



21B LENT 3 - ONLINE LITURGY

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Abstract

Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" But the temple he had spoken of was his body.
John 2:19-21

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NEW TESTAMENT

1 Corinthians 1:18–25

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”

²⁰ Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

GOSPEL

John 2:13–22

¹³ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!” ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

¹⁸ The Jews then responded to him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”

¹⁹ Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”

²⁰ They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” ²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.ⁱ

For thousands of years Indigenous people have walked in this land,
 on their own country.
 This land gave the people life and healed them.
 We acknowledge the Wathawurrung people of the Kulin Nation,
 past, present, emerging,
 and their stewardship of this land throughout the ages
 We also acknowledge all who continue to care for this community and it's people.

This is a safe place to worship,
 Regardless of you age, your cultural background, your gender, your ability
 And your sexual orientation.

Let us pray
 Holy God, as we meet together today,
 we ask that you renew our love for you.
 Open our eyes to see fresh things,
 open our ears to hear with more clarity,
 open our minds to recognise new ideas –
 that we may be willing to grow and change
 and to become more like your Son,
 Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

Lenten Candle Liturgy

Introduction:

Today is the third Sunday in the Season of Lent and we continue our journey with Jesus towards the cross and the events of Good Friday.
 As we journey we share comfort, forgiveness and acceptance with one another, we become one together, leaning and depending on each other and we share our concerns with each other and more importantly with God. No matter what our burden on this journey may be, someone will be concerned enough to help us make it through.

Meditation:

Today's Lenten theme is Concern as exemplified in Jesus' words from the cross to his mother Mary. "From the cross he said to his mother 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple 'Here is your mother' and from that moment the disciple took her into his own home."
 (John 19: 25b-27)

We extinguish this candle which reminds us of the concern we have for others in our lives, our church and our society. And that the darkness continues to overcome the light in our world.

(silence)

Let us pray together:

Father of my soul,
 We know your love and concern for each of us is limitless and beyond imagining.
 You care for us as a loving parent. Help us to become less selfish and more aware

	to walk again in the path that is right. Our sins are forgiven Thanks be to God
	Readings New Testament 1 Corinthians 1:18–25 Gospel John 2:13–22 (I have a video for this) <i>respond</i> For the word of the Lord Thanks be to God
	Hymn/song/video TIS 746/P&W 537 The heavens shall declare Bullock TIS 638 - O Christ the healer, we have come TIS 430 - Your words to me are life and health

Response

Getting Your Attention
John 2:12-25

In a confronting scene
 we read that Jesus got quite angry
 about merchants fleecing the poor in the temple courtyard.

It can only happen in America.
Some years ago at a revival meeting
 the preacher questioned the strength of each person's faith.
He had worked himself up to a furious pitch about their shaky loyalty to the Lord.
 At the height of his passion, the preacher reached behind him,
grabbed two snakes and tossed them into the crowd. ⁱⁱ

Of course, that caused a stampede out of the revival tent
 as the preacher thundered triumphantly "You see, your faith is fragile."

Now most of you know I am not against stirring the pot.
 I've been preaching for over 25 years,
 and after 8 years trying, I'm still not officially a lay preacher.
But I can assure each of you that I'm not going to be tossing any snakes.
 But I can imagine the stunt got people's attention.
There are times in our lives when we need someone to get our attention.
 Sometimes we just get stuck in a rut.

Jesus certainly stirred the religious establishment pot of his time.
 He had a mission of going to Jerusalem and the Temple for Passover.
 People from all over the world would be there to worship.
Just being there with other pilgrims was exciting.

When Jesus arrived at the Temple he got upset by what he saw.
 There in the Temple courtyard were people
 buying and selling cattle, sheep and doves for sacrifices.
The merchants thought they were providing a service for those pilgrims from out of town.

Temple employees were providing a service exchanging foreign currency into Temple coinage ”
but what angered Jesus the most
was that they were taking advantage of the people who could least afford it.
Charging one day's wages to exchange coins was outrageously high.
The Temple became wealthy from this questionable practice.

THERE ARE TIMES IN OUR LIVES WHEN IT'S ALL RIGHT TO BE ANGRY.
Sometimes we get the idea that followers of Jesus should never show their anger.

A man wearing a motorcycle helmet and carrying a gun held up a bank.
He selected the easiest seeming mark
who appeared fiftyish, soft, kindly.
He handed her a note demanding money or her life.
The woman reached for the cash drawer.
Then she looked again at the note and her eyes flashed, her lips clenched.
She pulled the entire cash drawer out,
and clobbered the robber over the head with it. And again and again.
The money flew everywhere and the young man turned and ran.
Police caught him in nearby shrubbery.
They asked the woman teller why she became enraged?
She said, "In his note there was a very naughty word." ⁱⁱⁱ

Different people get upset at different things.
today Jesus gets angry.
Sometimes we need to get angry.
We should get angry that so many in our country live below the poverty line.
We should get angry about homelessness and the lack of social housing.
We should get angry about the results of the Aged Care Inquiry.

