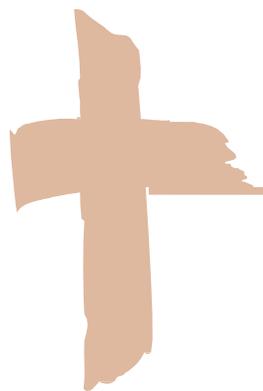


# A Service of Lament and Repentance

11th February 2018 at 3pm



**Welcome: Bishop Stuart Robinson**

## **Acknowledgement of Country**

We acknowledge those on whose sacred space we meet.  
Before our shoeprints trod, their footsteps were.  
Before our buildings rose, their handprints were.  
Before our violence and sorrows,  
their hearts loved and broke in this place.

## **OPENING PRAYER:**

Why, O God, why?  
we cannot understand why people suffer.  
We do not believe that they deserve it  
and we ask ourselves, like Job,  
why is this happening?  
We shout our own pain to the heavens,  
where we know it is joined  
with countless people down the ages.  
Hear us, O God.  
Even if you don't give us satisfying answers,  
please hear us, we pray.

**Amen.**

## OPENING SONG

Beauty for brokenness

Hope for despair

Lord, in the suffering

This is our prayer

Bread for the children

Justice, joy, peace

Sunrise to sunset

Your kingdom increase!

*God of the poor*

*Friend of the weak*

*Give us compassion we pray*

*Melt our cold hearts*

*Let tears fall like rain*

*Come, change our love*

*From a spark to a flame*

Shelter for fragile lives

Cures for their ills

Work for the craftsman

Trade for their skills

Land for the dispossessed

Rights for the weak

Voices to plead the cause

Of those who can't speak

*God of the poor*

*Friend of the weak*

*Give us compassion we pray*

*Melt our cold hearts*

*Let tears fall like rain*

*Come, change our love*

*From a spark to a flame*

Lighten our darkness

Breathe on this flame

Until your justice

Burns brightly again

Until the nations  
Learn of your ways  
Seek your salvation  
And bring you their praise  
*God of the poor*  
*Friend of the weak*  
*Give us compassion we pray*  
*Melt our cold hearts*  
*Let tears fall like rain*  
*Come, change our love*  
*From a spark to a flame*

Graham Kendrick

**THEME Reading:** The Light of Christ

I am the light of the world, the light that shines through the cosmos; if you walk with Me, you will thrive in the *nourishing* light that gives life and you will not know darkness. (John 8:12)

**We Grieve**

*Read by candle holders who extinguish their candle after reading their statement of grieving and place extinguished candles on table or altar*

*First Reader:*

When people choose violence,  
and violate each other,  
diminishing the dream  
for the community of human life,  
the light of God is hidden.

*The first candle is extinguished*

*Second Reader:*

We grieve all violence, O God,  
the violence in which we participate  
between the powerful and the defenceless,  
the rich and the poor,  
between men and women,  
adults and children.

*The second candle is extinguished*

*Third Reader:*

We grieve the violence of religious hate,  
in parts of all religions and any religions  
and between people who hate others  
simply because they are different.

*The third candle is extinguished*

*Fourth Reader:*

We grieve the violence  
between people of political difference  
and those whose only interest is their own power.

*The fourth candle is extinguished*

*Fifth Reader:*

We grieve the violence in humankind  
which produces terrible weapons of destruction.

*The fifth candle is extinguished*

*Sixth Reader:*

We ask forgiveness for the physical, emotional, psychological and  
spiritual violence inflicted upon God's children by what we have done  
and in what we have failed to do.

*The sixth candle is extinguished*

*Seventh Reader:*

As we come before you, we are aware  
that we too participate in violence.  
When we have remained silent in the face of abuse and oppression  
directed at someone else  
and left in despair those who suffer devastation,  
and when we have turned our eyes away  
from violence close at hand.

*The seventh candle is extinguished*

*Eighth Reader:*

Forgive us, O God,  
for we long to love our neighbours as ourselves  
and build communities of kindness and trust.

