



SUNDAY JOY VIDEO WORSHIP LENT IV March 14, 2021

**Hosted by Episcopalians Together in Oxford
St. Peter's Church & Christ Church Quaker Farms**

INTRODUCTION by Don Peck, Director, producer & camera artist

WELCOME -- The Rev. John Donnelly

PENITENTIAL ORDER—Fr. John

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People **HIS MERCY ENDURES FOR EVER.**

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment **greater than these.**" *Mark 12:29-31*

CONFESSION *Minister and People*

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION—Fr. John

THE COLLECT of the DAY---Rev. Ellen

Celebrant: The Lord be with you **People: AND ALSO WITH YOU**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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.*

**SONG OF PRAISE “What a Beautiful Name” as performed by Katherine Browne,
CCQF Minister of Music, and vocals by Katelyn Wentz**

You were the Word at the beginning One With God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation Now revealed in You our Christ

CHORUS What a beautiful Name it is What a beautiful Name it is The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful Name it is Nothing compares to this What a beautiful Name it is The Name of Jesus

You didn't want heaven without us So Jesus, You brought heaven down
My sin was great, Your love was greater What could separate us now

CHORUS What a wonderful Name it is What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King What a wonderful Name it is
Nothing compares to this What a wonderful Name it is The Name of Jesus
What a wonderful Name it is The Name of Jesus

Death could not hold You, the veil tore before You You silenced the boast, of sin and grave
The heavens are roaring, the praise of Your glory For You are raised to life again
You have no rival, You have no equal Now and forever, Now and forever God you reign
Yours is the Kingdom, Yours is the glory Yours is the Name, above all names

What a powerful Name it is What a powerful Name it is The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a powerful Name it is Nothing can stand against
What a powerful Name it is The Name of Jesus
You have no rival, You have no equal Now and forever, God you reign

Yours is the Kingdom, Yours is the glory Yours is the Name, above all names
What a powerful Name it is What a powerful Name it is The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a powerful Name it is Nothing can stand against
What a powerful Name it is The Name of Jesus
What a powerful Name it is The Name of Jesus What a powerful Name it is The Name of Jesus

THE READING John 3:1-3,15-18

Read by The Rev. Ellen Donnelly

3 ¹⁻² There was a man of the Pharisee sect, Nicodemus, a prominent leader among the Jews. Late one night he secretly visited Jesus and said, “Rabbi, we all know you’re a teacher straight from God. No one could do all the God-pointing, God-revealing acts you do if God weren’t in on it.”

3 Jesus said, “You’re absolutely right. ¹⁵ “No one has ever gone up into the presence of God except the One who came down from that Presence, the Son of Man. In the same way that Moses lifted the serpent in the desert so people could have something to see and then believe, it is necessary for the Son of Man to be lifted up—and everyone who looks up to him, trusting and expectant, will gain a real life, eternal life.

16-18 “This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. THE WORD OF THE LORD. **People: THANKS BE TO GOD**

THE SERMON: The Rev. John Donnelly

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Led by Rev. Ellen*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy ***HEAR OUR PRAYER.***

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy ***HEAR OUR PRAYER.***

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy ***HEAR OUR PRAYER.***

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy ***HEAR OUR PRAYER.***

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy, ***HEAR OUR PRAYER.***

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

THE PEACE *We are going to exchange the Peace now. Some of us are sitting with family members, and others of us are not. For those of us, who are alone, you can exchange the “peace” with Jesus by making the peace sign; the others of you may exchange the peace with one another.*

Rev. Ellen: May the Peace of the Risen Lord be always with you.

PEOPLE: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

THE OFFERING –Fr. John

EVERYBODY: “All good things come from you, O Lord; and from what we have received, we give back to you.”

