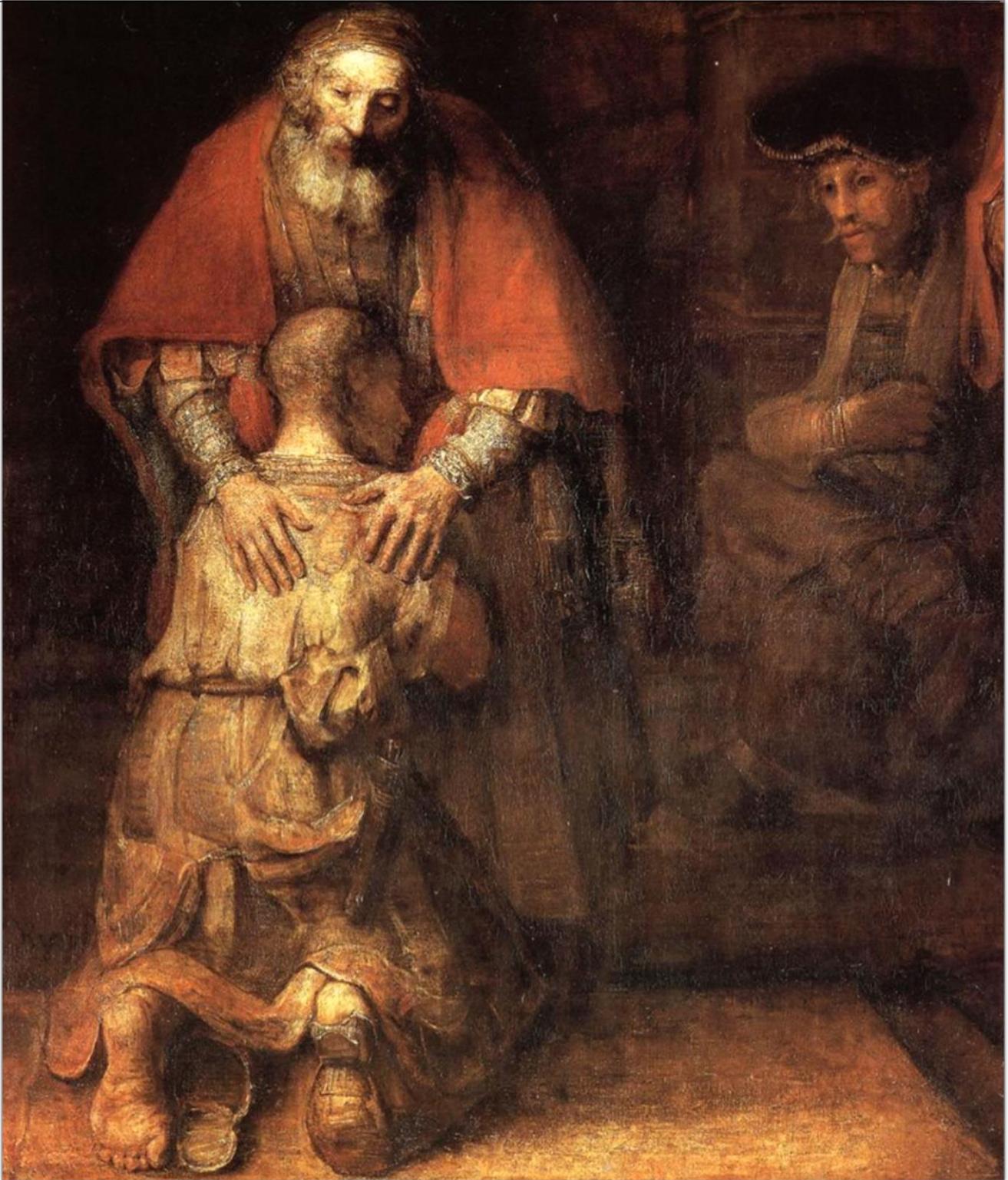




Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2016

# Crows Nest Uniting Church

Shirley Road, Wollstonecraft



## Prodígals

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2016**  
**Lent 4 in the year of Luke**  
**10.00 am**

Welcome to this time of worship and community. We hope you find the service helpful and encouraging.

**Gathering God's People**

**Prelude** Music to prepare for worship

**Call to Worship** (Alluding to Luke 15, Isaiah 35 and 55)

When we've wandered far away from where we belong:

***In returning and in rest we find salvation.***

When we're tired of the market's noise  
and the media's confusion:

***In quietness and trust shall be our strength.***

When we find ourselves alone and think ourselves worthless,  
even beyond God's redemption;

***God is searching and seeking us out  
preparing and persuading and calling us home.***

Seek the Lord while the Lord may be found.

***Call upon God, for God is near.***

**Hymn 693** ***Come as you are***

**Prayer of Confession**

Today we read the story that many call 'the prodigal son'.  
Some suggest it might better be called 'the Loving Father'.  
We bring our prayers of confession.

When, like the younger son, we are lost in our hungers - driven  
by destructive habits and desperate for renewal and grace;  
Lord, have mercy.

***Lord, have mercy.***

When, like the older son, we are lost in self-righteousness -  
suspicious of warmth and forgiveness but longing for peace  
and acceptance;  
Christ have mercy

***Christ, have mercy.***

That we may be as patient, as open-hearted  
and as generous as our loving Father;  
Lord, have mercy.

***Lord, have mercy.***

Let us pray:

**Most loving God,  
we confess to you and to each other  
that we have not lived as your grateful children.  
We have not loved you with heart, mind and strength,  
and we have not served our neighbours  
with the love we learn from Jesus.  
Holy God, forgive us.  
Heal and renew us,  
for Jesus' sake. Amen**

Declaration of Forgiveness (2 Cor 5:17-18)

“If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.”

Hear then Christ's word of grace:  
Your sins are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

(You may like to exchange a sign of peace with those around you.)

## **The Service of Holy Communion**

Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Our thanksgiving continues, to the words ...

‘joining with choirs of angels and the whole creation in the eternal hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,  
God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest!**

Lamb of God

Jesus, Lamb of God,  
***have mercy on us.***  
Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
***have mercy on us.***  
Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
***grant us peace.***

**Hymn 530**    ***Now let us from this table rise***

Children will leave for Kids Alive during the last verse of the hymn

**The Service of the Word**

The First Reading:	Joshua 5:9-12
The Epistle Reading:	2 Corinthians 5:16-21
The Gospel Reading:	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
After the final reading the reader will say	For the Word of the Lord
Please respond by saying	<b><i>Thanks be to God.</i></b>

Music for Reflection

Preaching of the Word

**Responding to God's Word**

**Hymn 217**    ***Love divine***

Announcements & Offering

Music to lead us to prayer

Intercessory Prayers

After the words:            ... God of grace,  
please respond with:    ***hear our prayer.***

**Hymn 613**    ***Lord of all hopefulness***

Benediction & Three-fold Amen

Postlude

Crows Nest Uniting Church:  
'A welcoming, spirited community for today'