



TETHERED  
TO GOD:  
I CHOOSE LOVE...

*March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020*

*Lent 4*

In the Old Testament sometimes the word translated as “hope” is also the word “cord”. Hope connects us with God, in the same way that a cord connects one to another. With time and intention the cord or connection is strengthened. Interestingly, this form of hope is most common in the book of Job; perhaps, a reminder of the hope that Job has in God and the strength that this offers.

Our theme for Lent this year is “*Tethered to God: I Choose Love...*” It is by our connection of hope to God that we are enabled to choose love, even in times of difficulty and challenge.

Lent is a time of discipleship, inward reflection and connection with God. With gentleness and tenderness, we are shaped by God. Through spiritual disciplines, sacraments and means of grace, we are connected to God. Through the faithful community we are entwined with one another and with a community that stretches through time and space. Through these deepened connections, through the cord of hopefulness that tethers us to God, we are strengthened to choose love for the world, for one another, for ourselves. This shapes our living and the world around us. As we encounter the texts each week you are invited to consider:

- How are you tethered to God?
- How is this cord strengthened?
- When is it easy to choose a path of love?
- When is it difficult to choose a path of love?
- When have you witnessed someone choosing to walk in love?
- When have you chosen to love?
- How does your connection to God encourage you to choose love?

May this Lenten journey strengthen us in hope and love.

# WELCOME TO BROUGHAM PLACE UNITING CHURCH

March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 10.00 am

*We acknowledge the Kaurna people as the traditional carers of the land on which our church is built.*

Prelude, Welcome and Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship (*Based on Psalm 23*)

God is our protector and provider,  
**We have all that we need.**

We are enveloped in grace and goodness;  
**We are given the serenity of the Spirit  
to calm and renew our hearts;**

In Christ we are made whole  
**and led in justice and righteousness.**

Even when life seems dark and threatening, we need not fear;  
**God's Spirit is with us protecting and comforting us.**

In the midst of hostility, we can feast and be filled.  
**God declares that we are the beloved and anointed children of  
the most high. Life overflows in abundance.**

All the days of our lives we will live by the values of God's eternal presence,  
**and dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

Let us pray:

Merciful God, we come to worship uncertain of all that lies before us.

We come with concerns for our neighbours, praying for all people.

Grant us the certainty of faith this day,

that we might turn from anxiety to hope;

from bitterness to peace,

and from hubris to humility

as we rely on your strength and goodness.

In the name of the Christ, who make all things new. Amen.

Scripture Reading: *Psalm 23*

We Sing: *Don't Be Afraid*

ATW 496

Don't be afraid, my love is stronger,  
my love is stronger than your fear.  
Don't be afraid, my love is stronger,  
and I have promised, promised to be always near.

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Prayer of Confession and Hope

Passing of the Peace

The peace of our God be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Community News and Notices – *please see the weekly BPUC email and website.*

Children's Time

Scripture Reading: John 9:1-41

The gospel of Christ, light of the world.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

We Sing: *Be Thou My Vision*

TiS 547

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art  
thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2. Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
thou my great Father, thy child let me be;  
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.
3. High King of heaven, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

*Gaelic c. 8<sup>th</sup> cent. tr Mary Elizabeth Byrne 1880-1931, Public Domain.*

## Offering

*Details for electronic giving to either the regular offering or the building fund are Bank SA BSB 105 022, Acc 061147940 (with "Offering" or "Building Fund" as reference).*

## Prayers of the People

*... and now with the confidence of the children of God we pray:*

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be Your name,  
your Kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in Heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin  
against us.  
Save us in the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.*

*Shine through the darkness.*

*Christ, be our light!*

*Shine in your church gathered today.*

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

*Refrain*

3. Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come.

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Sending Forth and Benediction

Postlude