

## Welcome to this Lent 3

### Sunday Communion Service



*The actions of Jesus in the story from John today are harsh and aggressive. Jesus goes to the temple and makes it plain that he is angry. When we remember just how important the temple was, we can understand that people would not be happy when he used language about raising it to the ground.*

*Why was Jesus so angry? Why was he so motivated that he made a whip and used it to drive people and their animals out of the temple? The event can only be understood against the background of the understanding Jesus had about who he was and what he was about to do. Jesus sees Judaism with its Passovers and sacrifices to be at an end. Even the temple itself was of no more value. Instead, it was his death which would end all deaths, his body which would represent the visible representation of God being with his people. There would be no more need of the religious trappings, that was the old order and now anew order had come.*

*When Jesus attacked the traders and moneychangers, which had grown up with in the Temple he was prepared to face unpopularity and the dangers of confronting the powerful. He was willing to be disliked and misunderstood, in order to bring about change. Are we as Christians prepared to be as courageous?*

*Instructions: Ctrl-Click on the link in blue to activate the whole recorded service with all the hymns etc. [https://youtu.be/\\_yXZrVgZmQ](https://youtu.be/_yXZrVgZmQ)*

If you wish to join the live Sunday Morning **Zoom Communion** today at 10:00am  
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86898697070?pwd=T004T2hnRE5tVUo4bzVIUnVpd1JzZz09>

Meeting ID: 868 9869 7070

Passcode: 870796

*If you have a Smart Tv enter this in YouTube: **3rd before Lent amsndb***

*Welcome by* Sue Hanson outside St Nicholas Church Tillingham

Welcome to our Joint Benefice online service this week recorded here at St Nicholas Church in Tillingham

This Third Sunday in Lent, where we will be thinking of Jesus in the temple, a place Jesus often went to worship the Father. Jesus was sweeping the old away, as after the ultimate sacrifice of his death on the cross the Father who loves everybody equally could be worshiped through him and not through ritual and merchandise showing his love could not be bought.

Bless us as we meet together in spirit,  
dear Lord we pray.  
Bless the singing of your praise,  
the reading of your Word,  
the sharing of our service here in St Nicholas',  
the prayers that will be heard.  
Bless us as we meet here together online,  
dear Lord we pray.

**Amen**

We will now sing the hymn 'Living Lord' chosen by Mike Plant and was recorded at St Nicholas on July the 28th, 2013, with Martin Taylor playing.

**Hymn 1: 'Living Lord'**

*Welcome*

Welcome to this holy table;  
welcome to you,

for we are Christ's body,  
Christ's work in the world.  
Welcome to you whose baptism makes you  
salt of the earth and light to the world.  
Rejoice and be glad.  
Praise God who gives us forgiveness and hope.  
**Amen.**  
**Christ is our light,**  
**the joy of our salvation.**

### *Thanksgiving and Praise*

Christ is the living water  
cleansing, refreshing, making all things new.  
Christ is the living bread;  
food for the hungry,  
strength for the pilgrim and the labourer.

**So now we offer our thanks  
for the beauty of our land  
for the wild places  
for the mountains, the coast and the sea.**

**We offer thanks and praise to God for this good land;  
for its trees and pastures,  
for its plentiful crops  
and the skills we have learned to grow them.**

**Our thanks for our villages and the cities we have built;  
for science and discoveries,  
for our life together,  
for this church,  
for the continued life of prayer in this place.**

### *Forgiveness*

We come seeking forgiveness  
for all we have failed to be and do  
as members of Christ's body.

*Silence*

In God there is forgiveness.

Loving and all-seeing God,  
forgive us where we have failed to support one another  
and to be what we claim to be.  
Forgive us where we have failed to serve you;  
and where our thoughts and actions have been  
contrary to yours we ask your pardon.  
God forgives us; be at peace.

*Silence*

Rejoice and be glad,  
for Christ is resurrection,  
reconciliation for all the human race.

