240204 The Second Sunday before Lent

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.

Proverbs 8.1, 22-31

The Gifts of Wisdom

8Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?

Wisdom's Part in Creation

- ²² The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago.
- ²³ Ages ago I was set up,

at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

- ²⁴ When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water.
- ²⁵ Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth—
- ²⁶ when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil.
- ²⁷ When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
- when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep,
- ²⁹ when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
- then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight,

rejoicing before him always,

³¹ rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

Psalm 104, 26-37

- There go the ships, and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.
- ²⁷ These all look to you

to give them their food in due season;

- ²⁸ when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.
- ²⁹ When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

- ³⁰ When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.
- ³¹ May the glory of the LORD endure for ever; may the LORD rejoice in his works—
- ³² who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke.
- ³³ I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.
- ³⁴ May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD.
- 35 Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more.Bless the LORD, O my soul.Praise the LORD!

Colossians 1.15-20

The Supremacy of Christ

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

John 1.1-14

The Word Became Flesh

1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Cycle of Prayer

Our bishops:

David, Mark, and Matthew

The Anglican Communion

The Anglican Church of South America

Porvoo Communion

The Church in Wales: Diocese of Bangor;

Church of Ireland: Diocese of Dublin and Glendalough Church of Ireland: Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross;

Schools and Colleges All Saints; St Wilfrid's;

Briscoe Lane Academy; Christ the King; Co-op Academy Broadhurst;

Oldham Blue Coat; Trinity High School;

Hopwood Hall College; St Ambrose College

Parish

Windsor Road, Windsor Street, Winnall Walk, Woodgarth Avenue, Woodhouse Street, Worksleigh Street, Worral Street.

Book of Remembrance

Charlotte Curley, Annie Coyne, George Hunt, Nora Ernest, Elizabeth Dennerly, Ronald Hatch, Ruby Walmsley, Mary Bickerdike, Albert Allen, Frank Norton, Albert Thornton.

Post Communion

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.

240211 The Next Sunday before Lent, Transfiguration Sunday

Collect

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.

2 Kings 2.1-12

Elijah Ascends to Heaven

2Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?' And he said, 'Yes, I know; keep silent.'

4 Elijah said to him, 'Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.' But he said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they came to Jericho. ⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?' And he answered, 'Yes, I know; be silent.'

6 Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.' But he said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' ¹⁰He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.' ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Psalm 50.1-6

A Psalm of Asaph.

- ¹ The mighty one, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- ² Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

Our God comes and does not keep silence, before him is a devouring fire, and a mighty tempest all around him.

⁴ He calls to the heavens above

and to the earth, that he may judge his people:

⁵ 'Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!'

⁶ The heavens declare his righteousness,

for God himself is judge.

Selah

2 Corinthians 4.3-6

³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Mark 9.2-9

The Transfiguration

2 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

The Coming of Elijah

9 As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Our bishops:

David, Mark, and Matthew

The Anglican Communion

The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

Porvoo Communion

The Diocese of Worcester;

Church of Norway: Diocese of Hamar.

Schools and Colleges

All Saints; St Wilfrid's;

Briscoe Lane Academy; Christ the King; Co-op Academy Broadhurst;

Oldham Blue Coat; Trinity High School;

Hopwood Hall College;

St Ambrose College

Parish

Schools, Residential and Care Homes, Care Workers, Factories, Shops, Supermarkets, Undertakers, Security Services, Sports Facilities.

Book of Remembrance

Caroline Thompson, Wilfred Parker, Amy White, Mable Gabbadon, Leonard Kendall, Hannah Woodhead, Joyce Davies, Elsie Corless, Denys Pope, Hilda Kirkham.

Post Communion

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

240114 Ash Wednesday

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Isaiah 58. 1-12

False and True Worship

58Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ² Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practised righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God. ³ 'Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?' Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day, and oppress all your workers. ⁴ Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵ Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

Is not this the fast that I choose:
 to loose the bonds of injustice,
 to undo the thongs of the yoke,
 to let the oppressed go free,
 and to break every yoke?
 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,

and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

8 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rearguard.

