***Coming To Our Senses*  A Liturgy for the Fourth Sunday of Lent Mosgiel Methodist Church Sunday 27th March 2022**

**Preacher:** Rev David Poultney

*As Mosgiel is no meeting for Worship this week as a precautionary measure due to the local Omicron spike this material is provided for personal prayer and reflection.*

**Before We Begin** *To say that I am made in the image of God is to say that love is the reason for my existence, for God is love. Love is my true identity. Selflessness is my true self. Love is my true character. Love is my name.*Thomas Merton

***If you want to you might want to light a candle before you begin***

***Sit comfortably, be aware of your surroundings, be aware of the feel of the chair against your body. Breath in slowly, then out, settle into being present.***

**CENTRING** *Awareness* Bill Wallace ***Read slowly pausing between sentences***

*Let the inner and outer worlds be as one.* *Let all the opposites dance together.*

*Let the mind reflect nature’s interweaving.* *Let the heart know divinity within.*

*Let the logicians experience rapture* *and the ecstatic value discipline.*

*Let the rich find liberation from possessions* *and the poor find liberation from oppression.*

*Let the child respect the adult* *and the adult the inner child.*

*Let the image reflect the imageless mystery* *and the mystery be perceived in all things.*

*Let joy be the way* *and love its celebration.*

**INVITATION TO BEGIN** Thom Shurman
Do you feel it? God's kingdom is beneath our feet.
We live in the new creation shaped by God out of our brokenness.
Do you know it? God's reconciling love in Christ
has shattered our ways of viewing people.
No longer do we label our sisters and brothers,
we welcome them with open arms.
Do you believe it? God has made everything, including us, new,
and sends us forth to share this good news with everyone!

*Hymn texts are offered in this Service as texts for prayer.*

**HYMN FFS 10(i)** Come and Find the Quiet Centre Shirley Murray

Come and find the quiet centre

in the crowded life we lead,

find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:

clear the chaos and the clutter,

clear our eyes, that we can see

all the things that really matter,

be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us,

cools the heat and slows the pace,

God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base,

making space within our thinking,

lifting shades to show the sun,

raising courage when we're shrinking,

finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,

let our loves and fears unravel,

celebrate the space we gain:

there's a place for deepest dreaming,

there's a time for heart to care,

in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!

**MEDITATIVE READING** From *Scivias* Hildegard of Bingen  *Don’t let yourself forget that God’s grace rewards not only those who never slip, but also those who bend and fall. So sing! The song of rejoicing softens hard hearts. It makes tears of godly sorrow flow from them. Singing summons the Holy Spirit. Happy praises offered in simplicity and love lead the faithful to complete harmony, without discord.*

**PRAYER** Thom Shurman
Holy God, Word Shaper:
you are not our accountant,  but our lover;
you are not angry at us, but you forgive us;
you are not our enemy, but the One who runs towards us with wide open arms,
throwing steaks on the grill to celebrate our newness!
Jesus Christ, Shaper of our story:
you travel to that distant country called our sin to bring us home once again;
you share your inheritance with us so we might be blessed;
you know the famine of our spirits
and fill it with your hope.Holy Spirit, Life Shaper:
surrounded by your grace,
we offer glad cries of salvation;
encircled by your constant love, we shout for joy;
enclosed in your comforting arms,
nothing can overwhelm us.
God in Community, Holy in One,
from now on we will remember our life in you Amen

**A MEDITATION TO HELP US REFLECT UPON OUR *CONSCIENCES*** *Love Bade me Welcome* George Herbert *Love bade me welcome. Yet my soul drew back  Guilty of dust and sin. But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack  From my first entrance in, Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,  If I lacked any thing. A guest, I answered, worthy to be here: Love said, You shall be he. I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah my dear,  I cannot look on thee. Love took my hand, and smiling did reply, Who made the eyes but I? Truth Lord, but I have marred them: let my shame   Go where it doth deserve. And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame? My dear, then I will serve. You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat:  So I did sit and eat.*

**EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE** Let us pause, acknowledging the partiality, the incompleteness of our loveand the way our hearts are hardened

*Silence*

We resolve to live with the bravery of openness, to question and challenge our assumptions, to be more generous in our assessment and appreciation of others. This is our intention, this is our prayer. May it come to be, may it come to a fullness and completion **Amen**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**A PRAYER ON THE THEME OF THE DAY** Source of mercy,inspire us and keep us in mercy that we may begenerous in spirit, brave in imagination, compassionate in actionthat the way of Jesus may be lived out in and between us.We ask this in his name, for he is our dream of Godand God’s dream for humanityAmen

**HYMN AA 59** He came singing love Colin Gibson

He came singing Love

and he lived singing love;

he died, singing love

He arose in silence.

For the love to go on

we must make it our song;

you and I be the singers.

He came singing faith

and he lived singing faith;

he died, singing faith.

He arose in silence.

For the faith to go on

we must make it our song;

you and I be the singers.

He came singing hope

and he lived singing hope;

he died, singing hope.

He arose in silence.

For the hope to go on

we must make it our song;

you and I be the singers.

He came singing peace

and he lived singing peace;

he died, singing peace.

He arose is silence.

For the peace to go on

we must make it our song;

you and I be the singers.

**FROM THE SCRIPTURES** Joshua 5:9-12, Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**A REFLECTION**

**HYMN WOV 635** First set your mind Colin Gibson

First set your mind on the Kingdom of God and on his justice and truth, then all you need will be given to you, allelu, alleluia …

No one can live by bread alone; sharp is our hunger of soul, only the word of the Lord will sustain, allelu, alleluia …

Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be open to you, allelu, alleluia …

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CARE FOR OTHERS** From a Church of Scotland resource *Some of the best known words... Some of the most comforting words... We have heard stories of being lost and being found. We have rejoiced at stories of being lost and being welcomed safely home. We have reflected upon stories of being those who were lost as well as being those who were left behind. As we think of these familiar parables once more, We take time to think about ourselves and all across our world who need to know of Your generous mercy and unconditional love. God of love, You never cease to open Your arms to us when we turn to You. Give us grace and understanding to recognise the distress of others. We pray for all who are in dark places be it through their own choices, the misguidance of others, or by force.*

*We remember particularly the people of Ukraine and Russia,*

*We acknowledge our anxiety about Omicron and pray for this community in this challenging time.*

*May all know that nothing can separate us from Your love. Amen*

**HYMN AA 8** Brother, sister, let me serve you Richard Gillard

Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christlight for you
in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I wil! weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray thatl may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

**CONCLUDING IN LOVE AND BLESSING** Thom Shurman God sends us forth,
to be reconcilers of the broken and oppressed.
Jesus, our Brother, sends us to welcome everyone.
We will embrace the prodigals with joy,
we will make a feast for all of God’s people.
The Spirit sends us with arms full of healing.
We will go to bring hope to all we meet.

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all Amen**