



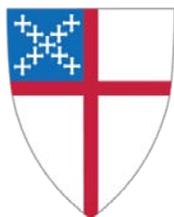
ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH  
BEDFORD, NEW YORK

# Morning Prayer Rite I

for use with St. Matthew's 10:00am live-stream

March 22, 2020  
Fourth Sunday in Lent

The Reverend John A. Zahl, *Rector*  
The Reverend Andrew M. Courtright, *Assistant Minister*  
Rick Tripodi, *Organist*



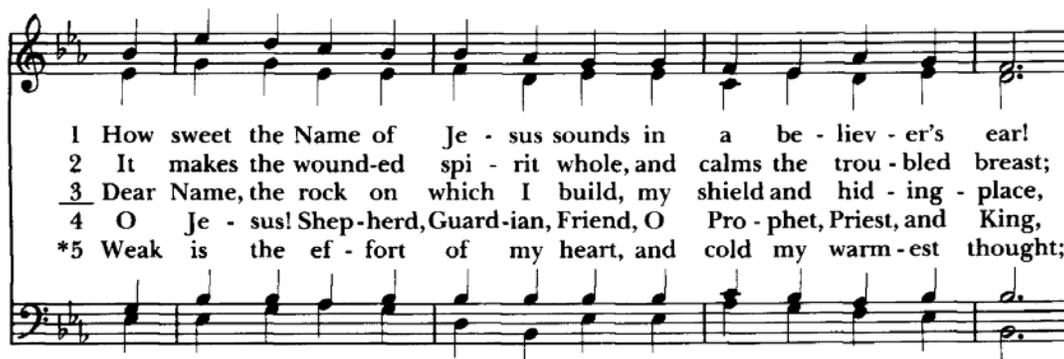
OUR MISSION:  
TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN

Prelude

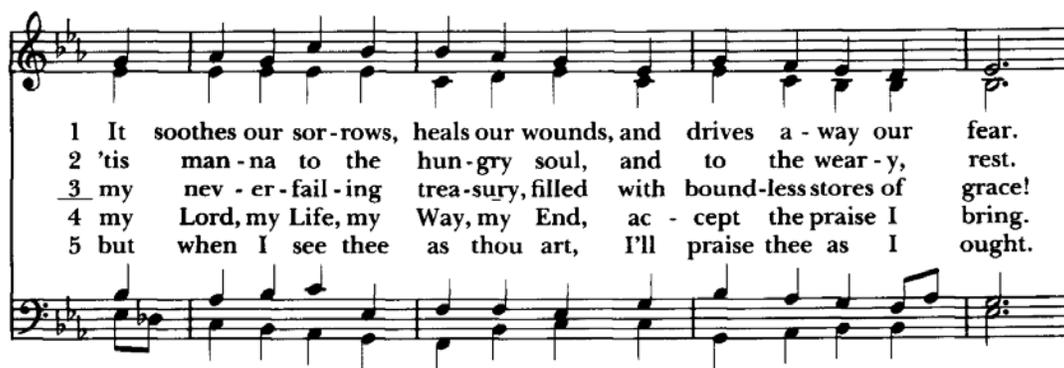
Opening Hymn

**The Christian Life**

644



1 How sweet the Name of Je - sus sounds in a be - liev - er's ear!  
2 It makes the wound-ed spi - rit whole, and calms the trou - bled breast;  
3 Dear Name, the rock on which I build, my shield and hid - ing - place,  
4 O Je - sus! Shep - herd, Guard - ian, Friend, O Pro - phet, Priest, and King,  
\*5 Weak is the ef - fort of my heart, and cold my warm - est thought;



1 It soothes our sor - rows, heals our wounds, and drives a - way our fear.  
2 'tis man - na to the hun - gry soul, and to the wear - y, rest.  
3 my nev - er - fail - ing trea - sury, filled with bound - less stores of grace!  
4 my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End, ac - cept the praise I bring.  
5 but when I see thee as thou art, I'll praise thee as I ought.

Words: John Newton (1725-1807), alt.  
Music: St. Peter, Alexander Robert Reinagle (1799-1877)

CM

The Opening Sentences

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:2*

The hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father seeketh such to worship him. *John 4:23*

## Confession of Sin

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

*Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,  
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our  
own hearts,  
we have offended against thy holy laws,  
we have left undone those things which we ought to  
have done,  
and we have done those things which we ought not to  
have done.*

*But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,  
spare thou those who confess their faults,  
restore thou those who are penitent,  
according to thy promises declared unto mankind  
in Christ Jesus our Lord;  
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,  
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,  
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.*

The Invitatory and Psalter

O Lord, open thou our lips.  
*And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.*

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as  
it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

Venite (said in unison)

*O come, let us sing unto the Lord; \**  
*let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.*  
*Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \**  
*and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.*

*For the Lord is a great God, \**  
*and a great King above all gods.*  
*In his hand are the corners of the earth, \**  
*and the strength of the hills is his also.*  
*The sea is his, and he made it, \**  
*and his hands prepared the dry land.*

*O come, let us worship and fall down, \**  
*and kneel before the Lord our Maker.*  
*For he is the Lord our God, \**  
*and we are the people of his pasture*  
*and the sheep of his hand.*

