

False Bay Diocese

EVENING PRAYER

For

Essential workers

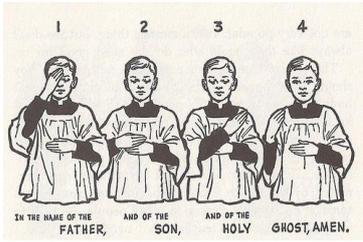


1. GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME (stand)

Opening Hymn: Make me a channel of your Peace

2. WELCOME

LEADER: In the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



RESPONSE: Amen

Friends in Christ, we come together to meet with God, and take our part in building up of his church. We lift up our hearts in thanks and praise, hear from God's holy word, and pray for our world and ourselves during this time of the coronavirus pandemic.

LEADER: Lord open our lips

RESPONSE: That we may glorify and praise your Name

3. THE CONFESSION

LEADER: Let us call to mind our sins

RESPONSE: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, In penitence we confess that we have sinned against you through our own fault in thought, word and deed and in what we have left undone for the sake of Your Son, Christ our Lord forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the Glory of Your Name.

LEADER: Almighty God have mercy on us; pardon our sins and set us free from them: confirm and strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

RESPONSE: Amen.

4. THE MINISTRY OF GOD'S WORD

WORD OF GOD — Galatians 6:9-10

APPOINTED PSALM: Ps 91

Homily – Theme: Doing Good, Slowing Down, and Finding Blessings

5. THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Let us pray

Prayer: Our Father – in a language of your choice

Dear Heavenly Father,

We come to you today asking your protection and health for our essential workers. Help us to be more aware of who they are and everything they do.

Now, Oh God, our essential workers are being called on to show up for work even though they could possibly be exposing themselves to the coronavirus. Some may even be risking their lives if they get sick.

We fervently pray your protection over our essential workers. Make their workplaces and working conditions as safe as possible. Provide them with the ways and means to prevent exposure to the coronavirus. Give their co-workers the good sense to stay home if they feel they might be getting sick.

We pray that they will have reasonable work hours and that they won't be overburdened by huge workloads. Grant them the time they need to rest, get a good night's sleep, eat well and relax from stress. We pray that you will boost their immune systems and restore their energy so they might be mentally alert and productive.

We pray your mercy and healing help on any of these dedicated workers who have fallen ill. Comfort them, care for them and restore them to full health.

We pray for the families of our essential workers that you might be with them in their times of worry and stress. Keep their families safe. Provide for all their needs.

Finally, Oh God, help us express our thankfulness to our amazing workers. Thank you for their skills, their courage and their good work. May we always support them and pray for their wellbeing and prosperity. Bless them today and always.

Amen.

6. THE SENDING OUT OF GODS PEOPLE

SHARE THE GRACE

RECESSIONAL HYMN: I the Lord of See and Sky

Sermon

Doing Good, Slowing Down, and Finding Blessings

During this time of COVID 19, we are struggling to terms with the effects it has on us and the community at larger. As an essential service worker, we work in unchartered waters where things change from one minute to another. It is high pace, high stress, unpredictable environment and often chaotic. We go from one emergency to another and do not have time to slow down and take care of ourselves, because we need to care for others.

Recently I attended to an emergency via a public complaint. While there, I became aware of an old man with oxygen tank and pipes attached to him, watching from his front “stoep” the activity outside in the road. As I ventured back to my car to fetch my 2-way radio to call for extra help, he called me. I was pleasantly surprised that the gentleman enquired about the extent of the emergency and the wellbeing of my staff and I.

Over the course of several hours, as I was watching my staff working, we chatted about many things — children, church, the weather, and politics. In all apparent ways, this man and I were very different. He was far older, our skin was not the same colour, and we have chosen different paths in life. But through our interaction, we found the common ground of faith. We talked about our walk with our Heavenly Father.

He explained in detail about his health, and also I was the first person to stop to have a conversation with him for more than a week. He could not remember when last he saw his son or his grandchildren, but was quick to say because of lockdown they need to be careful. Despite his current medical condition, we laughed and joked about his old age. He even made fun of his medical situation.

As I walked away from him for the final time, with tears in my eyes, I thanked the Lord for telling me to stop, take time from my chaotic day, breath and engage with this gentleman. My job was to render a service to the public, but in fact, that day, this gentleman rendered an overwhelmingly service to me.

It is special encounters like this that we are reminded why we choose the career of serving others. This is so much more than a task. It’s remembering to holistically care for people, even at times including their emotional and spiritual needs, and to love them the way Christ loves us. God speaks in various ways — through his word, in quiet moments of prayer and contemplation, and through those we encounter in our everyday lives. But often we allow our hectic schedules to silence God's voice.

Let us take time to slow down, listen and see God in other people we encounter. Watch for God at work. Listen for His instruction. Take time to interact with people. As we bless others with our time and attention, we will, in turn, be blessed. Amen

Hymn 1: Make me a channel of you peace

Make me a channel of Your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me bring Your love;
Where there is injury, Your pardon, Lord,
And where there's doubt, true faith in You.

CHORUS:

**O Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love with all my soul.**

Make me a channel of Your peace;
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
Where there is darkness, only light,
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

(Chorus only after first 2 verses)

Make me a channel of Your peace;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving of ourselves that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Hymn 2 : I, The Lord Of Sea And Sky

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?

**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?

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 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?

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.