**Morning Worship for 21st March 2021**

***As we begin this act of worship let us remember all those not able to be with us who are joining us in their own homes, we remember that there are many friends who are doing the same and are joining with us in worship. Although we will not be having hymns in church for those of you at home If you have you-tube then please find an appropriate version of the suggested hymns and join in the singing on-line. As you go through this time of worship try to remember this reality; you are in the presence of God who holds us all in His care and keeping.***

**The Greeting:**

**God of vision, we long to see your face and are afraid to see it;**

**We long to break the grip of suffering and we cannot cast it out.**

**Uncover our faces and expose us to your glory,**

**That we may comprehend the poor in their suffering and insight,**

**And the world may be transfigured in you.**

**Amen.**

**Janet Morley, Christian Aid.**

**Collect of the day:**

Most merciful God,

Who by the death and resurrection of

Your Son Jesus Christ

Delivered and saved the world:

Grant that by faith in him who

Suffered on the cross

We may triumph in the power of his victory;

Through Jesus Christ you Son our Lord,

Who is alive and reigns with you,

In the unity of the Holy Spirit,

One God, now and for eve.

**Amen.**

**Our Declaration of faith**

**The preaching of the cross is folly to those who are perishing,**

**but to those who are being saved, it is the power of God.**

**To those who are called, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.**

**For the folly of God is wiser than human wisdom,**

**And the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.**

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you; because by your holy cross,**

**You have redeemed the world.**

**Hymn:** Lord for the years.

In church the hymn or music will be played for us to listen to reflectively.

**Readings**: Jeremiah 31:31-34, Hebrews 5:5-10.

**Hymn**: Lead us heavenly father lead us.

In church the hymn or music will be played for us to listen to reflectively.

**Gospel Reading**: John 12: 20-33.

**Reflection:** This will be delivered by the Leader in church.

(For those at home a reflection will be sent through separately by Clive.)

**Hymn:** Now the green blade riseth.

In church the hymn or music will be played for us to listen to reflectively.

**Prayers for others:** This morning let us pause for prayer for so many people and for so many situations.

As Christ revealed to his Disciples that he would be lifted up from the earth and therefore draw all people to himself. Let us as we draw near to him in prayer reflect on the needs of the world in which we live.

We pray for all who engage in prayerful activity that through the medium of devotion the divine will and purpose for creation will be channelled into those areas where there is the greatest need.

We pray in this season of reflection for all who go hungry in our world, for those with no access to clean drinking water, for those who live in isolated and desolate places where the fruits of their labour bring so little reward to them.

We pray that the wider world may seek to eradicate poverty and deprivation wherever it raises its head, bringing hope and restoration to your suffering people.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the Church as it seeks to promote your wisdom in the world, and in the words of the prophet Jeremiah, we pray that you will write your law into the hearts of your people, so that every breathe which we take will be for the furtherance of justice, peace, love and the well-being of the nations.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We continue to pray for the world still struggling with the pandemic, we give thanks for the vaccination programme proving to be so effective amidst our own communities, and we pray that vaccine resources will continue to be available for the poorer nations of the world.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Hear us as we pray for all whom we know and love, especially those who are ill, in hospital, in residential care or being cared for within the community. We pray that closer contact may soon be possible for them, so that those who are ill, elderly, frail or confused may soon feel the reassuring touch of their loved ones.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Finally, hear us as we continue to pray for all those who have gone before us and entered in to your glory. We pray for those they have left behind who mourn their loss and we draw comfort from your holy word recalling those words “unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”

May the fruits of the departed be truly realised by their presence with you in eternity, through which they will rest in total joy and ever lasting peace.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

And so 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.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

**Hymn:** Go forth and tell.

In church the hymn or music will be played for us to listen to reflectively.

**A Song of the Wilderness:**

**The ransomed of the Lord shall return, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

The wilderness and the dry land shall rejoice, the desert shall blossom and burst into song. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weary hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to the anxious, ‘be strong, fear not, your God is coming with judgement to save you;’ Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; Then shall the lame leap like a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the ransomed of the Lord shall return with singing, with everlasting joy upon their heads. Joy and gladness shall be theirs, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**The ransomed of the Lord shall return, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

**Blessing:**

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,

and keep us in eternal life.

May Christ, the Son of God, gladden our hearts

with the good news of his kingdom.

May God, our Redeemer show us compassion and love.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**