

## **Anglican Church of Freiburg**

The First Sunday of Lent

March 6, 2022

World Day of Prayer Service

(People are given a pack of seeds/seed as they come in)

### **Silent Preparation**

#### **Prelude**

Prayer for light (words/ music: Solveyg Fischer)

Blue darkness all around me  
Oh Lord, where shall I go?  
Out of despair I call Thee,  
Let Thy kindness flow.  
Let Thy light bright shine,  
Show me Thy way.  
For ever I'll be Thine,  
For ever to Thee I'll pray.

Thy path for me is winding,  
It leads through valleys green,  
Crosses stormy rivers,  
Thy path is badly seen.  
Thou gavest me Thy light,  
Thy path I'll never fail.  
For ever be my guide,  
For ever with You I'll sail.

The booming waves are roaring,  
Whirling me around.  
Thy hand the sea is calming,  
Takes me to safe ground.  
In Thy peace I'm resting,  
Nestling to Thy love.  
This song of praise I'm singing,  
Attending to Thee above.

## **Opening Words**

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, God said, "Let there be light!"

*(A candle is lit as we say together –)*

**All: God, our Mother and our Father, we light a candle of hope to celebrate with all your people as we watch and wait for your plans and promises to be fulfilled.**

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

**All: God of hope, in our busyness may we find space to see you at work in our lives and our world. May we be people who radiate your hope as we worship in celebration today. Amen.**

*Opening Hymn*

## **Longing for light**

<https://youtu.be/kt3Qc04ulOM>

**Reader 1:** The prophet Jeremiah lived some 600 years before the birth of Christ, at a time of great political crisis. The southern kingdom of Judah had been invaded by the Babylonians and many of its people taken from Jerusalem into exile. The people had lost the land they believed God had given them and they longed to return, but the future looked bleak. Our chosen passage is part of a letter from Jeremiah, setting out God's plan for the exiles: they are to stay where they are and make new lives for themselves in this foreign land. This becomes more relevant at the new context of exodus that we witness around us amidst the pain and suffering.

## **BIBLE READING – Jeremiah 29: 1 - 14**

**Reader 2:** "These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets,

and all the people Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. This was after King Jeconiah, and the queen mother, the court officials, the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the artisans, and the smiths had departed from Jerusalem.” (*Jeremiah 29:1-2*)

**Reader 1:** “Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, that they may have sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I have not sent them, says the Lord.” (*Jeremiah 29:4-9*)

**Reader 2:** “For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon’s seventy years are completed will I visit you and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.” (*Jeremiah 29:10-14*)

**All: God, our Mother and our Father, we light a candle of hope to celebrate with all your people as we watch and wait for your plans and promises to be fulfilled.**

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

God of the past, the present and the future,

we thank you that you love us faithfully and uniquely. You loved us before we knew anything about you: you care for us in every moment of our lives;

you know our deepest thoughts, our highest hopes and our greatest fears; you know the best and the worst in us, and still you love us.

Thank you that you never let us go.

Thank you for the plans and promises you have made for us, which give us hope for today and tomorrow.

God of our past, our present and our future, receive our thanks and praise,

which we offer in Jesus' name.

**All: Amen.**

**Give thanks** SoF 124

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qq1tHT8NvIs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qq1tHT8NvIs)

## PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

(It is important to observe a meaningful silence)

God told the people of Judah to care for the people and the place where they had been exiled. Often, we fall short of caring for God's world and God's people. So let us bring those times to God and ask God's forgiveness.

**Merciful God, we come to you in confession.**

We are aware that much of the suffering our sisters and brothers across the world face is a result of our colonial past and aggressive present. We acknowledge this and are sorry that, we have often put ourselves first, at the expense of others.

*Silence*

Gracious God, forgive us

**All: God, in your mercy, forgive us**

We think of your beautiful world and how we have taken it for granted and squandered its resources.

*Silence*

Generous God, forgive us

**All: God, in your mercy, forgive us**

*Silence*

Our fellow sisters and brothers cry out to you; we have failed to love them well. We have not loved our neighbours as you have taught us. Sometimes we have not even loved ourselves.

*Silence*

Compassionate God, forgive us

**All: God, in your mercy, forgive us**

*Silence*

Jesus, thank you that through your sacrifice we are forgiven. Holy Spirit, transform our hearts and minds, so that we may live and love as Jesus showed us.

**All: Amen**

### ***Sharing of Peace***

Song for sharing the peace – **Peace be with you** ACF

104

<https://youtu.be/s-j-EXvZzG8>

### **VOICES OF WOMEN**

**Leader 1:** The people of Jeremiah's time found themselves in a place where they did not want to be: away from their homeland and excluded from their culture, worship and homes.

There are many people who have settled around us after having fled their homeland and culture. In the land of prosperity there are those who are poor. And in the midst of crowded cities many are lonely. How can we tell all their stories? We cannot. But we can hear voices telling us to listen to what it means to feel excluded

The war has created further fleeing, migrations and new refugee context

Let us listen to the voices

**1:** Living in poverty, regularly missing a meal so that their children might not go hungry.

**2:** Living in fear because the partner abuses, physically, emotionally, and sexually.

**3:** Living in loneliness and isolation because of age, disability, ethnic origin or sexuality.

## REFLECTION

As we reflect upon God's promise to the people of Judah, at each pause, feel free to write or draw your thoughts – or simply think silently.