*The minister and people say*

We shall all be one in Christ,  
one in our life together.  
Praise to God who has created us,  
praise to God who has accepted us,  
praise to God who sends us into the world

*The Collect and first reading* by Graham Martin  
*The Collect for the Third Sunday in Lent:*

Almighty God,  
by the prayer and discipline of Lent  
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,  
and by following in his Way  
come to share in his glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

*Reading 1*

Exodus 20:1-17 *first reading*  
**The Ten Commandments**

20 And God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup> 'I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

<sup>3</sup> 'You shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup> 'You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup> but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup> 'You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

<sup>8</sup> 'Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labour and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore, the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

<sup>12</sup> 'Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup> 'You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup> 'You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup> 'You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup> 'You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour.

<sup>17</sup> 'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.'

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*Reading 2* 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 By Moria Mee

**Christ crucified is God's power and wisdom**

<sup>18</sup> For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written:

'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;  
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.'<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>20</sup> Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

**This is the word of the Lord.**

*All Thanks be to God.*

We now sing the hymn 'Amazing Grace' chosen by Steven

*Hymn 2* Amazing Grace

*Gospel Reading* John 2.13-22 By Mike Plant

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *John*.

*All Glory to you, O Lord.*

**Jesus clears the temple courts**

<sup>13</sup> When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. <sup>15</sup> So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup> To those who sold doves he said, 'Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!' <sup>17</sup> His disciples remembered that it is written: 'Zeal for your house will consume me.'

<sup>18</sup> The Jews then responded to him, 'What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?'

<sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.'

<sup>20</sup>They replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?' <sup>21</sup>But the temple he had spoken of was his body. <sup>22</sup>After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All Praise to you, O Christ.*

*Sermon* written by Revd Steven

Exodus 20: 1-17 - The Ten Commandments

1 Corinthians 1: 18-25 - Christ the Power and Wisdom of God

John 2: 13-22 - Jesus Cleanses the Temple

Sermon – Temple Cleansing

Today, on this third Sunday of Lent, we hear of Jesus cleansing the Temple. John, unlike the synoptic (Matthew, Mark and Luke) Gospels, centres his Gospel in and around Jerusalem. This is where the cleansing of the Temple took place early on in Jesus' public ministry.

Jesus is angry because the Temple has been turned into a marketplace, when it is to be used as a place of prayer. The marketplace would be in the place of the court of the Gentiles where non-Jews can come and worship God, so the marketplace is stopping them from doing so, with all the noise the marketplace brings. In asking what authority Jesus has in doing this, Jesus replies that he will raise up the Temple which he is referring to as his body. Here Jesus is referring to his crucifixion and resurrection, which his disciples understand this saying when this takes place. St Paul picks up this theme of our bodies being a Temple in 1 Corinthians 6: 19-20 when he writes:-

“19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20 For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.”

During this beginning of spring, when we see the daffodils springing to life, we often have a spring clean in our houses and/or garages. Our bodies are God's Temple if we have been baptised with God's spirit. Often and especially during the past year of Lockdown's, our minds, bodies, hearts and souls can get

overcrowded with different things and stop our temples becoming the houses of prayer that can allow God to speak and dwell with us.

On Maundy Thursday in Holy week, the day before Good Friday, we hear of the account of Jesus washing his disciples feet during the Last Supper. Jesus wants to come and wash us clean of all the things that can enter our minds and hearts from the world. The question is will we let him? Are we like the Jews, saying to Jesus, what authority do you have to come this close to me and my Temple?

As John writes elsewhere in his Gospel, Jesus is God made flesh (John 1:1-14), and that he overcome sin and death by his resurrection (John 20:1-30). Here we understand that Jesus is God's son and that he does have the authority and the power to make things clean in our lives. We also see this taking place, when Jesus encounters different people in the Gospels and making them clean from the various things that are affecting them. You may want to make some quiet time for yourself in a place when you are not going to be disturbed and as Jesus bowed down to wash the disciples feet, imagine him kneeling down in front of you, reaching into your hearts and minds and allow him to wash the things in you to make you clean.

In doing this, you may want to play some meditative music and read Psalm 139, Amen.

**Amen**

### *Profession of faith*

You, O God, are supreme and holy.  
You create our world and give us life.  
Your purpose overarches everything we do.  
You have always been with us.  
You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous,  
good beyond all measure.  
You came to us before we came to you.  
You have revealed and proved  
your love for us in Jesus Christ,  
who lived and died and rose again.  
You are with us now.  
You are God.



