

ST JAMES PARISH

BRIGHTON

A SERVICE OF LAMENT

FOR HEALING AND

RECONCILIATION

4 DECEMBER 2016

A Hymn of Healing for the Church Lyrics and music: Michael Herry fms

1. Here we stand in silent witness to the church we love and name.
Hearing pleas of children's voices, for our past in sin and shame.
Father we have hurt so deeply; trust betrayed, dark secrets kept.
Now the truth cries out in daylight. Tears of old, now freely wept.
2. Stir in us a deep compassion, firm resolve to heal the past.
Help us understand the darkness, lest again it comes to pass.
Lord, we pray for those so wounded, hear the cry of victims' pain.
Help us seek the path of justice. Help us see the light again.
3. Finding hope in Jesus' promise, 'I am with you. Do not fear.'
Striving on through storm and struggle, knowing still our God is near.
Loving God, your mercy send, and like the fires that rake this land,
May new life in wondrous colour, through the ashes bloom again.
4. Here we stand in silent witness to the church we love and name.
Hearing pleas of children's voices, for our past in sin and shame.
Father we have hurt so deeply; trust betrayed, dark secrets kept.
Now the truth cries out in daylight. Tears of old, now freely wept.

Welcome to Country

I would like to acknowledge the Boon Wurrung People of the Kulin Nation, the Traditional Owners and custodians of this land on which we are gathered and pay my respects to their Elders, both past and present.

Sign of Cross and Greeting

Cel: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

ALL: Amen

Cel: May the God of hope give you the fullness of peace, and may the
Lord of life be with you always

ALL: And with your spirit

Welcome

Opening Prayer

God, you called us with your voice,
and made us with your Word.

We are your Church, a people on the way.

We have a long history, a long past of darkness and of light.

You have brought us together
and called us from our uncertainties
that we may be a new people,
a new beginning of hope and peace.

Place your name in our mouths
and your work in our hands
that we may once more hear your gospel
and follow your Son,

and be your presence of peace and healing in this world,

May all who seek you find comfort
and a home among your people.

We pray this humbly through Christ,
our brother and our Lord,
who lives with you and the spirit for ever and ever.

ALL: Amen

First Reading:**Isaiah 11:1-10**

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobras hole; into the vipers lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious

The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Response Psalm 50

R: O Lord, you are my refuge O God, hear my cry!

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

R.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit. Deliver me, O God of my salvation and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance

R

O Lord, open my lip and my mouth shall declare your praise. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. **R.**

1Peter 2:4-5, 9-10

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals, yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The Word of the Lord.

Homily

Speaker

Lament.

As parish priest of St James, I am conscious of the past and the actions that have brought us here this evening. Although the actions of one, all of us have suffered to varying degrees, none more so than the victims and their families. When St James church was built a foundation stone was laid to commemorate the event. As we begin to rebuild St James I hope this evening's prayer and action will be the foundation stone of a

renewed church. I invite you to stand as we cry out in lament to our God.

To every young man who was abused, sexually or otherwise, I am deeply sorry.

***R: O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer.
When I call answer me.
O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me.***

To the families of those were abused, who suffer the shame of silence: I am deeply sorry. **R:**

To the families of those who have taken their lives because of the abuses they suffered here: I am deeply sorry. **R:**

To those abused who have self-harmed or continue to experience pain and suffering because of the abuse they suffered. I am deeply sorry. **R:**

To the parents, family members and friends of those who were abused here, for not protecting your sons. I am deeply sorry. **R**

For the times we have not listen to the victims and their tale of harm; I am deeply sorry. **R:**

For the times we have not given the victims and their families the surety that we stand with them; I am deeply sorry. **R:**

For the present and former parishioners, families and people who have become disillusioned and ashamed that they were not the safe and nurturing parish we should have been; I am deeply sorry: **R:**

For my own, at times, lack of awareness in fully appreciating the pain, hurt and suffering experienced by the victims; I am deeply sorry. **R:**

Lay Your Hands

Rev. Carey Landry

(Please turn to the person next to you and place your hands on their shoulders and bow your head.)

Refrain:

Lay Your hands gently upon us.
Let their touch render Your peace.
Let them bring Your forgiveness and healing.
Lay Your hands gently, lay Your hands.

