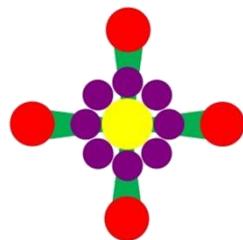


**The Benefice of
Harden, Wilsden, Cullingworth, Denholme
8th February 2026
The Second Sunday Before Lent
Todays Liturgy Prepared by Liz**



Call to worship

We come from scattered lives to meet with God.
Let us recognise his presence with us.

Silence is kept.

As God's people we have gathered:

Let us worship him together.

The glory of God shines in the face of Jesus,
who is the image of God.

We see the light of the gospel
in the glory of Christ.

God shines into our hearts,
as a light shines in darkness.

We proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord
and ourselves as slaves for Jesus' sake.

Come, let us worship our God.

In the presence of God the prophets quake,
and those who know you fall to their knees.

Open our eyes to see your glory
in the face of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

Confession

As those who know the generosity of God,
let us confess our sins,
Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,
and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.
We have lived by our own strength,
and not by the power of your resurrection.
In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,
as faithless and not believing.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone,
and doubted our home in heaven.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

May the God of love
bring us back to himself,
forgive us our sins
and assure us of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Praise response

Alleluia.

O praise God in his holiness;
praise him in the firmament of his power.
Praise him for his mighty acts;
praise him according to his excellent greatness.
Praise him with the blast of the trumpet;
praise him upon the harp and lyre.
Praise him with timbrel and dances;
praise him upon the strings and pipe.
Praise him with ringing cymbals;
praise him upon the clashing cymbals.
Let everything that has breath
praise the Lord.
Alleluia.

Collect

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for
ever. **Amen.**

First reading: Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, ‘Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.’ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, ‘Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.’ And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, ‘Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.’ And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, ‘Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.’ And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, ‘Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.’

So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

God blessed them, saying, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.’ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

So God created humankind in his image,

 in the image of God he created them;
 male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

Second reading Matthew 6:25-end

'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing?

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown

into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore, do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

‘So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

Reflection with Alison

Jesus’ words, “Do not worry,” come to us not as a simple instruction but as an invitation, an invitation to trust the God who knows our needs and holds our lives with great tenderness. He points us to the birds of the air and the lilies of the field, everyday reminders that God’s care is constant, faithful, and woven into creation itself.

Yet Jesus speaks these words knowing that life is often fragile. In our own church and communities, we know people who are carrying heavy burdens, living with life-changing illness, facing the pain of a relationship breaking down, struggling with work or the loss of it, navigating mental health challenges, or feeling the deep ache of loneliness and social isolation. For them, and for all of us, “Do not worry” is not a dismissal of real suffering, but a gentle reminder of God’s nearness in the midst of it.

To “seek first the kingdom of God” is to root ourselves again in God’s love, justice, and compassion. It is to trust that we are not alone, that God sees every tear shed in secret, and that His provision often comes through the care we offer one another.

Perhaps today Jesus invites us to place one worry into His hands, not ignoring it, but entrusting it, and to look for signs of His grace in the small, steady gifts of each day. And as we do, may we also be attentive to those around us who need our prayer, our presence, and our kindness.

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,**

and fills us with his love.

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession with Brenda

The response to Lord, the Light of the World

Hear our Prayer

Dear Father God We gather together today to sing and praise you. We give thanks for the gift of your beloved Son our Saviour Jesus Christ We ask you hear our prayers of supplication.

As we heard in our Gospel reading, Matthew reminds us of Jesus teaching to Shine our Light on a hill for all the world to see. As we leave behind the dark winter days of January and move forward into February we pray that the green shoots appearing in our gardens and hedgerows are starting to herald the early days of Spring warming your earth

We thank You Heavenly Father for the gift of Your Creation We thank You for the light of hope that shines in our hearts.

Lord the light of the world

Hear our prayer

Dear Father God In the joy of being Your children we place our lives in Your Hands to be made healthy, happy and whole. Fill our hearts with Your Peace. Care for us as a shepherd cares for his flock so that we can have community with our loved ones ,family ,friends and neighbours. We thank You that You watch over all the world bringing goodness, mercy and decency to all those people who walk in Your light. We pray for Leaders ,Governments and those with the power to make peace for all nations.

We pray for those who currently live under the threat and cosh of war ,violence, hunger and chaos. Help them Lord to find shelter, solace and safety Comfort them in their grief at the loss of loved ones.

We beseech You Lord Jesus to come to us once more bringing Your message of Love for our God and our Neighbour as an example to us, then no one who meets You in Love can raise a hand in violence, anger or greed toward each other.

Lord The Light of the World

Hear our prayer.

Dear Lord we pray today for all those who are ill or coming to the end of their earthly journey. We pray for their carers, family and loved ones. For all Doctors Nurses health care workers Those running our Hospices and care homes and all Ancillary workers in our NHS service. We thank you especially that we have a service where those in urgent need do not have to worry about how they can pay for the cost of expensive treatment. Be with them all Heavenly Father Hold then in Your Loving arms. Comfort those who grieve or mourn, those who have lost loved ones recently or in the past In a moment of quiet reflection bring those you grieve for into your hearts.

Lord in Your Mercy Hear our pray

We pray for those facing challenges in their lives. The unemployed, those moving house those relocating to new communities. For those seeking new jobs. Guide their paths with Your light and lay before them new opportunities Blessed are You Father of all. We bring before You and thank you for Reverend Alison and all her hard work as temporary team Rector who has just been approved in her post for another six months. We thank you also for Reverend Liz, both of whom in their own missionary way, walk each day in the light of Christ, blessed with His Grace, bringing humility, mercy and goodness to our Benefice. We thank you for the Readers, Lay Preachers, Lay Worshipers, Church wardens and volunteers who help to keep our Churches across the Benefice running smoothly .Lord we ask You to enter the hearts and minds of any ordained priest who is considering applying for the Vacancy of Team Rector to lead our 4 Churches into the future.

Lord in Your Mercy

Hear our prayer.

We pray for our toddler groups, preschools and schools across our 4 Churches for those who run Messy Church and all other groups that add Christian mercy and teaching to our young people. As we walk forward in our daily Christian lives to remember the words Jesus gave to Matthew.'

Be as the Salt of the earth. Be like a City on a hill. Let your light shine out '.Help us Lord Jesus Christ to follow in Your footsteps as we walk forwards humbly and with mercy, sharing our Christian faith and mission with each other and all those we encounter on a daily basis.

Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of Your Son, Our Saviour Jesus Christ

Amen.

As our Saviour taught us, 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.

Closing prayer

God our creator,
by your gift
the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise,
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:
may we who have been nourished at your table on earth
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Blessing

May God keep us in all our days
May Christ shield us in all our ways.
May the Spirit bring us healing and peace.
May God the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from us
And pour upon us blessing and light.

Amen

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.