



Benefice of Christ Church and St Mary's, Frome
Diocese of Bath and Wells

Sunday 8th March

Third Sunday of Lent

Collect

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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.

First Reading: Exodus 17.1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord , saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

Psalm 95

1 O come, let us ' sing unto the ' Lord : let us heartily rejoice in the ' strength of ' our sal'vation.

2 Let us come before his ' presence with ' thanksgiving : and shew ourselves ' glad in ' him with ' psalms.

3 For the Lord is a ' great' God : and a great' King above ' all ' gods.

4 In his hand are all the ' corners • of the' earth : and the strength of the ' hills is ' his ' also.

5 The sea is his and ' he ' made it : and his hands pre'pared the ' dry' land.

6 O come, let us worship and ' fall ' down : and kneel be'fore the' Lord our' Maker.

7 For he is the ' Lord our ' God : and we are the people of his pasture, and the ' sheep of ' his ' hand.

8 To-day if ye will hear his voice, harden ' not your ' hearts : as in the provocation, and as in the day of temp'tation ' in the ' wilderness;

9 When your ' fathers ' tempted 'me:' proved me and ' saw my ' works.

10 Forty years long was I grieved with this generation and' said : It is a people that do err in their hearts, for they' have not' known my ' ways;

11 Unto whom I' swear • in my' wrath : that they should not ' enter' into my' rest.

Second Reading: Romans 5.1-11

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.

But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Gospel Reading: John 4.5-42

So Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)

The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.'

The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater

than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?’

Jesus said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.’

The woman said to him, ‘Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.’

Jesus said to her, ‘Go, call your husband, and come back.’

The woman answered him, ‘I have no husband.’

Jesus said to her, ‘You are right in saying, “I have no husband”; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!’

The woman said to him, ‘Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.’

Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.’

The woman said to him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming’ (who is called Christ). ‘When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.’

Jesus said to her, ‘I am he, the one who is speaking to you.’

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, ‘What do you want?’ or, ‘Why are you speaking with her?’ Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city.

She said to the people, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?'

Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.'

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word.

They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayers for those in need: David Fielden, Yvonne Stewart, Aisling, Jane, Wai Ping, Marri Carmichael, Janet Dudley, Jean Gill

RIP: Peter Ives, Pauline Forrester, Jean Norman

Years Mind for March: Elizabeth John, Nora Mitchell, Noreen Spall, Marlen Veale, Jonathan Burgess, Julie Bunce, David Plaskitt, Lily Harrill, Sheila Ball, Garth Burrows, June Lamb, Gordon Jones-Williams, Carole Tassell, Charles Coke, Donald Norman

Today's **Lent Lunch** is after the service. All are very welcome to stay. You are each invited to calculate the cost of your usual Sunday lunch and to make a donation that is (at least) equal to that to Christian Aid. There are envelopes available and also a contactless option. Many thanks for your generosity. Please feel able to make a donation even if you aren't able to stay for soup.

At Christ Church and St. Mary's we are passionate about caring for God's creation. **The Big Plastic Count** begins tomorrow for one week and you are invited to take part. You can do this by registering via the website

<https://thebigplasticcount.com/sign-up>

and then record every piece of plastic that you throw away/recycle in your household for the week. The data you submit will support changes about how plastic is recycled and more importantly to reduce its production. If you would like to let us know that you have taken part, it will help Christ Church as we work towards our gold EcoChurch award.

The instruction sheets are available at the back of church (if you aren't able to print your own)

Unfortunately, the Annual Meeting that was due to happen on March 21st will **not** now take place. This is because the accounts from Christ Church are not yet ready to be examined due to unexpected complexities in moving to a new system. This is understandably disappointing and apologies to those who might have put off more exciting plans for that day. Diary constraints and external hall bookings make it impossible to have a joint meeting on a Saturday. This too is extremely disappointing.

St. Mary's APCM will now be on Sunday April 19th and Christ Church APCM will now be on Sunday May 10th

Both meetings will follow the respective 10.30 service.

Next Sunday (15th) at Holy Trinity at 6.30pm Frome Deanery is hosting a Riding Lights production. Riding Lights is a nationally acclaimed Christian theatre group and they are presenting **Night Falls** which is a modern passion play.. the story of Jesus final days told through the eyes of Lazarus and Jairus' daughter. A great opportunity to view the events of Holy week from a different perspective and also to support the work of Frome Deanery.

Tickets are still available or pay on the door.

Coffee morning at St. Mary's on Saturday 21st 10-12 raising funds to resurface the car park. Everyone welcome.

The week ahead

Wed 11 th	10.00am Holy Communion at St. Mary's
Thurs 12 ^t	4.30pm Prayers for Care Home Ministry Rosetti House
Fri 13 th	4.00pm Scallop Shells Choir at Christ Church
Sat 14 th	9.30am Diocesan Synod at Flourish House

Revd Liz is making a retreat between Monday 9th and Friday 13th. Please keep her in your prayers

Services Next Week: 15th March

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Christ Church

10.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's

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