

Insert for Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
A Service of Light (Holden Evening Prayer) for  
THE SENT: God's Church Deployed

First Reading                    EXODUS 20:1-17  
A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EXODUS

God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work – you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

*Silence for meditation*

One     The Light shines in the darkness ...

All                    ... and the darkness has not overcome it.

Psalm 51                    O Faithful God

1. O faithful God, have mercy on your servant here;  
in your love, remember not my sins.  
In the waters of your grace,  
wash me clean of all disgrace,  
raise me up to life from death and fear.
2. I know my deeds, I know my faults and failings well;  
I have sinned and broken faith with you.  
For the wrong that I have done,  
my transgressions, ev'ry one,  
God, your judgment would be just and true.

3. You long for truth, for wisdom dwelling deep within;  
teach my heart to long for wisdom, too:  
Wash me clean and give me voice,  
so these bones you crushed rejoice;  
turn my heart from sin to life in you.
4. Create in me a clean and righteous heart, O God,  
put a willing spirit in my soul.  
Let me sing with joy anew  
the salvation found in you,  
singing praise to you who made me whole.

Second Reading                    1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-25

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

*Silence for meditation*

One     The Light shines in the darkness ...

All                    ... and the darkness has not overcome it.

**Ash Wednesday Collect**                    Almighty and everlasting God, you despise nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Weekly Collect**                    Almighty God, your 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 lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.