

Anglican Church of Freiburg

Liturgy for Sunday the 20th of March 2022

Third Sunday of Lent

Safeguarding Sunday

Silent Preparation

Prelude

Spirit of the living God

SOF 510

<https://youtu.be/2DtJgaGRav4>

Introductory Words

Look

Look down the road of the future,
See how it twists and turns,
It is so uneven; like a buoyant sea,
Children float but the hurt of silence pulls them down,
They all have something to say but the storm of life
drowns them out.

We need to STOP!

We need to listen!

Calm the sea, silence the thunder,
So that the once silent voice we could barely hear now
is heard, as clear as a summer's sky.

We can't let the storm brew once more,
For to stifle this sound is to stifle a generation of bloom-
ing flowers, shining stars, the people of tomorrow,
And right now, we the people of today must listen.

Poppy, Age 13.

NSPCC Young People's Board for Change

Opening Hymn

Come as you are

ACF 19

<https://youtu.be/18LYf7jcJ8Q>

Praise and Thanks

Thank you , Lord God,

For the vision of your world as your love would have it:

A world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor;

A world where the riches of creation are shared, and everyone can enjoy them;

A world where different races and cultures live in harmony and mutual respect;

A world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.

Even as we thank and praise you O Lord

Give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

(Archbishop Oscar Romero)

Penitence

God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Psalm 46.1

We come into God's presence aware of past failures and seeking his forgiveness. We pray for all who have been abused and for the healing of minds and memories. In the silence we bring before God our community in penitence and faith.

After a period of recollection, the following petitions may be offered by the minister or others:

Lord God, our maker and our redeemer, hear us as we
cry out to you in our need and anguish:
Lord, forgive us
and heal us.

We have not loved you with all our heart, or our
neighbours as ourselves.
Lord, forgive us
and heal us.

For sins of negligence and ignorance:
Lord, forgive us
and heal us.

For feeble faith and judgemental attitudes:
Lord, forgive us
and heal us.

For self-deceit and colluding with falsehood:
Lord, forgive us
and heal us.

For complacency and lack of vigilance:
Lord, forgive us
and heal us.

For the times when people have been abused:
Lord, forgive us
and heal us.

Bind up the wounds of those who have been hurt, and
in your mercy make us whole.
Lord, forgive us
and heal us.

The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Song

God Forgave My Sins in Jesus' Name

SOF 129

<https://youtu.be/BS1ndKgU36I>

Safeguarding Officer Introduces the Theme

- Safeguarding is about protecting the most vulnerable.
- The vulnerable are those not able to protect themselves from violence, abuse, neglect, or exploitation.
- It may be due to age (young or old), physical or mental abilities, emotional distress, or some other cause.
- In fact, it could be any of us at some point, depending on our life circumstances.
- CofE has 6 priorities:
 - Promoting a safer environment and culture
 - Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the Church
 - Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
 - Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons
 - Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons

- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.
- The church has not always dealt well with abuse in the past. In Freiburg, what we can do is to acknowledge the past and make commitments about how we will act in the future.
- In practical terms, in Freiburg we will:
 - Vet, train, and support those likely to come into contact with vulnerable groups in an official capacity.
 - Provide a means of reporting, via email, the website, and in person (safeguarding@anglican-church-freiburg.de)
 - Respond appropriately to allegations. That might mean:
 - Alerting authorities
 - Providing someone with extra support or advice about their actions
 - Changing how we do things
 - Keep in contact with the Diocesan safeguarding team: they have lots of experience and can advise on actions.
- Let's work together. Safeguarding is about making sure everyone feels comfortable: 'let the little children come to me'. Model the approach of God: 'let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.' Heb 4:16 [not sure about this verse - it isn't grace and mercy that victims need, it's support and love!].

Prayer of rededication

Eternal light, shine into our hearts, eternal goodness, deliver us from evil, eternal power, be our support, eternal wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance,

eternal pity, have mercy upon us; that with all our heart and mind and soul and strength we may seek your face and be brought by your infinite mercy to your holy presence, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Instrumental Rendering from Children

Collect

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Canticle/Psalm

Psalm 63

Refrain: My soul is athirst for God, even for the living God.

- 1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; ♦
my soul is athirst for you.
- 2 My flesh also faints for you, ♦
as in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.
- 3 So would I gaze upon you in your holy place, ♦
that I might behold your power and your glory.
- 4 Your loving-kindness is better than life itself ♦
and so my lips shall praise you.
- 5 I will bless you as long as I live ♦
and lift up my hands in your name.

6 My soul shall be satisfied, as with marrow and
fatness, ♦
and my mouth shall praise you with joyful lips,
7 When I remember you upon my bed ♦
and meditate on you in the watches of the night.
8 For you have been my helper ♦
and under the shadow of your wings will I rejoice.
9 My soul clings to you; ♦
your right hand shall hold me fast. ...

Refrain: My soul is athirst for God, even for the living
God.

To you we come, radiant Lord,
the goal of all our desiring,
beyond all earthly beauty;
gentle protector, strong deliverer,
in the night you are our confidence;
from first light be our joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Reading

The reading is taken from Isaiah 55:1-9

Let us prepare ourselves for the word of God
Our hearts and our minds are open

Come, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not
bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on
them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn Hope for the Children in Our Midst

Hope for the children in our midst,
Facing a world that is conflict torn.
All that they ask is time to grow,
And live the years for which they're born.

*Hope for the children everywhere,
We'll build with them a world of peace.*

Rumours of war sound everywhere,
Wondering if there is chance for peace.
Yet for all children that we love,
We will not yield till hate shall cease.