You, O God, are Holy Spirit.  
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.  
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.  
You are our God. We worship you.

We now sing the hymn Chosen by Sue Hanson **Abide with me.**

*Hymn 3: Abide with me.*

*Prayers of Intercession:*

Let us pray-

Everlasting God, be with us in this time of prayer, and help us to feel your presence. Mindful of the Commandments that you gave to Moses we pray that you would be worshiped above all else in our land and that we can at all times be given the strength to reject the idolatry of our secular world.

Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our Prayer**

Faithful God we pray for the church throughout the world and especially for our Churches here in the Dengie Hundred. We give thanks too for Revd Steven, Archdeacon Elizabeth and Bishop John, and all involved in your ministry during this difficult time.

Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our Prayer**

Creator God, we pray for the governments of the world, that they may always seek for peaceful solutions in their dealings with other nations and rule their own countries with compassion and justice. At this time of the worldwide Pandemic, we especially pray for the leaders of our countries, states, and cities, as they seek to help manage the challenges of the economic impact of the virus, in travel, manufacturing, hospitality, energy or so many other industries.

Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our Prayer**

Heavenly Father, we thank you for our families, friends and neighbours and for the people with whom we work or share our daily lives. We pray for those who are lonely, those isolated because of Coronavirus and those who find it difficult to make friends or be accepted.

We pray especially at this time for our local schools who are to return tomorrow, we think of all the hard work the teachers and staff are having to do at this time, and the relief of the parents no longer having to do home schooling.

We pray for all the parents and children distressed with the news that they will have to go to secondary schools many miles away. We pray that after years of mismanagement by all the school authorities a solution will be found.

Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our Prayer**

Gracious God, we pray for all who are in pain or are suffering at this time. We remember especially those who are facing long or incurable illnesses. In a moment of quietness we pray for them, and any we know who are in any kind of need at this time.

Gerry Lewsey  
Sadie Russell  
Dede Starsmeare  
Fr Lionel Webber and Jean Webber  
Fr Stan Swift's and Sally's Grandson Elliott  
Beryl Dixon  
Sue Wilson  
Ernest Norman  
Sue Watmough  
Tony Grinstead

Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our Prayer**

Merciful God, we pray for those we love but see no longer. Grant them your peace, let light perpetual shine upon them, May they rest in peace and rise in glory. We remember before God those who have recently died especially for:

**Sally Stewart** who died suddenly this week from St Lawrence. Prayers for her brother Roderic and family, and for Penny Lucas who is sorting out the arrangements.

**Monica Hansen** who died in Tillingham on 20th February. Prayers for her family as they prepare for the funeral on the 16th March.

**Maureen Watson** who sadly died recently. Prayers for her family and for the memorial service at St Thomas Church in Bradwell on 26th March.

**Tony Hutson** who's funeral is at St Thomas on April 6<sup>th</sup>. We pray for his wife Haley and for Sophia and Luke at this difficult time.

**Freda Howard** who's funeral was this week.

Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our Prayer**

Faithful God, as we turn from our worship into the Marketplace which is our world, we thank you for the help you give us to resist the temptations that will assail in the weeks ahead. Merciful Father,

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

We now sing the hymn How deep the father's love for us chosen by Graham  
*Hymn 4* how deep the father's love for us

*Collection:*

*During this hymn a collection would normally be taken:  
Please arrange for your donations to go to your local Church:*

*The Peace.*

God is love  
and those who live in love live in God  
and God lives in them.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
*All* and also with you.

For Bradwell St Thomas' Congregation please go to:  
<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6203/> and click Please donate to the running of the Church

*The Eucharistic Prayer*

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;  
in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away  
you did not reject us,  
but came to meet us in your Son.  
**You embraced us as your children  
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life  
that we might live in him and he in us.  
**He opened his arms of love upon the cross  
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,  
at supper with his friends  
he took bread, and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.  
**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,  
he gave you thanks, and said:  
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,

which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;  
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,  
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine  
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts  
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world  
we offer you this sacrifice of praise  
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The service continues with the Lord's Prayer.*

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.

*Breaking of the Bread*

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break this bread

to share in the body of Christ.

