaster exits shared screen for a few moments for the exchange of peace)

Prayer of Thanksgiving before Intercessions

Leader: As we now enter prayer, I invite the 2nd reader to unmute, to lead our intercessions on the next slide. Please feel free to change your body position if you need to, as we offer this thanksgiving prayer.

Leader: Mother, Son, and Holy Spirit, we praise you for this day.

We thank you for the many ways you speak to us: through your Word, visions, dreams and other people.

Thank you that you see the bigger picture - you see the whole story from start to finish.

Each day for us is a new page in life's book, revealing ups and downs, promises for now and for what is yet to come.

Thank you that unwavering trust in you banishes all dark shadows and uncertainties. Help us to walk in faith.

All praise to you Mother, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Intercessions

Reader 2: We pray for creation and communities we share our lives with. We pause for a few moments to name either in our hearts, or out loud, or in the chat, those environments and communities we bring to the Lord in prayer.

PAUSE...

We entrust to you the community of Holy Hermits Online and our ministry partners:

- St John's Cathedral Brisbane
- The Anglican Diocese of Southern Queensland
- St Gabriel's Carindale
- Benedictus Contemplative Church, Canberra
- The Episcopal Diocese of Texas, Canon Joann and the Mission Amplification Team
- Anglican focus
- Tithe.ly

Prosper the work of our hands and show us the way to your new creation.
Creator God, **Hear our prayer.**

Loving Creator, we entrust to you all animals, especially those who are: sick, anxious, ageing, lost, at risk, lonely, sad, hungry, in pain, homeless, abused, living in fear, encountering violence of any kind, in need of comfort, rehabilitation or transformation.

We invite your loving compassion for:

Jasmine,
Leese(y),
Sid, Bobo and Toots
Polly and Meggsie
Koshka,
Lambert
Kala, Nigel and Little One
Toby



We name in our hearts, out loud or in the chat, the animals we bring to the Lord in prayer. **PAUSE...**

Creator God, **Hear our prayer.**

Reader 2: Eternal Trinity of Love, we uphold to you the people we love and carry cares for:

Dr Julie,
Julie and Ray, Tracey, Shane
Jess and Leah
May
Kirsten, Greg, Daphne & Beau
Tanya
Matthew & Nicholas
Alan & Gaylene
Liz's Godchildren
Pope Francis

Barry
Dilys and Tony,
Paul and Darhon
Judy and Mary
Mark, Desley and Bob
Ruth
Kerrie-Anne
Phil
Rachel, Mervyn & Gillian

Bill and Marjorie
Rev'd Shane & Janette
Alecia, Martin and Aidan
Bishop Cam
Aaron and Andrea
Neva
Bob and Di
Steven and Vanessa
Miriam

We name in our hearts, out loud or in the chat, those we bring to the Lord in prayer.

PAUSE...

We entrust to you those who have died, those who have died peacefully and those who have died tragically, the old and the young. Receive them into your kingdom.

Amen.

Pray Daily Cycle of Prayer

Leader: 'Loving God, joining with the Church in our cycle of prayer, we ask your blessings on:

- The Church of the Province of Central Africa
- The Diocese of Newcastle: †Peter; Assistant Bishops - †Sonia, †Charlie; Clergy and People
- The Parish of Bundaberg: Rev'd Kate, Rev'd Matthew
- Inala Careforce
- The Glennie School, Toowoomba: A/g Principal - Emma; Chaplain - vacant; Chair of School Council - †Cameron; members of School Council; staff & students

Commitment prayer: Deliverance Ministry Team

Leader: Come Holy Spirit and make the hearts of your servants, Reverend Claye and the deliverance ministry team, your dwelling place and home. May darkness be dispelled by your light, and troubles calmed by your peace.

Lord Jesus, we ask that you protect, guide and strengthen them, and all whom they encounter. Give them courage, ability, wisdom and discernment. Surround them with sound advice and support, that they may have insight and discretion. Drawing on the Holy Spirit may they be strong in vocation and trust in you.

We pray for those in need of healing and their ongoing relationship with you, as they journey towards the fullness and freedom of eternal life. May all evil and pain be transformed through the suffering of Christ and all dying glorified by your risen life.

Amen.

Leader: Let us join together in the prayer which Jesus gave us saying:

All: Our Mother 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.



Devotions



Hermit Sayings

Leader: A prayer inspired by Paul the first hermit

Lord Jesus, living in the desert was not St. Paul's dream existence. And yet this curve in the road made him phenomenally content and happy. Through this intercession, help us accept life's twists and turns. Then let us use them to glorify you. **Amen.**



Leader:

As we enter a few minutes of silence together, you are invited to pray this prayer of adoration and/or spend this time in contemplation. The Spiritual communion prayer will appear on screen for us to silently pray in a few moments too. Let us be still.

Leader and Cantor Mute.

*Faithful God, as we prepare to leave this place,
help us to trust your promises,
(place hands over heart)
even when it's hard.*

*Loving God, as we go out into the world,
(move arms around in a big circle)
help us to keep our promises to others
(extend arms out towards those either side)
and bless all that we do.*

Amen.



Image credit: Team on Padlet

Oh, my Lord Jesus I turn to you present at the Altar and in the Tabernacle. I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of your most Sacred Body and Blood. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my Soul. I cannot at this moment receive you Sacramentally in Holy Communion. Come spiritually into my heart. Purify it, Sanctify it. Render my heart like your own heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly with you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed. Amen

Making a Spiritual Communion (Prayed in silence)



Leader unmutes

Our final song is
Be not afraid

https://youtu.be/IJ0jOjqISPU?si=Dv7zf_12j1at5Idp

We will stay on mute to sing together
or allow the music to nourish us.

Leader mutes

Leader and cantor unmute

Sending Prayer

Leader: We pray our sending prayer together,

All: Lord, you have kept your promises to your people throughout the ages.

Send us out with renewed confidence that you are faithful to your Word.

Help us to see signs that you are at work in our lives and the wider world this week.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

The Priest offers the Blessing

Grant, merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace,
that they may be cleansed from all their sins
and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Notices

- Today: Contemplative services team meeting @ 2pm - all welcome!
- Wednesday: Lent Study continues @ 6pm.
- Thursday: Prayer and Praise with our animal friends @ 6pm.
- Next week: Contemplative service @ 6pm Wilderness Prayers with St Paul the first Hermit
- We give thanks for Rev'd Lauren's commissioning today and ask God's blessings on her.

Offerings

Offerings are most welcome at <https://holyhermits.com.au/give>



or via the HHO App

International Direct Debit
also available

Scan to download
the app



Thank you for your regular gifts to this ministry

Serving next week: March 23 9:00 am

Service prep: Kristine

Music: Wiggles

Proofreader: Viki

Preacher: Jamee

Priest: Jamee

Deacon: Jamee

Broadcaster: Jamee

Backup broadcaster: Kristine

Zoom buttons: Paul

Chat leader: KA

Welcomer: Julie

Leader: Jeremy

Cantor: **Volunteer needed!**

Reader 1: Viki

Reader 2: Vanessa

Fellowship: Jamee

New Servers always welcome!
Email Rev'd Jamee or KA to get involved

Leader: I invite everyone to unmute for the Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All: In the name of Christ,
Amen.**

Fellowship time

Thanks for Leading
Fellowship Jamee!

Please feel welcome to
linger or pop a message
in the chat and head off
when you are ready.



Background image: Into Lent
by the AI workshop group

Extra resources developed
by Roots on the Web