During this time of self quarantine and no in-person Sunday services, the church is still required to fulfill our financial obligations and pay our bills. Your continued and needed donations are desperately needed and always appreciated. **CCQF friends & parishioners** can send a check to the church at Christ Church Quaker Farms, 470 Quaker Farms Rd., Oxford, CT. 06478 Or, go to our web page, where you will find a green button on the right, so that you can make an online donation at...www.ccqf.org **For those giving to St. Peters**, checks maybe mailed to St. Peter’s Church, 421 Oxford Rd, Oxford, CT 06478

THE LORD’S PRAYER—Fr. John

ANNOUNCEMENTS—Kid Story

CONCLUDING SONG “At the Cross,” as performed by Katherine Browne, CCQF Minister of Music, and vocals by Katelyn Wentz

There's a place where mercy reigns and never dies
 There's a place where streams of grace flow deep and wide
 Where all the love I've ever found Comes like a flood Comes flowing down
 At the cross, at the cross I surrender my life I'm in awe of You I'm in awe of You
 Where Your love ran red And my sin washed white
 I owe all to You I owe all to You Jesus

There's a place where sin and shame are powerless
 Where my heart has peace with God and forgiveness
 Where all the love I've ever found Comes like a flood Comes flowing down
 At the cross, at the cross I surrender my life I'm in awe of You I'm in awe of You
 Where Your love ran red And my sin washed white
 I owe all to You I owe all to You

Here my hope is found Here on holy ground Here I bow down Here I bow down
 Here arms open wide Here You save my life Here I bow down Here I bow
 At the cross, at the cross I surrender my life I'm in awe of You I'm in awe of You
 Where Your love ran red And my sin washed white I owe all to You I owe all to You
 I owe all to You I owe all to You Jesus
 Oh (Savior of the world) (Jesus) Savior of the world Love ran red, Your love ran red (Jesus)

THE BLESSING

DISMISSAL

Rev. Ellen: Let us go forth to share the Love of Christ!!

People: THANKS BE TO GOD.

KID STORY 3.14.21

Ask students, What are the differences between a newborn baby and someone your age?

It's easy to see the differences between newborn babies and those who are older. But there are other things you can't tell about people only by looking at them.

When you look at someone, how can you tell whether he or she is good or bad? (You can't.)

In the same way, you can't really tell if a person is a Christian by looking at his or her appearance. In the Bible, there was a man named Nicodemus who didn't understand one of Jesus' stories because he was thinking about a person's outside appearance only.

(Read [John 3:1-2](#).)

"Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, 'Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs You are doing if God were not with Him.'"

What does it say Nicodemus was? (A Pharisee.) That means he was a leader for the church and for his country.

When did Nicodemus go see Jesus (At night.) Why did he go see Jesus at night instead of during the day?

He wanted to go at night, when it would be dark out, so that no one would see him talking to Jesus. He wanted it to be secret so that the other Pharisees wouldn't make fun of him for believing in Jesus.

(Read [John 3:3-4](#).)

"Jesus replied, 'Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.'

"How can someone be born when they are old?' Nicodemus asked. 'Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!'"

What did Nicodemus think Jesus meant when he talked about a man being "born again"? (Nicodemus thought Jesus meant somebody's body being born again, like they had to be a little baby again.)(Read [John 3:5-7](#).)

"Jesus answered, 'Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, "You must be born again."

Did Jesus mean that our bodies had to be born again, or was He talking about something else?

Jesus was talking about the inside of a person. Jesus meant that our souls are "born again" when we believe in Jesus. That's because when you believe in Jesus, your life changes. You stop doing bad things and start doing good things. You don't live how you want to live anymore. You live how God wants you to live. It's like you're starting all over in life. You've got a fresh start. It's like you're being born again.

(Read [John 3:8](#).)

"The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

When we believe in Jesus and become Christians, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of us. Can any of you see God or the Holy Spirit? (No.)

Then how do you know He's there?

(Give each student a balloon and tell them to blow it up.)

Look in your balloon. Can you see the air in there? (No.)

You can't see the air. The air is clear. You can only see that the balloon got filled up. That's the same way it is with God and the Holy Spirit. We can't see them, but we know they're there because we see what they do. We can see the world God created. And we know the Holy Spirit is living inside us because we can feel Him telling us what the right things to do are.

Closing Prayer: Jesus, we pray that You'll give all of a fresh start. Send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts and help us to become the mature people You want us to be. Amen.