

THE SERVICE OF THE LORD'S DAY
Sunday 31st March – 4th Sunday in Lent

THEME: Neighbour Day

WELCOME and CALL TO WORSHIP:

HYMN: TIS 152

**Joyful, joyful, we adore you,
God of glory, God of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before you
Opening to the sun above
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive to dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.**

**All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heav'n reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you,
centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
singing bird and flowing fountain
call to praise you joyfully.**

**You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest.
You our Father, Christ our brother,
all are yours who live in love;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to your joy above.**

Henry Van Dyke 1852-1933 alt

PRAYER of adoration and confession:

EARLY WORD: 'The Rock that was NQR'

HYMN: ate 213 *"I go to the rock" (sung twice)*

**I go to the Rock of my salvation.
I go to the Stone that the builders rejected,
I go to the mountains,
and the mountains stand by me –
When all around is sinking sand,
On Christ the solid Rock I stand.
When I need a shelter,
When I need a friend,
I go to the Roc**

(Psalm 62) Dotti Rambo

BIBLE READING: Leviticus 19: 1-18 (O.T. p.108)

¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

² Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. ³ You shall each revere your mother and father, and you shall keep my sabbaths: I am the LORD your God. ⁴ Do not turn to idols or make cast images for yourselves: I am the LORD your God.

⁵ When you offer a sacrifice of well-being to the LORD, offer it in such a way that it is acceptable in your behalf. ⁶ It shall be eaten on the same day you offer it, or on the next day; and anything left over until the third day shall be consumed in fire. ⁷ If it is eaten at all on the third day, it is an abomination; it will not be acceptable. ⁸ All who eat it shall be subject to punishment, because they have profaned what is holy to the LORD; and any such person shall be cut off from the people.

⁹ When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰ You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God.

¹¹ You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. ¹² And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the LORD.

¹³ You shall not defraud your neighbour; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a labourer until morning. ¹⁴ You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

¹⁵ You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbour. ¹⁶ You shall not go around as a slanderer^[a] among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood^[b] of your neighbour: I am the LORD.

¹⁷ You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbour, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the LORD.

MESSAGE: NEIGHBOUR DAY

HYMN: TIS 699 "A New Commandment" (sung twice)

**A new commandment I give unto you
That you love one another as I have loved you,
That you love one another as I have loved you.
By this will others know that you are my disciples
If you have love one for another.
By this will others know that you are my disciples
If you have love one for another.**

*Based on John 13:34,35
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NOTICES:

OFFERING:

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS and OURSELVES:

HYMN: TIS 687 "God gives us a future"

**God gives us a future, daring us to go
into dreams and dangers on a path unknown.
We will face tomorrow in the Spirit's power,
we will let God change us,
for new life starts now.**

**We must leave behind us sins of yesterday,
for God's new beginning is a better way.
Fear and doubt and habit must not hold us back:
God gives hope, and insight
and the strength we lack.**

**Holy Spirit, teach us how to read the signs,
how to meet the challenge of our troubled times.
Love us into action, stir us into prayer,
till we choose God's life,
and find our future there.**

*Words Elizabeth J Smith © 1977
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WORD OF MISSION and BLESSING:

SUNG BENEDICTION:

**TIS 778: Shalom to you now,
 shalom my friends.
 May God's full mercies
 bless you my friends.
 In all your living
 and through your loving;
 Christ be your shalom.
 Christ be your shalom.**

Elise Eslinger Shoemaker 1942–