

The Bride Valley Service for Sunday 7TH March 2021
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Greeting

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words: their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. *Psalm 19. 1-4*

Hymn:

King of glory, king of peace, I will love thee;
And that love may never cease, I will move thee.
Thou hast granted my request, thou has heard me;
Thou didst note my working breast, thou hast spared me.

Wherefore with my utmost art, I will sing thee,
And the cream of all my heart I will bring thee.
Though my sins against me cried, thou didst clear me,
And alone, when they replied, thou didst hear me.

Sev'n whole days, not one in sev'n, I will praise thee;
In my heart, though not in heav'n, I can raise thee.
Small it is, in this poor sort to enrol thee:
E'en eternity's too short to extol thee.

George Herbert (1593-1633) CCLI Licence Number 2370586

Confession and Forgiveness

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:
The first commandment is this:
'Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind,
And with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'
There is no other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

**Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world,
Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world,
Grant us peace.**

**Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world,
Have mercy on us.**

May Almighty God,
Who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,
Bring you his pardon and his peace, now and forever.
Amen.

Collect: Let us pray

Eternal God give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Readings:

Exodus 20.1-17

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore, the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

John 2:13-22

13 The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.¹⁴ In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables.¹⁵ Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.¹⁶ He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.'¹⁸ The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.'²⁰ The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' ²¹ But he was speaking of the temple of his body.²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Sermon: Bishop Nicholas

Prayers

Let us pray.

God our Father in your love and goodness grant us the help of your Spirit as we bring to you our prayers for the world and the salvation of mankind. You have taught us to overcome our sins with prayer, fasting and generosity, accept our Lenten disciplines and when we fall by our weakness raise us up by your unfailing mercy.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for the government of the world and all the world leaders, that they may uphold what is right for peaceful union between all countries. During this period of Lent, give us an awareness of your unique sacrifice on our behalf and teach us to be humble in acknowledging that all our gifts come from you for the service of people and the spread of your Kingdom. May you live in us so that in all our small acts of sacrifice the light of your resurrection may shine through and give them meaning.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Heavenly Father, we thank you for our neighbours, our friends and for the people around us with whom we work and share our daily lives. We pray for those who are old and lonely, those isolated because of the current pandemic. Show us all what we can do to help and teach us to be good neighbours and true friends. We thank you, O Father, for all the joys and blessings of family life. We pray and think of those for those who are subjected to abuse and live in constant fear. Strengthen the determination of all who seek to help them and make peace rule in their homes.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We thank you Father for your many miracles of healing, and we pray for all who administer to the sick and infirm. We bring before you in a moment of quietness those we know or love who are ill or in need at this time, and we name them in our hearts...

We pray that your blessing be upon them and those who love and care for them and we pray that they may find encouragement and peace, that their sorrows and concerns be transformed into comfort and their loneliness into relationship with you.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Almighty Father, be with all those who are grieving today over the loss of a loved one. May their sorrow be lit with the brightness of the Resurrection. Jesus is the light of the world, a light which not even the darkness of death can quench.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

God our Father as we prepare for the week ahead, be especially close to each one of us, fill us with the knowledge that with you in our hearts, there is no greater force.

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

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Final Prayer and Blessing

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 remain with you and all those you love, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sources: This service was adapted from New Patterns of Worship, copyright the Archbishop's Council, second edition 2008 with prayers adapted from John Pritchard.

PEOPLE ARE OFTEN UNREASONABLE,
IRRATIONAL, AND SELF-CENTERED.
FORGIVE THEM ANYWAY.
IF YOU ARE KIND, PEOPLE MAY ACCUSE
YOU OF SELFISH, ULTERIOR MOTIVES.
BE KIND ANYWAY.
IF YOU ARE SUCCESSFUL, YOU WILL WIN SOME
UNFAITHFUL FRIENDS AND SOME GENUINE ENEMIES.
SUCCEED ANYWAY.
IF YOU ARE HONEST AND SINCERE PEOPLE MAY DECEIVE YOU.
BE HONEST AND SINCERE ANYWAY.
WHAT YOU SPEND YEARS CREATING, OTHERS COULD DESTROY OVERNIGHT.
CREATE ANYWAY.
IF YOU FIND SERENITY AND HAPPINESS, SOME MAY BE JEALOUS.
BE HAPPY ANYWAY.
THE GOOD YOU DO TODAY, WILL OFTEN BE FORGOTTEN.
DO GOOD ANYWAY.
GIVE THE BEST YOU HAVE, AND
IT WILL NEVER BE ENOUGH.
GIVE YOUR BEST ANYWAY.
IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, IT
IS BETWEEN YOU AND GOD.
**IT WAS NEVER BETWEEN
YOU AND THEM ANYWAY.**
MOTHER TERESA