**All** Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.

### *Giving of Communion*

*The president and people receive communion.*

### *Post Communion*

Almighty God,  
you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves:  
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,  
and inwardly in our souls;  
that we may be defended from all adversities  
which may happen to the body,  
and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul;  
through Jesus Christ our Lo

### *Prayer after communion*

**All** We thank you, Lord,  
that you have fed us in this sacrament,  
united us with Christ,  
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet  
prepared for all peoples.  
Amen.

*Notices for the week* Revd. Steven.....

### *Final Blessing*

Lord our God,  
on the first day of creation  
you made the light that scatters the darkness.  
Let Christ, the light of lights,  
hidden from all eternity,  
shine at last on your people  
and free us from the darkness of sin.  
Fill our lives with joy  
as we go out to welcome your Son at his coming.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

*All* Amen.

*Dismissal*

Go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**We go, giving thanks to God**

*We sing our final hymn: Jesus Christ is Waiting*

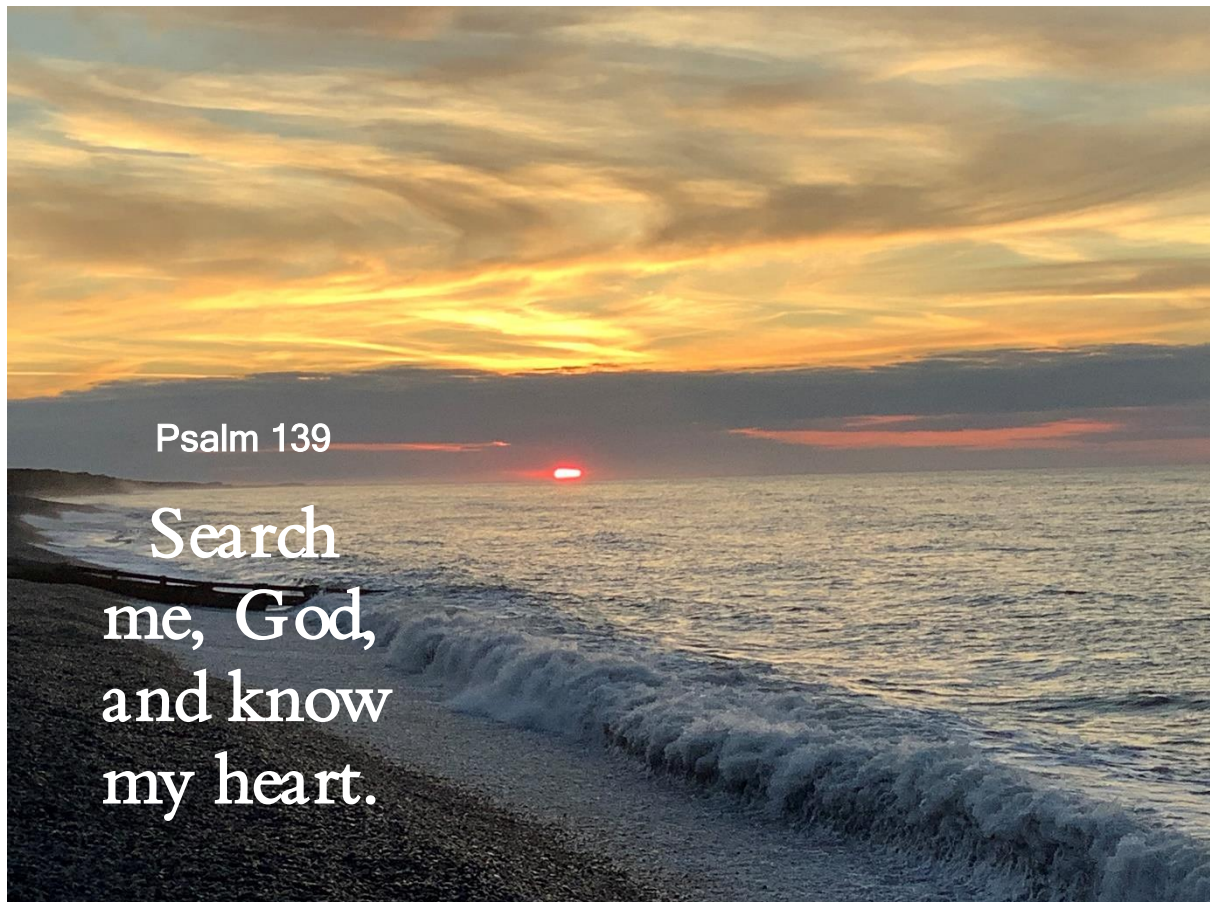
*Final Hymn* Jesus Christ is Waiting

© Archbishop's Council 2000 Opening prayers & confession from New Zealand Prayer book