This month Grace Tame, a sexual Assault survivor was named the 2021 Australian of the year.
Since then, others have come forward with more allegations.
But how many more women and men have not survived.
how many more don't make the news.
And it is not only sexual assault
what about so many children, teenagers, adolescents,
the vulnerable and the aged
are assaulted, bullied, and abused, physically, mentally, systematically and/or professionally.
This has got to stop. We should be angry.

Everyone gets angry from time to time.
Within appropriate limitations,
if our anger moves us to fix something that is wrong, we should be angry,
like Jesus' anger with the moneychangers in the temple.

SOMETIMES ANGER CAN BE CREATIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE.
Some of the most repulsive social ills that have plagued humanity
have been eliminated because somebody got angry.
One person with a cause can make an enormous impact on the world.

In a post office a clerk discovered that there was no recycling program.
No one had ever thought of it.

So she decided she would start one.
In no time at all, 50Kg of paper that would have been thrown into dumpsters
was being recycled each week.
She did not stop there.
She became interested in environmental issues.
She began sharing her concerns with others she worked with
Soon the clerks had set up a public bulletin board in the post office lobby.

One of the clerks began writing a column for the local newspaper about environmental issues.
Gradually the whole community's awareness of environmental issues was increased
because of one clerk's curiosity about the recycling of waste paper. ^{iv}
One person can make a difference, even if they are quiet and unassuming.
Sometimes, however, it takes a person who is angry.
That is the story of how many communities are taking drunk drivers off of their streets.
Somebody got angry.
Being angered by what we see can lead to some creative and constructive solutions.

Jesus got angry.
People had travelled great distances to go to the Temple.
The Temple was one place where people could feel closer to God.
The sanctuary was a holy place.
It was a place to feel God's presence in their lives.
Amidst all the commotion of cattle, sheep, doves and money changers,
people had a hard time praying.
There were too many distractions, too much noise.
Something had to be done.
Jesus, filled with creative anger, made a whip of cords
and drove out the merchants selling animals and overturned the tables
where Temple employees were exchanging coins.
It was a chaotic scene as feathers were flying,
cattle running through the temple courtyard, and coins clattering to the ground.

Jesus shouted, "Take these things out of here!
Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!"
Jesus got their attention.
Sometimes we need to get angry.
Anger can lead to creative and constructive solutions.
But, Jesus' anger is not the focus of this story.

KNOWING THE REST OF THE STORY HELPS US TO SEE JESUS CLEARLY.
All this upset the religious officials.
What right did Jesus have to do what he did?
They wanted to know who Jesus was, was he the awaited Messiah?
Only the Messiah could get away with such carry-on.
They asked Jesus "What sign can you show us for doing this?"

Jesus answered, "Destroy this temple, and in three days, I will raise it up."
As is often the case in John's gospel, Jesus' reply is not understood.
Following Jesus' death and resurrection,
the disciples remembered this incident and Jesus' replies as words of faith.
Jesus was not talking about the physical building " the Temple.

He was speaking of his own death and resurrection.
Bury his body and within three days it will be resurrected.

You cannot keep his body down ”
particularly if you understand his body to be the church.
For Christians this is the Temple ”
not a building made with human hands,
but a communion of kindred hearts.
Wherever people are worshipping Christ and serving him,
there is the temple of the living God.

Jesus wanted to get people's attention.
He did it by a display of anger.
Sometimes, rarely and with restraint
it is ok to get angry.

Anger can lead to creative and constructive solutions.
In Jesus' case, he wanted to make a point ”
that God is not to be found in a building.
God is to be found in the fellowship of Christ's people.

Amen

	<p>Hymn/song TIS 685 The power of your love Bullock TIS 184 – The great love of God TIS 154 - Great is Your Faithfulness</p>
	<p>Offering <i>Psalm 116 says - How shall I repay the Lord for all the good things he has done for me? I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.</i></p> <p>Out of the fullness of your gifts O Lord, we dedicate these offerings now. In dedicating this money to the work of the Christ's church, we dedicate also ourselves, and promise that we will live this week in the service of Christ and his healing work through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.</p>
	Notices
	Prayers for all people
	Lord's Prayer
	<p>Hymn/song TIS 155 How great thou art Boberg/Hine</p>
	We are sent out

	<p>We came together to worship God. We have read God's Word. We have prayed and sung songs. Now we go into God's world: to be God's people wherever we are called to go. Let us go in Christ's name. Amen.</p> <p>May the Lord bless us and keep us May His face shine upon us and be gracious to us May he lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace Amen</p>
	<p>Benediction</p>
	<p>Thank you</p>

ⁱ Revised Common Lectionary. (2009). Bellingham, WA: Faithlife.

ⁱⁱ I REMEMBER. Dan Rather. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1991, p. 43.

ⁱⁱⁱ Paul Harvey, "For What It's Worth," July 18, 1979, p. 73. Contributed by Wayne Rouse.

^{iv} A LIFE THAT BECOMES THE GOSPEL. Thomas R. Hawkins. Nashville: Upper Room Books, 1992, pp. 24-25.