*Hope for the children everywhere,
We'll build with them a world of peace.*

Peace is the goal of all we do.
Love leads to justice on this earth,
Let justice flow like waters clear,
So we may see the world's rebirth.

*Hope for the children everywhere,
We'll build with them a world of peace.*

Hope for the children yet to be.
Pray they may find years free from war.
Let us make ploughshares of all swords,
Harvesting life healed evermore.

*Hope for the children everywhere,
We'll build with them a world of peace.*

©Words: Douglas Clark; Melody – from Taiwan

The Gospel

The reading is taken from Luke 13:1-9

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Luke

Glory to you, O Lord

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

Intercessions

Sharing of Peace

God is love

And those who live in love live in God

And God lives in them.

We meet in the name of Christ and share his peace.

(The Symbol of the Seed continues to be used during Lent)

Frieden, Frieden hinterlasse ich euch

<https://youtu.be/hgBX4K9MJOU>

Prayers for Safeguarding

Loving God, we lay before you the challenges that confront us at home, at work, in our communities and churches.

May your Son, the Good Shepherd, guide and shape the life of your Church that all may find a welcome, secure in your presence.

Jesus, Lord of the Church,

in your mercy, hear us.

Renew your Church in the love of truth and in passion for justice.

Take from us all hypocrisy and deceit, and teach us to serve with humility and honesty those whose lives are broken.

Jesus, Lord of the Church,

in your mercy, hear us.

Help us to cherish children and all in our community who are vulnerable, to protect them, and keep them safe.

May this place rejoice to be a place where your love is celebrated with integrity.

Jesus, Lord of the Church,

in your mercy, hear us.

Bring into your healing presence all who have been damaged and diminished by abuse, or whose lives continue to be overshadowed by guilt or fear, May sorrows be shared and memories be healed. Jesus, Lord of the Church,
in your mercy, hear us.

May those who have been damaged by abuse not simply survive, but flourish. May young and old discover your life-giving love, and delight in your gift of life, so that fun, laughter and joy overflow to your glory. Jesus, Lord of the Church,
in your mercy, hear us.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Safeguarding Pledge

We pledge to:

1. Speak up

The silence around issues of abuse can be deafening, often leaving those that have been abused to be the sole voices speaking out. We will use our voice and our influence to publicly and privately speak up about the injustice of abuse and the need for change.

2. Put survivors first

Too often we see cases where victims and survivors have not been believed, have been silenced or have been further abused by the response they have received. We will listen to victims and survivors and ensure we put their needs at the heart of any response.

3. Conceal nothing

When abuse is discovered it is important that it is fully brought into the light so that justice can be served and those that have been affected can receive the help they need. We will not cover-up or collude but be open,

transparent, and truly repentant about what has happened.

4. Take responsibility

Rather than apportion blame or point the finger at others, we must acknowledge that abuse happens in any culture that allows or creates the circumstances for it to occur. We will take responsibility for the ways we have personally and corporately failed and will take the necessary steps to shoulder that responsibility and the reparations that must come as a result.

5. Make change happen

Apologies and learning lessons are important steps in the process of responding to abuse, but too often that is where we stop. We will not just take responsibility, and learn lessons, but will make active, tangible, timely steps towards change and encourage others to do the same.

6. Hold each other accountable

It's important to acknowledge that issues of abuse are not confined to one particular denomination or tradition, but are issues experienced across all expressions of the Church. We will commit to holding ourselves mutually accountable by accepting the challenge of others about our own practice and challenging poor practice wherever we see it.

The Lord's Prayer

In the language of our hearts,
let us pray as our Saviour taught us...

Closing Hymn

Guide me O thou great Jehovah
SOF 148

<https://youtu.be/Ofp6rdAgRrY>

Benediction

May the Almighty help us commit to share
responsibility for creating an environment that is safe
for all

May the Loving One help us to respect the boundaries
that are in place to protect others

May the Spirit Divine help us to support those who
have been hurt or abused

May the Triune God help us commit to maintaining an
open culture where people are encouraged to share
concerns thus making our spaces safe spaces for all

Announcements

Blessing

An Iona blessing

May God, who is present in sunrise and nightfall,
and in the crossing of the sea,
guide your feet as you go.

May God, who is with you when you sit and when you
stand,
encompass you with love and lead you by the hand.

May God, who knows your path and the places where
you rest,
be with you in your waiting be your good news for shar-
ing,
and lead you in the way that is everlasting.

The Lord be with you

And Also with You

Let Us Depart in Peace

In the Name of Christ

Postlude

(This liturgy is based on the Church of England resources on Safeguarding)

This week at the ACF...

Mon
8 pm

Council Meeting

for ACF council members

Tue
8 pm

Women's Prayer Group

on zoom (get in touch for the zoom link)

Wed
6 pm

Prayers for Peace

30 min Vigil by the Diocese in Europe

Wed
9 pm

Compline

on zoom

Visit anglican-church-freiburg.de/worship
for more information & the zoom link

This week at the ACF...

Thu
8 pm

Lent Group

on zoom

LIVE LENT Embracing JUSTICE

Sun
11:30 am

Communion Service

led by Rev'd Vinod Victor
in person & on zoom

Visit anglican-church-freiburg.de/worship
for more information & the zoom link

Ukraine



- > **Donate Goods**
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All information at
anglican-church-freiburg.de/ukraine

As we leave...



Giving to the ACF donation basket at the back

Explore giving options at anglican-church-freiburg.de/donate
Thank you!

Please leave the building swiftly! Thank you.

Stay in Touch...

**All ACF updates every Wednesday
in your email inbox!**

anglican-church-freiburg.de/contact

Send a message
to join the ACF mailing list

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Download service sheets,
homilies & notices (or pick
up print-out from pulpit)