**Morning Worship for 27th February 2022**

***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. 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:**

**Jesus invites us to a way of celebration, meeting and feasting with the humble and poor.**

**Let us walk his way with joy.**

**Jesus beckons us to a way of risk, letting go of our security.**

**Let us walk his way with joy.**

**Jesus challenges us to listen to the voices of those who have nothing to lose.**

**Let us walk his way with joy.**

**Jesus points us to a way of self-giving, where power and status are overturned.**

**Let us walk his way with joy.**

**Jesus calls us to follow the way of the cross, where despair is transformed by the promise of new life.**

**Let us walk his way with joy.**

***Jan Berry, Sheffield 1990***

**Collect of the day:**

Almighty Father,

Whose Son was revealed in majesty

Before he suffered death upon the cross;

Give us grace to perceive his glory,

That we may be strengthened to suffer with him

And be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;

Who is alive and reigns with you,

In the unity of the Holy Spirit,

One God, now and for ever. **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:** Christ is made the sure foundation.

**Readings**: Exodus 34:29-end, 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2.

**Hymn**: Let all the world in every corner sing.

**Gospel Reading**: Luke 9:28-36.

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

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

**Hymn:** O for a heart to praise my God.

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

Heavenly Father as we approach another season of Lent, we pray that we may be prepared to welcome Jesus into our prayerful reflections. For your Church as it celebrates the beginning of your glorification may see through the signs and wonders of your grace, the sheer beauty of what it means to be fully human in your presence.

We pray for a period of quietness in our own lives amidst all the chaos of the world around us, may we find the inner strength we need to look beyond the political and nationalistic struggles centred around power and fear which are constantly around us so that we may become immersed into the beauty of your peace finding new ways of moving forward with a sense of joy and wonderment.

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer**

We pray for all nations who are facing the aggression of others, for the fear and uncertainty that this brings into the hearts and minds of so many. We pray that peace and reconciliation, diplomacy, and a respect for alternative approaches to life may result in a more harmonious world, in which all of humanity can rejoice and share in all that your creation has to offer.

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer**

We pray for those who are in so much need in our world today, praying especially for those who are suffering from mental ill-health. For those who are young whose troubled lives have left them without hope, for those unable to respond to the help of others through fear and a lack of self-esteem and personal worth. As Jesus came and shared his life with so many on the fringe of society may we too learn to share our lives with those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer**

As we pray for those whom we know and love, we give you thanks gracious God for the blessing of family life, for the friendship of others and for every relationship which emboldens the heart and brings joy, love, security, and peace into our lives. We follow Jesus in sharing our lives with others rejoicing that through our exchanges of affection, we can reflect a little of your affection for each one of us.

**Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer**

We pray heavenly Father for all who have entered into their eternal rest with you, for the memories of each one we give you thanks, and wherever relationships have been destroyed by past events and circumstances we pray for the fulness of your forgiveness to ourselves and to others, that those hurts may be forgotten, and peace and inner reconciliation may be found.

**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:** We have a gospel to proclaim.

**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.**