

Morning Worship for Sunday March 7th 2021
'3rd Sunday of Lent'

Welcome

Welcome to Morning Worship for March 7th on the 3rd Sunday of Lent. It is good to be together to worship and to pray, as it was yesterday to pray together on our 'Day of Prayer'. Thank you to all who participated and prayed for the life of our churches, and for our communities and our world.

Today's Gospel asks us as a benefice and as church families to consider who we are in the name of Christ and how that answer will steer our ministry going forward.

Our songs and hymns are with appreciation to Helen Rogers who plays for us. Thanks too to Kevin Hope for the slides, to Lucia who reads and to Cate who leads us in prayer. Let us worship together.

Greeting

Janet: Welcome in the name of Christ.

God's grace, mercy and peace be with you :

All: **and also with you.**

Janet: We stand before the throne of God

with countless crowds from every nation and race, tribe and language.

All: **Thanksgiving and honour, power and might
be to our God for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not,
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,
great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,
great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,
great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

Let us pray....

All: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people, and kindle in us the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

An Invitation to Confession

Janet: St Paul says, 'Be imitators of God; love as Christ loved; do not grieve the Holy Spirit; put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice.

A moment of silence and stillness

We confess our sins

All : Father, we have sinned against heaven and against you. We are not worthy to be called your children. We turn to you again. Have mercy on us, bring us back to yourself as those who were once dead but now have life through Christ our Lord. Amen.

We receive God's forgiveness

Janet: May the Father forgive you by the death of his Son and strengthen you to live in the power of the Spirit all your days. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading

John 2. 13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this. Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six

years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Now some images of this event to help us envisage it and feel the emotions as if we were there...some pictures may be quite shocking, but they will get us thinking and may help us understand.

Sermon by The Venerable Judy French, Archdeacon

*Prayers of Intercession
and at the end...*

All:

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Collect

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

***All:* 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.**

We declare our faith

All:

We believe in God the Father, God almighty, by whose plan – earth and heaven sprang to being, all created things began.

We believe in Jesus risen, heaven's king to rule and reign, to the Father's side ascended till as judge he comes again.

We believe in God the Spirit; in one church, below, above; saints of God in one communion, one in holiness and love.

Dismissal

Janet: I pray with you that God might direct our way as we discover the church he wishes us to be on our return from lockdown. That all who come through its doors may find blessing.

Hymn

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
naught be all else to me save that thou art;
thou my best thought in the day and the night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true Word,
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, and I thy true heir;
thou in me dwelling, and I in thy care.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight,
be thou my armour, and be thou my might,
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower,
raise thou me heav'nward, O power of my power.

Riches I need not, nor all the world's praise,
thou mine inheritance, through all my days;
thou, and thou only, the first in my heart,
high King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, when battle is done,
Grant heaven's joy to me, O bright heaven's sun;
Christ of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

The Blessing

Janet: May you go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory.

and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father the Son and Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Janet: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**