



The Parish Church of St John the Baptist West Byfleet

The First Sunday of Lent



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Sunday 21st February

Introduction and welcome

Revd Jean Robinson introduces our online 'virtual communion' service for the First Sunday of Lent.

The Greeting

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made

We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Hymn

The kingdom of God is justice and joy

The kingdom of God is justice and joy;
for Jesus restores what sin would destroy.
God's power and glory in Jesus we know,
and here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.

The kingdom of God is mercy and grace;
the captives are freed, the sinners find place,
the outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share,
and hope is awakened in place of despair.

The kingdom of God is challenge and choice:
believe the good news, repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross,
our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.

God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal,
in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole;
the heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call,
and all things cry 'Glory!' to God all in all.

Words: Bryn A Rees (1911-83)

Tune: Hanover; probably by William Croft (1678-1727)

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name:
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,
and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

Silence for reflection.

Almighty God,
our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life

to the glory of your name. Amen.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayer for today

The Collect for the First Sunday of Lent

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.
Amen.

Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 1.9-15

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

A Reflection for today

Music for reflection

Almighty and everlasting God

*Almighty and everlasting God,
Mercifully look upon our infirmities,
And in all our dangers and necessities,
Stretch forth thy right hand to help and defend us,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Words: The Book of Common Prayer

Music: Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God

and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

We believe and trust in one God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

during which the following responsive form is used:

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

The Peace

The peace of the be always with you
And also with you

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.

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.
By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,

he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks
because he was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin.
By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil,
and to live no longer for ourselves alone,
but for him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and *saying*:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;

he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of St John and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us so we pray:

**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.**

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

A prayer to replace Communion

**Jesus, I love you beyond all things,
how I long to receive you with my brothers and sisters
at the table you have prepared,
since I cannot at this moment receive you in bread and wine
in this holy sacrament,
I ask you to feed me with the manna of your Holy Spirit
and nourish me with your holy presence,
I unite myself wholly to you;
never permit me to be separated from your love.
Amen.**

Post Communion prayer

God our Father
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life;
may we thirst for you,
the spring of life and the source of goodness,
through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn

Forty days and forty nights

Forty days and forty nights
thou wast fasting in the wild,
forty days and forty nights
tempted and yet undefiled.

Sunbeams scorching all the day,
chilly dewdrops nightly shed,
prowling beasts about thy way,
stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.

Let us thine endurance share,
and awhile from joys abstain,
with thee watching unto prayer,
strong with thee to suffer pain.

And if Satan, vexing sore,
flesh or spirit should assail,
thou, his vanquisher before,
grant we may not faint nor fail.

So shall we have peace divine,
holier gladness ours shall be,
round us too shall angels shine,
such as ministered to thee.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by thy side;

that with thee we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.

*Words: G H Smyttan (1822-70) & Francis Pott (1832-1909) altd.
Tune: Auf der Tiefe (Heinlein); melody attrib. Martin Herbst (1654-81)*

Notices

Blessing and Dismissal

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

The organ voluntary is the *Fugue in G minor, BWV131a* by J S Bach (1685-1750) – played at St John's by guest organist Mark Cyphus. Unusually for Bach's organ fugues, this is a transcription of the final movement of his early cantata *Aus der Tiefen rufe ich, Herr, zu dir (Out of the depths I call, Lord, to you; Psalm 130)*, rather than an original work for organ.

Coming up soon online....

Next Sunday, 28th February, Keith & Ros lead our online Communion service for The Second Sunday of Lent.

Please join us again for this service!

Also, look out for both a midweek & Friday 'Thought & prayer for the day' - available on Facebook and YouTube.

Contributing to the work of St John's...

Will you support St John's at this difficult time? Like all charities, we've been badly affected by the pandemic, and although we've cut costs where possible, we need to substantially increase our income during this year. Your support enables us to continue our regular online worship, pastoral support, and Christian mission in the community (including connecting through weekly Facebook videos with young families). Online donations can be made via our website homepage (click on 'Give now'). For those receiving the service by CD, alternative means of donating include sending a cheque to the Parish Office, St John's Church, Camphill Road, West Byfleet, Surrey KT14 6EH. Any donations received will be really welcome - thank you.