



**St Edmund's Taverham with
St Peter's Ringland**

**Worship for the First Sunday in
Lent**

21st February 2021

Today is the first Sunday of Lent and we are now journeying with Jesus in the wilderness. As we hear again the account of Jesus being led by the Spirit into the wilderness and his temptation by Satan, we are reminded that in the wilderness places of our lives we are not left alone. We worship today, in the Name and presence of the One who is with us in the wilderness, who strengthens us in difficulties, and who brings hope and peace as we journey in faith and trust ~ Jesus our friend and our Saviour.

Our gathering song

Hide me now

Under your wings
Cover me
Within your mighty hand

*When the oceans rise and thunders roar
I will soar with You above the storm
Father You are King over the flood
I will be still and know You are God*

Find rest, my soul
In Christ alone
Know his power
In quietness and trust
(C Rueben Morgan and Ben Fielding)

As darkness gives way to light
and winter sleep to fresh beginnings,
We come today to be reminded of God's love for us.
Like the green shoots of renewed life,
stirring beneath the soil,
We welcome an awakening of God's word in our lives.
In this time of reflection and repentance,
**We affirm our identity, we claim our security,
as children of God.**
~ submitted by Gill Le Fevre

Amazing grace how sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

*My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, My Saviour has ransomed me
And like a flood his mercy rains
Unending love, amazing grace*

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God, who called me here below
Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine

(John Newton with additional words by Chris Tomlin)

Our scripture reading this week is written in the gospel according to **Mark, chapter 1 verses 9-15.**

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. 11 And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

12 And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. 13 He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, 15 and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

As you read this passage, is there anything that particularly strikes you? Is there something that perhaps intrigues you or gives rise to a question? You may like to spend some time talking to God, as you would to a friend about it.

You may like to read the thought in the St Ed's newssheet or on the St Peter's webpage.

Let us pray

Gracious God, I am your servant; make the service I render fully worthy.

Let every moment I live be in witness to you; for you have brought me back to your ways.

You looked at me, in your deep love when I had let chaos reign in my life; you restored it to order.

You made me know your presence and gave me assurance of your love for me; I felt your closeness.

Your scarred hands held me; I gazed upon your pierced brow.

Your forgiveness overwhelmed me; for I had forsaken the way I know to be yours.

But, gracious God, now you have brought me back to you, I know I have a great responsibility.

A calling to proclaim your name and your love; wherever I may be.

My God, in whom I trust, send your Holy Spirit upon me that I may fulfil your calling.

Open my mouth, O mighty God, ever to be singing your praise and of your glory.

(Trevor Thorn ~ Christ and the Cosmos)

Let us pray

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of revelation,

unveil your Kingdom in our midst.
Show us who we truly are in you:
expose the illusions that distort our vision,
deliver us from temptations that contort our living,
open our eyes in this time of trial –
that resistance may be the secret of our joy
and our joy a sign of your shalom. **Amen.**

~ posted on the **Monthly Prayers** page of the **Christian Aid** website.

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

Our Father, who art in heaven...

Come let us sing of a wonderful love, tender and true

Out of the heart of the Father above
Streaming to me and to you
Wonderful love dwells in the heart of the Father above

Jesus the Saviour this gospel to tell, joyfully came
Came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell
Sharing their sorrow and shame
Seeking the lost, saving, redeeming at measureless cost

Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet, why do they roam?
Love only waits to forgive and forget
Home, weary wanderer, home!
Wonderful love dwells in the heart of the Father above

Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love, come and abide
Lifting my life till it rises above
Envy and falsehood and pride
Seeking to be lowly and humble, a learner of Thee
(C Robert Walmsley)

Prayer of Blessing

Whatever wilderness the Spirit has brought you to:
walk in boldness, as a beloved child of God
walk in peace, under the shelter of the Most High
walk in faith, knowing Christ walks with you. Amen.
~ written by Joanna Harader, and posted on her **Spacious Faith** blog.
<http://spaciousfaith.com/>

When I fear my faith will fail

Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail
He will hold me fast
I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold
He must hold me fast

*He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Saviour loves me so
He will hold me fast*

Those He saves are His delight
Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight
He will hold me fast
He'll not let my soul be lost
His promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost
He will hold me fast

For my life He bled and died
Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied
He will hold me fast
Raised with Him to endless life
He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight
When he comes at last
(C Keith and Kristen Getty)