*Lent Meditation: Search me, God, and know my heart*

BARBER Adagio for Strings

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3MHeNt6Yjs>



## Psalm 139

**For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.**

- <sup>1</sup> You have searched me, LORD,  
and you know me.
- <sup>2</sup> You know when I sit and when I rise;  
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
- <sup>3</sup> You discern my going out and my lying down;  
you are familiar with all my ways.
- <sup>4</sup> Before a word is on my tongue  
you, LORD, know it completely.
- <sup>5</sup> You hem me in behind and before,  
and you lay your hand upon me.
- <sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
too lofty for me to attain.
- <sup>7</sup> Where can I go from your Spirit?  
Where can I flee from your presence?
- <sup>8</sup> If I go up to the heavens, you are there;  
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
- <sup>9</sup> If I rise on the wings of the dawn,  
if I settle on the far side of the sea,  
<sup>10</sup> even there your hand will guide me,  
your right hand will hold me fast.
- <sup>11</sup> If I say, 'Surely the darkness will hide me  
and the light become night around me,'  
<sup>12</sup> even the darkness will not be dark to you;  
the night will shine like the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.
- <sup>13</sup> For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- <sup>14</sup> I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful,  
I know that full well.
- <sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you  
when I was made in the secret place,  
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
- <sup>16</sup> Your eyes saw my unformed body;  
all the days ordained for me were written in your book  
before one of them came to be.
- <sup>17</sup> How precious to me are your thoughts,<sup>[a]</sup> God!  
How vast is the sum of them!
- <sup>18</sup> Were I to count them,



- they would outnumber the grains of sand –  
when I awake, I am still with you.
- <sup>19</sup> If only you, God, would slay the wicked!  
Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty!
- <sup>20</sup> They speak of you with evil intent;  
your adversaries misuse your name.
- <sup>21</sup> Do I not hate those who hate you, LORD,  
and abhor those who are in rebellion against you?
- <sup>22</sup> I have nothing but hatred for them;  
I count them my enemies.
- <sup>23</sup> Search me, God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
- <sup>24</sup> See if there is any offensive way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.

## **Notices**

### **Spiritual Communion**

Steven Poss is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Live Sunday Spiritual Communion  
Time: Mar 7, 2021 10:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86898697070?pwd=T004T2hnRE5tVUo4bzVIUnVpd1JzZz09>

Meeting ID: 868 9869 7070  
Passcode: 870796

### **Bible Study**

This will continue after Easter whilst we study the Lent Course. Please let me know if there is a specific book that you would like to study.

### **Lent Course – Where is God?**

I am doing the following course – ‘Where is God?’. The times of the sessions and the link to order the booklet is here:-

[Where is God...? - York Courses](#)

Where is God ...?

3. when we make decisions? – 10-12 Monday & 7.30pm-9.30pm on Monday 8 March

4. when we contemplate death? – 10-12 Monday & 7.30pm-9.30pm on Monday 15 March
5. when we try to make sense of life? – 12-2 & 7.30pm-9.30pm on Monday 29 March

### **Lent Course – Where is God? – Session 3 (A) – Monday 8 March – 10am-12pm**

Steven Poss is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Lent Course - Session 3 (10-12pm)

Time: Mar 8, 2021 10:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88023366253?pwd=RVVnMHRLcHNnbGJNcnBIcUhyM011dz09>

Meeting ID: 880 2336 6253

Passcode: 269166

### **Lent Course – Where is God? – Session 3 (B) – Monday 8 March – 7.30pm-9pm**

Steven Poss is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Lent Course - Session 3 (7.30pm-9pm)

Time: Mar 8, 2021 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88458783601?pwd=ODJMeWJKb1U5YVVNUVlzMUtvZ2VTdz09>

Meeting ID: 884 5878 3601

Passcode: 855988

### **St Lawrence Virtual Coffee Meeting**

Steven Poss is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: St Lawrence Virtual Coffee Meeting

Time: Mar 10, 2021 02:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81479156752?pwd=cU1qZkRjWkN6dzV5cytmRStyNUJ0UT09>

Meeting ID: 814 7915 6752

Passcode: 417927

### **Easter Eggs**

This is to let you know that I have ordered 18 (3 boxes) of Easter Eggs, from the Meaningful Chocolate Company, today. As I can't quite remember everyone who has ordered in the past I am sending this to our PCC plus a few others. If you would like

one of these eggs please let me know and I will start a list (first come first serve).

