

St. Christopher's Church, Hinchley Wood

Sunday 6th March 2022 - Lent 1

Welcome to St Christopher's on this the first Sunday in Lent, as we join together in church or online from our homes. Today in our service we recognise with gratitude all that God has given us and commit ourselves afresh to putting God first in our lives.

Please join in with the words in **bold** print.

GATHERING

Lord, direct our thoughts, and teach us to pray.
Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

HYMN (19)

**All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.**

**Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's pow'r, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tow'r.**

**God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.**

**Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.**

CONFESSION

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God,
though we have rebelled against him.
Let us then renounce our wilfulness and ask his mercy
by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:
fill us with your Spirit.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:
fill us with your Spirit.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:
fill us with your Spirit.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

ABSOLUTION

May the God of love
bring *you* back to himself,
forgive *you your* sins,
and assure *you* of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECT

Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

(Deuteronomy 26:1-11)

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

After you have occupied the land that the Lord your God is giving you and have settled there, each of you must place in a basket the first part of each crop that you harvest and you must take it with you to the one place of worship. Go to the priest in charge at that time and say to him, "I now acknowledge to the Lord my God that I have entered the land that he promised our ancestors to give us." The priest will take the basket from you and place it before the altar of the Lord your God. Then, in the Lord's presence you will recite these words:

"My ancestor was a wandering Aramean, who took his family to Egypt to live. They were few in number when they went there, but they became a large and powerful nation. The Egyptians treated us harshly and forced us to work as slaves. Then we cried out for help to the Lord, the God of our ancestors. He heard us and saw our suffering, hardship, and misery. By his great power and strength he rescued us from Egypt. He worked miracles and wonders, and caused terrifying things to happen. He brought us here and gave us this rich and fertile land. So now I bring to the Lord the first part of the harvest that he has given me."

Then set the basket down in the Lord's presence and worship there. Be grateful for the good things that the Lord your God has given you and your family; and let the Levites and the foreigners who live among you join in the celebration.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

HYMN (190)

**Forty days and forty nights
you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted still yet undefiled.**

**Sunbeams scorching all the day,
chilly dew-drops nightly shed,
prowling beasts about your way,
stones your pillow, earth your bed.**

Let us your endurance share,
and from earthly greed abstain,
with you vigilant in prayer,
with you strong to suffer pain.

Then if evil on us press,
flesh or spirit to assail,
Victor in the wilderness,
help us not to swerve or fail.

So shall peace divine be ours;
holy gladness, pure and true:
come to us angelic powers
such as ministered to you.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by your side,
that with Thee we may appear
at th' eternal Eastertide.

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GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
Blessed are those who have endured temptation;
they have stood the test and will receive the crown of life.

GOSPEL (Luke 4: 1-13)

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus returned from the Jordan full of the Holy Spirit and was led by the Spirit into the desert, where he was tempted by the Devil for forty days. In all that time he ate nothing, so that he was hungry when it was over.

The Devil said to him, "If you are God's Son, order this stone to turn into bread." But Jesus answered, "The scripture says, 'Human beings cannot live on bread alone.'" Then the Devil took him up and showed him in a second all the kingdoms of the world. "I will give you all this

power and all this wealth," the Devil told him. "It has all been handed over to me, and I can give it to anyone I choose. All this will be yours, then, if you worship me." Jesus answered, "The scripture says, "Worship the Lord your God and serve only him!" " Then the Devil took him to Jerusalem and set him on the highest point of the Temple, and said to him, "If you are God's Son, throw yourself down from here. For the scripture says, "God will order his angels to take good care of you.' It also says, "They will hold you up with their hands so that not even your feet will be hurt on the stones.' " But Jesus answered, "The scripture says, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

When the Devil finished tempting Jesus in every way, he left him for a while.

This is the Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, O Christ**

TALK

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith
in Jesus Christ the Son of God.
**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name;
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS

Between the prayers we say

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

At the end of the prayers we say

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

THE PEACE

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to his grace.

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

We offer a sign of peace to those around us

HYMN (379)

**Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing ev'ry blessing,
if our God our Father be.**

**Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary,
through the desert thou didst go.**

**Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with ev'ry passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy:**

**thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.**

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

God of our journey,
as we walk with you on your path of obedience,
sustain us on our way and lead us to your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord is here

God's 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 indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days
you lead us into the desert of repentance
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline
we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again.
Through fasting, prayer and acts of service
you bring us back to your generous heart.
Through study of your holy word
you open our eyes to your presence in the world
and free our hands to welcome others
into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast
with joyful hearts and minds
we bless you for your mercy
and join with saints and angels
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.

Christ is the bread of life
**When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
until you come in glory.**

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 one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of [*N 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.**

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

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

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

If you wish to receive Holy Communion, please stand as you are able

The body of Christ
Amen

Holy Communion is distributed to those in the Church

Prayer of Spiritual Communion *(for those worshipping at home)*

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN (81)

**Bread is blessed and broken,
wine is blessed and poured:
take this and remember
Christ the Lord**

**Share the food of heaven
earth cannot afford.
Here is grace in essence –
Christ the Lord.**

**Know yourself forgiven,
find yourself restored,
meet a friend for ever –
Christ the Lord.**

**God has kept his promise
sealed by sign and word:
here, for those who want him –
Christ the Lord.**

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PRAYER AFTER 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.

NOTICES

HYMN (29)

**Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me,
I once was lost, but now I'm found,
was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.**

**Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come.
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**

**The Lord hath promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.**

**When we've been there a thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we first begun.**

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

May God the Father,
who does not despise the broken spirit,
give to you a contrite heart.

Amen.

May Christ,
who bore our sins in his body on the tree,
heal you by his wounds.

Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
who leads us into all truth,
speak to you words of pardon and peace.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and those you love today and always.

Amen.

**We go into the world to walk in God's light,
to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory.**

Amen.

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