*O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \**  
*let the whole earth stand in awe of him.*  
*For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth, \**  
*and with righteousness to judge the world*  
*and the peoples with his truth.*

The Psalm: (said in unison)

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

*He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
he leadeth me beside the still waters.*

*He restoreth my soul:  
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no  
evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*

*Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:  
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.* Psalm 23 (KJV)

The First Lesson:

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

*Ephesians 5:8-14*

The Word of the Lord  
*Thanks be to God*

Benedictus es, Domine (said in unison)

*Blessed art thou, O Lord God of our fathers; \*  
praised and exalted above all for ever.  
Blessed art thou for the name of thy Majesty; \*  
praised and exalted above all for ever.  
Blessed art thou in the temple of thy holiness; \*  
praised and exalted above all for ever.  
Blessed art thou that beholdest the depths,  
and dwellest between the Cherubim; \*  
praised and exalted above all for ever.  
Blessed art thou on the glorious throne of thy kingdom; \*  
praised and exalted above all for ever.  
Blessed art thou in the firmament of heaven; \*  
praised and exalted above all for ever.  
Blessed art thou, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; \*  
praised and exalted above all for ever.*

### The Second Lesson

A reading from John's gospel

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from

God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

*John 9:1-41*

The Word of the Lord  
*Thanks be to God*

Jesus Christ our Lord

493

1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my dear Re - deem - er's praise,  
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim  
3 Je - sus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease;  
4 He speaks; and, lis - tening to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive,  
5 Hear him, ye deaf; ye voice - less ones, your loos - ened tongues em - ploy;

1 the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!  
2 and spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy Name.  
3 'tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.  
4 the mourn - ful bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.  
5 ye blind, be - hold, your Sa - vior comes; and leap, ye lame, for joy!

6 Glory to God and praise and love  
be now and ever given  
by saints below and saints above,  
the Church in earth and heayen.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.

Music: Azmon, Carl Gotthilf Gläser (1784-1829); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

CM

The Sermon: The Rev. John A. Zahl

## The Apostles' Creed

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell.*

*The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

## The Prayers of the People

The Lord be with you.

*And with thy spirit.*

Let us pray.

*Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.*

*And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.*

The Suffrages

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;  
*And grant us thy salvation.*  
Endue thy ministers with righteousness;  
*And make thy chosen people joyful.*  
Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
*For only in thee can we live in safety.*  
Lord, keep this nation under thy care;  
*And guide us in the way of justice and truth.*  
Let thy way be known upon earth;  
*Thy saving health among all nations.*  
Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
*Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.*  
Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
*And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.*

The Collect of the Day

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

A Prayer for All Sorts and Conditions of Men

O God, the creator and preserver of all mankind,  
We commend to thy fatherly goodness all those who are in any ways afflicted or distressed in mind, body, or estate; particularly those for whom our prayers are desired: Alex, Amoret, Beatrice, Becky, Daley, Drew L., Eleanor, Elizabeth, Fletcher, Harold, Jack, Jared, Jeff, Julia, Katie, Nicholas, Phineas, Rachel, Renn,

Sandy, Susan, Timothy, Valentina, Walker, Will, William;  
refugees everywhere in the world who seek a home;  
our fellow Christians who are suffering persecution;  
and all those we remember silently or aloud, especially this community and our  
entire world as we respond to the coronavirus pandemic, that we may face the  
days ahead with courage and faith, and care for one another; we pray especially  
medical professionals, those who are sick, and those who have died;  
that it may please thee to comfort and relieve them according to their several  
necessities, giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of  
all their afflictions. And this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. ***Amen.***

#### A Prayer for Those who have Died

Almighty God, we remember this day before thee thy faithful servants departed,  
and we pray that, having opened the gates of larger life,  
thou wilt receive them more and more into thy joyful service.

We remember also those in whose memory the flowers have been given this  
morning: James R. Wardrop and Michael Munro.

With all who have faithfully served thee in the past, may they share in the eternal  
victory of Jesus Christ our Lord who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity  
of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. ***Amen.***

#### A Prayer for Our Blessings

And finally Father, we give thee great thanks for all the blessings of  
this life, especially the birth of Graham Douglas Clarke, grandson of  
Bonnie and Piers Macdonald. Grant these our prayers, O Father, for  
Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. ***Amen.***

#### The Lenten Collect

*Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have  
made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and  
make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily  
lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness,  
may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission  
and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives*

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

The General Thanksgiving

*Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we thine unworthy servants  
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks  
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all men.  
We bless thee for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for thine inestimable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we beseech thee,  
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,  
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;  
and that we show forth thy praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to thy service,  
and by walking before thee  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,  
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.*

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee; and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

## The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*And with thy spirit.*

## Announcements

## Closing Hymn

### Christian Vocation and Pilgrimage

555

1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, the day of march has come;  
2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears;

hence - forth in fields of con - quest thy tents shall be our home:  
and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;  
for glad - ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er thy face ap - pears.

through days of prep - a - ra - tion thy grace has made us strong,  
for not with swords loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir - ring drums,  
Thy cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light:

and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.  
but deeds of love and mer - cy, the heaven - ly king - dom comes.  
the crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!

Words: Ernest Warburton Shurtleff (1862-1917)  
Music: *Lancashire*, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879)

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Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

Postlude



ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH  

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