

3. From your Self we take our nature,
 Maker, Parent, Love divine.
 Bound into your life we flourish, leaves
 and branches of the vine.
 Through the Christ we see the pattern,
 life surrendered, life restored;
 echoing through all creation
 sounds the spirit's deep accord.

4. Love releases us for taking
 one more risk than we might dare;
 glory breaks through dark and danger,
 shows the Lord transfigured there.
 God who planted our affections,
 help your gifts to grow more free
 fan in us the fires of loving,
 daring, dancing Trinity.

Words: Jim Cotter

COMMUNION HYMNS:

'Just as I Am' – (368)

'Put Peace into Each Other's Hands' – (559)

POST COMMUNION

Almighty and eternal God,
 you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
 and live and reign in the perfect unity of love:
 hold us firm in this faith,
 that we may know you in all your ways
 and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory,
 who are three Persons yet one God,
 now and for ever.

Amen

FINAL HYMN: 'Forth in the Peace of Christ we Go' – (171)



GATHERING HYMN: 'God with Us'

1. God with us: Creator, Father,
 bringing everything to birth;
 Mother of the whole creation,
 fire of stars and life of earth:
 down the countless years composing,
 from the earth's evolving night,
 love's response to love, and forming
 mind and soul to seek your light.

2. God with us: Redeemer, Brother,
 Friend for ever at our side,
 here, in flesh, you walked among us,
 taking up your cross, you died.
 Crucified, despised, rejected,
 Perfect Love, who shared our shame,
 streaming from the cross,
 your judgement,
 full of mercy, clears our name.

3. God with us: Unwearied Spirit,
 from the birth of time and space,
 surging through unconscious being,
 joyful, Life-Creating Grace:
 through the centuries you find us;
 you, as God, inspire our prayer;
 Life and Power at work within us,
 Love for ever, everywhere!

4. God, Transcendent, far beyond us,
 closest Friend, unailing Guide:
 through the ages, wronged, affronted,
 in your poor, still crucified!
 God with us: convict, forgive us;
 by your holy love destroy
 all that hinders peace and justice:
 fill this aching world with joy!

Words: Alan Gaunt

COLLECT:

Holy God,
 faithful and unchanging:
 enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth,
 and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love,
 that we may truly worship you,
 Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever. **Amen**



FIRST READING

Isaiah 6: 1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:

‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.’

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called,
and the house filled with smoke. And I said: ‘Woe is me! I am lost, for I
am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet
my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!’

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been
taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth
with it and said: ‘Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has
departed and your sin is blotted out.’ Then I heard the voice of the Lord
saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am
I; send me!’

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

SECOND READING

Romans 8: 12-17

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live
according to the flesh— for if you live according to the flesh, you will
die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will
live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For
you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have
received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ it is that
very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of
God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with
Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified
with him.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL HYMN— ‘Lord, Thy Word Abideth’ – (418)

We sing verse 6 after the Gospel Reading

GOSPEL

John 3: 1– 17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He
came to Jesus by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a
teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that

you do apart from the presence of God.’ Jesus answered him, ‘Very
truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born
from above.’ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can anyone be born after
having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s
womb and be born?’ Jesus answered, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can
enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.
What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is
spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, “You must be born from
above.” The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it,
but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is
with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How
can these things be?’ Jesus answered him, ‘Are you a teacher of Israel,
and yet you do not understand these things?’

‘Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we
have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you
about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell
you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except
the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as
Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man
be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that every-
one who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the
world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE GIFTS: ‘God, Whose Power Has Called to Being’

1. God whose power has called to being
All that fills the earth below,
myriad stars beyond our seeing,
tiniest creature that we know.
Earth and air and fire and water
woven in the grand design
witness to the final meaning
of your love for human kind.

2. Human lives are made for sharing;
joined in trust and truth we grow,
speech or silence opening pathways
to the hearts we seek to know.
Welcome Love, by your renewal
worn out ways turn upside down;
weak is strong, success is failure
and the wise becomes the clown.