## LITANY OF LAMENT AND REPENTANCE

*The Bishop:* We turn to God in sorrow and humility, confessing our sins against God and God's children, asking for mercy and forgiveness.

For the crimes and sins of sexual and physical abuse perpetrated by clergy and servants of the Church against children and young people; for the failure to love, respect, nurture and cherish young people – especially the most vulnerable. We ask your forgiveness.

***All pray: Lord have mercy***

For the immense psychological harm and lasting spiritual devastation caused to survivors abused by Church representatives. We pray for the healing and peace of those whose suffering continues at home and abroad.

***All pray: Lord have mercy***

For the sins of bishops and other religious leaders, when they failed to respond as good shepherds to survivors of abuse by clergy and church workers. For indifference in the face of human suffering, for putting the institutional Church before the safety of children, for covering up crimes of abuse, and by so doing actually causing the sexual abuse of more children. For their lack of compassion and pastoral love, for the scandal given to God's people by their negligence and for the harm caused to the Church's mission by those in authority and responsibility. We ask God's forgiveness for the deaf ear, the blind eye and the hard heart.

***All pray: Lord have mercy***

For any indifference and lack of compassion experienced by survivors of abuse by their fellow Church members, who could have supported them. For any hostility towards them, refusal to believe them, lack of care and acceptance towards our brothers and sisters who were unjustly subjected to such pain.

***All pray: Lord have mercy***

For the anguish and distress caused to the families and friends of those abused by clergy and church workers. We lament the burdens of sorrow they carry on account of the injuries inflicted on their loved ones.

***All pray: Lord have mercy***

For those who died prematurely as a result of the spiritual, psychological, and emotional damage they suffered through abuse. We grieve for the wounds that did not heal in this world. We remember those who died as a result of suicide. May God be close to those who mourn their loss. We remember them now, in a moment of silence ...

### **ABSOLUTION**

God, you have searched us out and known us,  
and all that we are is open to you.

We confess that we have sinned:

we have used our power to dominate

and our weakness to manipulate;

we have evaded responsibility

and failed to confront evil;

we have denied dignity

to ourselves and to each other,

and fallen into despair.

We turn to you, O God;

we renounce evil;

we claim your love;

we choose to be made whole. **Amen.**

**APOLOGY AND HOMILY:** The Bishop.

### **PRAYERS**

God, our redeemer and sustainer,

we pray for survivors of violence, abuse and neglect.

Give your power to the powerless,

your fullness to the empty of spirit.

Heal their wounds, free them from fear,

and restore them to true health.

Grant this through Jesus Christ,

the crucified and risen Saviour

who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Most gracious Father,  
we pray for your holy catholic Church:  
fill it with all truth  
and in all truth with all peace;  
where it is corrupt, purge it;  
where it is in error, direct it;  
where anything is amiss, reform it;  
where it is right, strengthen and confirm it;  
where it is in want, furnish it;  
where it is divided, heal it  
and unite it in your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **A COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING**

*Seven candle holders come forward and hold their candles ready to process out during final hymn.*

*The Bishop:* Let us carry the light of Christ into the world,  
let us rebuild love and justice in the creative power of God.  
May today be embraced with gifts from God, the One who  
celebrates all creation and gathers all people together in love.  
May our Lord Jesus walk beside you  
adding to your lives the courage to believe  
that you are called to be the beloved people of God,  
facing each day with hope and grace.  
And may the Holy Spirit,  
the source of wisdom amid the flames of true life  
lift your hearts with joy  
and the wonder of Divine inspiration for your future.  
God go with you in all that is gentle,  
Christ go with you in all that is brave  
and the Spirit go with you in all that is free and true. **Amen.**

## FINAL SONG

I, the Lord of sea and sky  
I have heard my people cry  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
My hand will save

### *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, who made the stars of night  
I will make their darkness bright  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

### *Refrain*

I, the Lord of snow and rain  
I have borne my people's pain  
I have wept for love of them  
They turn away

### *Refrain*

I, the Lord of wind and flame  
I will send the poor and lame  
I will set a feast for them  
My hand will save

### *Refrain*