9 Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. ¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Psalm 51

Prayer for Cleansing and Pardon

To the leader. A Psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

- Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
- ³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence
- and blameless when you pass judgement.
- ⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

⁶ You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

- wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
- ⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
- ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.
- ¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.
- ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.
- ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.
- Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
 O God of my salvation,
 and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.
- ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.
- ¹⁶ For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt-offering, you would not be pleased.
- ¹⁷ The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
- ¹⁸ Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,

2 Corinthians 5.20b - 6.10

²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

6As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

'At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.'

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

John 8. 1-11

8¹while Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ²Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. ³The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, ⁴they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. ⁵Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' ⁶They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. ⁷When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.' ⁸And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. ¹⁰Jesus straightened up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' ¹¹She said, 'No one, sir.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.']]

Post Communion

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of godly life: give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive these his inestimable gifts, and also daily endeavour to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

240218 The First Sunday of Lent

Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Genesis 9.8 - 17

8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' ¹²God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' ¹⁷God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

Psalm 25. 1 - 9

Prayer for Guidance and for Deliverance

Of David.

- ¹ To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
- O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.
- ³ Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
- ⁴ Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.
- Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.
- ⁶ Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.
- ⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

1 Peter 3.18 - 22

¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Mark 1.9 - 15

The Baptism of Jesus

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

The Temptation of Jesus

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

The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

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.'

Cycle of Prayer

Our bishops:

David, Mark, and Matthew

The Anglican Communion

The Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan

Porvoo Communion

Church of Ireland: Diocese of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark: Diocese of Roskilde

Schools and Colleges

All Saints; St Wilfrid's;

Briscoe Lane Academy; Christ the King; Co-op Academy Broadhurst;

Oldham Blue Coat; Trinity High School;

Hopwood Hall College;

St Ambrose College

⁸ Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

⁹ He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

Parish

Abinger Walk, Acton Avenue, Ainsley Street, Ainthorpe Walk, Albert Gardens, Aldham Avenue.

Book of Remembrance

Alice Dawson, Sydney Jackson, Frank Cartwright, Leslie Wild, Mark Drinkwater, Alice Coates, Alison Cooney, Lily Bateman, Bill Fitton, Mary Wild.

Post Communion

Lord God,
you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven;
by it you nourish our faith,
increase our hope,
and strengthen our love:
teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread,
and enable us to live by every word
that proceeds from out of your mouth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

240225 The Second Sunday of Lent

Collect

ALMIGHTY God, who seest 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 Lord. Amen

Romans 4.13-25

- ¹³For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.
- ¹⁴For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect:
- ¹⁵Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.
- ¹⁶Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,
- ¹⁷(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.
- ¹⁸Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.
- ¹⁹And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:
- ²⁰He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;
- ²¹And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.
- ²²And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.
- ²³Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;
- ²⁴But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;
- ²⁵Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

Mark 8.31-38

- ³¹And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.
- ³²And he spake that saying openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him.
- ³³But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men.
- ³⁴And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.
- ³⁵For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.
- ³⁶For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?
- ³⁷Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?
- ³⁸Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

Our bishops:

David, Mark, and Matthew

The Anglican Communion

The Anglican Church of Tanzania

Porvoo Communion

The Diocese of Peterborough

Church of Ireland: Diocese of Meath and Kildare.

Schools and Colleges

All Saints; St Wilfrid's;

Briscoe Lane Academy; Christ the King; Co-op Academy Broadhurst;

Oldham Blue Coat; Trinity High School;

Hopwood Hall College;

St Ambrose College

Parish

Alminstone Close, Althorpe Walk, Amos Avenue, Ascot Road, Ashfield Drive, Assheton Crescent.

Book of Remembrance

Ernest Cartwright, Lois Bradley, Annie Leary, Lilian Roberts, Ronnie Bettles, Sarah White, Eric Taylor, Lilian Vickers, Clifford Booth, Thomas Dalby, John Mason, Oliver Hartwell, Terrence Melling.