

WORSHIP - 1st SUNDAY OF LENT - 21 FEBRUARY 2021

Today we have no physical services in our churches, but we still meet on Zoom at 11.30 - the link is on the website. This is the Order of Service that is based on the Zoom service.

Hymn - Forty days and forty nights - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5Nq4YXlcX8>

Grace, mercy and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, be with you. **And also with you.**

**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.**

The Summary of the Law

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.

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.

**Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought and word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbour as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

The Kyrie – Mass of St Thomas, *David Thorne* - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ns-1y2agLOs>
Lord, have mercy. Christ, 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.**

The 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. Amen.**

Old Testament reading - Genesis 9.8-17 - *is printed on the blue noticessheet*

Hymn - Lord Jesus, think on me - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NqQ11POIZwA>

Gospel - Mark 1.9-15- is printed on the blue noticessheet

Address - my sermon (and one from Clive) are on the website

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Anthem – Drop, drop, slow tears – Orlando Gibbons - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQaLMoPGJzk>
words by Phineas Fletcher, sung by Voces 8

Drop, drop, slow tears,
and bathe those beauteous feet
which brought from heaven
the news and Prince of Peace:

Cease not, wet eyes,
his mercy to entreat;
to cry for vengeance
sin doth never cease.

In your deep floods
drown all my faults and fears;
nor let His eye
see sin, but through my tears.

Prayers of Intercession

Lord God, thank you for the gift of this season of Lent. Thank you for knowing our hearts and our need for rhythms in our lives, and for drawing us into a deeper communion with you throughout the coming 40 days. We are finding it tough not being able to worship and sing in our church buildings, and we ask Lord for your strength and your love.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, it can be disheartening to remind ourselves that we all come from dust, and to dust we shall return, indeed this year it is even more painful than normal. Yet we know that there is more to our stories. We know that you created man and woman from the dust at the very beginning of time and that you breathed life into them to transform them into living creatures. We know that you made a covenant with Noah, with Abraham, with Moses, with David, that you journeyed with your people. We know you are in the business of resurrection - your very Son went to the cross to show us that no death is final and that ultimate

transformation comes through your gift of salvation. Though we are made from dust, and our bodies will return to dust again, we can live in eternal glory with you through the blood of your Son.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for this dark world. We give thanks for the vaccination programme, we give thanks that numbers of infections seem to be decreasing. And yet, we know that pain and suffering, disease and death, are a reality for so many – and the numbers of those who have died are unimaginable, and each number is a person, loved and cherished. We pray for those who continue to give so much, to work so hard, to face so much suffering – Lord, strengthen them we ask. We pray for those who cope with their illness, and the illness of those they love. For all who cannot hold hands, share a hug, kiss their beloved. We name before you people for whom we are especially concerned.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the life of the church. May we walk through this season intentionally, removing distractions that take our gaze away from your glory. May we quiet the noise that pulls us from adoration of you and puts our attention on lesser things. May we simplify where we have been stressed, may we surrender what has been burdensome, may we repent of what has been sinful. Every Lent we share Lent Lunches with our friends from Allestree Churches Together – we pray for each other, for our churches, for those in Nagpur, the communities we support. Help us, Lord, to see how our links go forward.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

May we see your goodness and your glory in new ways throughout this season of Lent. We pray for our homes, our families and friends – for those we miss so much. We thank you for the ways we are able to keep in touch, and ask that, as the days grow longer, we might rejoice in this Spring. As we all journey to Easter, may we know the depths of your love for us more fully. May we feel the pain you endured for our sake, Jesus, and may we rejoice that you conquered every bit of evil when you rose to life again.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We give thanks that Lent leads to Easter. We pray for those who have died, those we miss so much. Lord, we thank you for the glimpses of glory you give us in this life, for your friendship and your promise to be with us always. We bring our prayers together as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:

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.

Hymn - Christ be our light - the hymn by Bernadette Farrell. Here it is with photos from Canada

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JhQ0_XMUtvQ

The Blessing

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.

Final music - Nimrod, from The Enigma Variations, Edward Elgar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2E8qcKcgAU>