Cheers,

Theresa

To: [tanddreed@gmail.com](mailto:tanddreed@gmail.com)

### **A Foundation Course in Pastoral Care**

Following the success of the last two Resourcing Pastoral Carers course, carried out on zoom, we are arranging another to take place starting on 14<sup>th</sup> April.

Via the online Zoom App.

Tuesdays from 7.00pm to 9.30pm

April 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>

May 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>

June 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>

If you are interested in this course, please contact Revd Steven.

### **Lent Resources for all ages**

Lent is the time in the church year when we being to prepare for Easter. A time to reflect and say sorry. It is often a time when people give things up or take up new things to focus on their commitment to God. We have drawn together a whole selection of resources, books and ideas for people to do at home.

### **A Lent family challenge from Together at Home**

[View the challenge and download](#)

### **Lots of Lent ideas from Flame Creative**

[View ideas from Flame creative](#)

### **Helpful activity ideas on giving, fasting and praying with children**

[View the resource](#)

### **Ideas and resources such as an Easter Countdown calendar from God Venture**

[View and download the resource](#)

**Growing Together Pages are a collection of resources for households (people of all ages) to explore or nurture Christian faith in their own time and at their own pace. The following pages have been written in direct response to the challenges brought by Covid-19. [Click here for more information.](#)**

### **Deanery Verger's Course**

The Deanery is looking to run a course for anyone who is interested in becoming a Verger. A Verger usually assists the Vicar in services such as Funerals and Weddings, meeting and greeting guests and generally assisting that the service runs smoothly. If you are interested in this, please speak to Revd Steven.

**Chelmsford Cathedral** - We're really excited to be launching a new community art project with a group of textile artists,

#### **[The Material Girls](#)**

. Called Good Lament and Hard Hope the project explores the challenges of the pandemic and wants to help enable people to express their grief and hope through hand-made fabric postcards. The postcards will then be used as part of an art installation in the Cathedral in the summer of 2021.

Everyone is invited to get involved and send us their postcards. The Material Girls have made an incredible start already, check out their website helpful tips and inspiration <http://www.the-materialgirls.co.uk/community-project.html>

You can download a how-to make a fabric postcard help sheet from our website, <https://drive.google.com/.../1pXzcyxZjvPqeITsyh92jAK.../view>, and we'll be sharing pictures of the wonderful creations we've already received very soon!

### **The Retreat House, Pleshey**

are running three online retreats exploring how people have seen and found hope in these troubled times, and how this hope may resource ourselves and our communities. Come and share in Good News stories from Church, NHS and parish communities, and see how we are all being called to be part of something new! Find out more and book at <http://ow.ly/f2IL50DnD67>

**Diocesan and Parish Finance**, 16 March, 7.30pm Join Interim Chief Operations Officer, Maureen Cole and our new Finance Director, Michaela Southworth for an overview of diocesan and parish finance. Register [here](#).

**Recordings of our first two Generous God, Generous Disciples webinars can now be** watched [here](#).

**Generous God, Generous Disciples Lent Bible Studies Throughout Lent**, we'll be hosting a series of bible studies on the theme of stewardship and giving as part of Christian discipleship. For further information, please click [here](#).

**Thy Kingdom Come Launch Webinar Tuesday 9 March, 2pm** Join this webinar to find out about plans for this year's Thy Kingdom Come and to hear about the

resources that will be available for children, families and individuals. Find out more [here](#)

### Supporting good mental health resources

The effects of mental health problems are huge, and given the challenging times we are living in with coronavirus, it's more important than ever that we take steps to support good mental health. For more information, click below: -

[Supporting good mental health | The Church of England](#)