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

As you came in you were given a packet of seeds (or a seed)

A seed is full of potential and hope. Hold your seed(s) and ponder.

What might God be saying to you?

What hope does God have for you and your future?

*Pause to think and write down or draw your thoughts.*

We pray for what is in our hearts...

What stops you from hearing God's call?

*Pause*

We pray that we might hear God's voice...

*Silence*

Seeds need the right conditions to grow. Where do seeds of hope need planting in your life?

*Pause*

Where do seeds of hope need planting in your community?

*Pause*

Where do seeds of hope need planting in your country?

*Pause*

How can these seeds of hope be nourished in your life; in your community; in your country?

*Pause*

We pray for these places and situations –

May the seeds of hope for our lives, our community, our country, become words and actions of loving kindness.

May God our Mother and our Father nurture in us the courage, imagination and passion for justice we need as we work together for the personal and social transformation for which we long. Amen

*Silence*

Take these seeds and plant them as a reminder of God's constant love and your hopes.

**All: God, our Mother and our Father, we light a candle of hope and participate with all your people in responsive prayerful action to bring to life the plans and promises you have for us.**

**Homily**

**Intercessions**

For all those who have fallen victim to hatred and inhumanity, for those loved ones who are left behind to mourn, for the souls of those whose hearts are cold,  
**Lord, hear our prayer!**

For the children who are being born into this world of conflict and violence, for women and mothers who suffer needlessly,  
**Lord, hear our prayer!**

For all those who have been forced into unemployment, who long to return to work, for all those who struggle to support their families,  
**Lord, hear our prayer!**

For the soldiers who are misguided in thinking that their bullets will bring about peace, for those who feel called to conscientiously object to military orders,  
**Lord, hear our prayer!**

For the children who cry in their beds at night and wonder "what have I done?" For the mothers and fathers who must try to explain the unexplainable,  
**Lord, hear our prayer!**

For all the children who have died before their time, for the soldiers who allow their uniform to strip them of their humanity, for the healers who are denied the opportunity to use their gifts,

**Lord, hear our prayer!**

For the redemption of souls of both victim and perpetrator, for those who commit themselves to the forgiveness of sins,

**Lord, hear our prayer!**

In the name of Jesus, our Compassionate Liberator,  
**Amen!**

(Prayer shared by Roger)

### **The Lord's Prayer**

(In each person's mother language)

### **Closing Hymn**

**Make me a channel of your peace** SoF 381

<https://youtu.be/lkgDdlpB4EA>

### **BLESSING and DISMISSAL**

We thank you, loving God, that we have been gathered in your presence and shared in worship.

Now may we go forth into the world, confident that we are your children, knowing that you have called us by name.

In our daily life may we align ourselves to your will, seeking direction to follow your plan and patience in the waiting.

In the challenges and joys we face, may we be assured we do not face them alone.

Let us go in peace, hope and love, in the name of God, our Mother and our Father, in the name of the Son and in the name of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen**



## Announcements

This week at the ACF...

Tue  
8 pm

### **Women's Prayer Group**

on zoom

Wed  
9 pm

### **Compline**

on zoom

Thu  
6 pm

### **Prayer for Peace**

with Christians from many Freiburg Churches  
at St Martin's Church, Rathausplatz

Thu  
8 pm

### **Lent Group**

on zoom

**LIVE** Embracing  
**LENT** JUSTICE

Sun  
11:30 am

### **Communion Service**

**led by Rev'd Vinod Victor**

in person & on zoom

Journeying through  
Lent...

**LIVE  
LENT**  
Embracing  
**JUSTICE**

**#LiveLent**

**40 Daily Reflections**

Download the app  
Sign up for daily  
emails

**6 Weekly Sessions**

Every Thursday at  
8pm on zoom

**Lent & God's Creation**

**Reduce Plastic Challenge**

and

**40 Days with God's Creatures**

All resources available at  
[anglican-church-freiburg.de/lent-holy-week](http://anglican-church-freiburg.de/lent-holy-week)

As we leave...



**Giving to the ACF  
donation basket at the back**

Explore giving options at [anglican-church-freiburg.de/donate](http://anglican-church-freiburg.de/donate)  
**Thank you!**

**ACF Mailing List**

Send a message  
[anglican-church-freiburg.de/contact](http://anglican-church-freiburg.de/contact)

**Prayer Network**

Send your prayer requests to  
[prayer@  
anglican-church-freiburg.de](mailto:prayer@anglican-church-freiburg.de)

**Service Sheet & Homily**

Pick up from the lectern or download at  
[anglican-church-freiburg.de/archive](http://anglican-church-freiburg.de/archive)

Including  
the  
Notices!

**Please leave the building swiftly!**  
Thank you!

The Anglican Church in Freiburg is entirely dependent on voluntary donations to pay stipends, for all activities and the upkeep of its programmes.

Donations can be made directly to the church account:

IBAN: DE 29 6805 0101 0002 5119 20

- Please mark Verwendungszweck as 'Spende' and provide an address if you wish to receive a tax certificate.

Or you go to [betterplace.org](https://betterplace.org) and use the easy system there. Thank you for your generosity!