1. You were sent to free the broken hearted.
You were sent to give sight to the blind.
You desire to heal all our illnesses.
Lay Your hands gently, lay your hands.

Refrain:

Lay Your hands gently upon us.
Let their touch render Your peace.
Let them bring Your forgiveness and healing.
Lay Your hands gently, lay Your hands.

2. Lord, we come to You through one another.
Lord, we come to You in our need.
Lord, we come to You seeking wholeness.
Lay Your hands gently, lay Your hands.

Final Refrain:

Lay Your hands gently upon us.
Let their touch render Your peace.
Let them bring Your forgiveness and healing.
Lay Your hands gently, lay Your hands.
Lay Your hands gently, lay Your hands.

Prayers of intercession.

Cel: In our uncertainties, our disappointments, our hopes, we know it is our God we can turn to. So let us place the prayers of our hearts before God.

Com: Let us pray for all children.

ALL: Help them grow in grace and wisdom and in the love of your son, Jesus Christ.

Com: Let us pray for all young men and women.

ALL: Give them a full and happy youth, open their hearts that they may experience the joy of your love.

Com: Let us pray for those who have no family or home.

ALL: Show them the gentleness of your presence and the shelter of your love.

Com: Let us pray for ourselves who gather here.

ALL: May the strength of our love show to the world the tenderness of Jesus for all.

Com: Let us pray for those who have died.

ALL: May they find a home of peace and a place at the banquet table of the Lord in eternal life.

Com: Let us pray for those unable to be here, by choice or by the hurt they have suffered

ALL: May they find peace in their hearts, and a fulfilled life.

Cel: We make these prayers and those we hold deep in our hearts with confidence in the love of our God shown in Christ Jesus.

ALL: Amen.

Ashes

Tom Conry

*(You are invited to come forward to take a tile from among the
Ashes and at a later date we will make them into a mosaic within the church)*

1. We rise again from ashes, from the good we've failed to do.
We rise again from ashes, to create ourselves anew.
If all our world is ashes, then must our lives be true,
an offering of ashes, an offering to you.
2. We offer you our failures, we offer you attempts,
the gifts not fully given, the dreams not fully dreamt.
Give our stumblings direction, give our visions wider view,
an offering of ashes, an offering to you.
3. Then rise again from ashes, let healing come to pain,
though spring has turned to winter, and sunshine turned to rain.
The rain we'll use for growing, and create the world anew
from an offering of ashes, an offering to you.

Prayer

Sow freely, Lord God, the seed of your Word.
May it fall in good soil within us,
may it be heard wherever people live.
Make us receptive and open,
let us live in your peace, at home with you
and with each other, all the days of our lives.
Give us the spirit to follow you,
make us merciful to each other
so that the world may know,
that you are nothing but the fullness of love and mercy,
our Father in this world and for the world to come.

ALL: Amen.

Blessing

May the Lord guide your hearts in the way of his love and fill you with the presence of Christ. **ALL: Amen**

May he give us strength to walk in the newness of life to proclaim his love. **ALL: Amen.**

May he come to us in his Son for he has called us to be his people. **ALL: Amen.**

May the blessing of almighty God
The father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
come upon you and remain with you for ever. **ALL: Amen.**

A New Heart for a New World

Trisha Watts/Monica O'Brien

Refrain:

Create a new heart, Holy Lord,
beckon our lives through your word,
open our eyes to your call,
united as one for your world.
Heighten our minds to your thoughts,
heal us of pride and of hurt,
may we go forth in your name
we pray our hearts change.

1. The heart of the cross, lowly and poor, calls us on.
Lord, it is you promising hope, promising truth. **R.**
2. Restless, the hearts who yearn for your peace in this land.

Deepen the dream justice brings life, justice redeems. **R.**

If you need assistance, or wish to report a matter, the following make assist you.

Truth Justice and Healing Council

Web: tjhcouncil.org.au

Ph: 6234 0900 F 6234 0999

Royal Commission

Web: childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au

Ph 1800 099 340

E contact@childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au

CatholicCare.

Ph:9287 5555

www.ccam.org.au

Beyondblue

Web: beyondblue.org.au

Ph: 1300 224 636

Lifeline

Web: lifeline.org.au

Ph: 13 11 14