

*The Benefice of St Mary the Virgin,  
Higham Ferrers with St John the Baptist,  
Chelveston-cum-Caldecott*

## **Lent 2021**



## **First Sunday in Lent**

**21<sup>st</sup> February 2021**

*‘The Kingdom of God has come near’*

# Welcome to this Online Service



Jesus says to us ‘Come to me – follow me’ and following Jesus, as those first disciples discovered, means walking the way of Jesus, ultimately of course, the way of the cross.

On the first Sunday in Lent, we hear the ending of the story of Noah and the Ark, and the beginning of the story of Jesus’ ministry, as he spends time apart in the desert. These two stories are intrinsically linked – the promise of the rainbow is fulfilled by the cross and both the of those are actually beginnings, not endings.

We stand at the beginning of Lent, and in sight of the ending, we hope, of the strictest part of lockdown and restrictions. What will we learn on this Lent’s journey? Similar to last year in many ways, but this year, a time perhaps to reflect on all that has been changed, given up, even lost, as a result of the last year? What new beginnings are already happening around us, and where are the shoots of new life?

*Many thanks to all assisting with this Service today.*

# **The Gathering**

## **The Greeting - Paul**

We meet 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.**

## **Call to Worship - Michelle**

○ Lord, open our lips  
**and our mouth shall declare your praise**

○ Lord, open our eyes  
**that we may behold your  
presence**

○ Lord, open our ears  
**that we may hear your call**

○ Lord, open our hearts  
**that we may respond to your  
love**

○ Lord, open our lives  
**that we may rejoice in your creation.**



*We sing together*

## **Hymn**

**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 dew-drops nightly shed;  
prowling beasts about thy way;  
stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.**

**Shall not we thy sorrows share,  
and from earthly joys abstain,  
fasting with unceasing prayer,  
glad 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: George Hunt Smyttan (1822-1870)*

*Music: Melody by 'M.H.' in Nürnbergisches Gesangbuch, 1676,  
possibly by Martin Herbst (1654-1681)*

## ***Prayers of Confession – Linda***

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.**

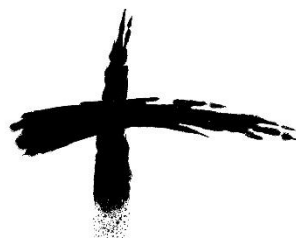
We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:  
fill us with your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

## ***Absolution – Paul***

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.**



## **Kyrie**

*from Mass for Five Voices, William Byrd (1543-1623)  
sung by The Tallis Scholars*

<i>Kyrie eleison</i>	<i>Lord, have mercy</i>
<i>Christe eleison</i>	<i>Christ, have mercy</i>
<i>Kyrie eleison</i>	<i>Lord, have mercy</i>

## **The Collect - Brenda**

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.**



## ***The Liturgy of The Word***

### ***First Reading – Genesis 9:8-17- read by Karen Holmes***

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ‘As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.’ God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.’ God said to Noah, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.’

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



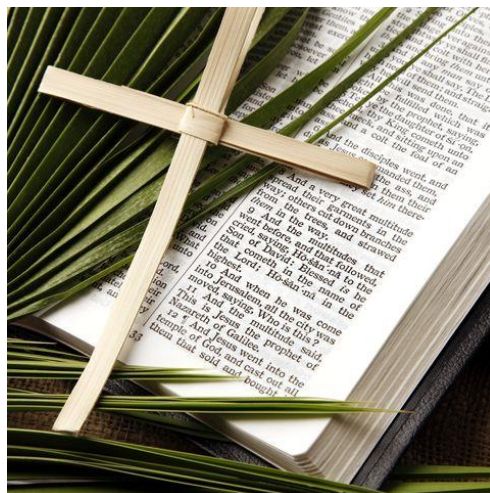
**Gospel Acclamation – all join in singing:**

**Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour,  
Word of the Father, calling us to life;  
Son of God who leads us to freedom:  
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

You are the Word who calls us out of darkness;  
You are the Word who leads us into light;  
You are the Word who brings us through the desert:  
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour,  
Word of the Father, calling us to life;  
Son of God who leads us to freedom:  
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

Words & Music: Bernadette Farrell (b.1957)





**Gospel** – Mark 1:9-15 – *read by Lesley*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**



## **Hymn**

**From ashes to the living font  
your Church must journey, Lord,  
Baptised in grace, in grace renewed  
By your most holy word.**

**Through fasting, prayer, and charity,  
Your voice speaks deep within,  
Returning us to ways of truth  
and turning us from sin.**

**From desert to the mountaintop  
in Christ our way we see,  
so, tempered by temptation's might  
we might transfigured be.**

**For thirsting hearts let waters flow  
Our fainting souls revive;  
And at the well your waters give  
Our everlasting life.**

**From ashes to the living font  
your Church must journey still,  
Through cross and tomb to Easter joy,  
in Spirit-fire fulfilled.**

*Text: Alan J. Hommerding, b. 1956;*

## **Reflection – Michelle**



## **Song**

***As the deer longs for running streams,  
so I long, so I long, so I long for you.***

**Athirst my soul for you, the God who is my life!  
When shall I see, when shall I see,  
see the face of God?**

**Echoes meet as deep is calling unto deep,  
over my head, all your mighty waters,  
sweeping over me.**

**Continually the foe delights in taunting me:  
'Where is God, where is your God?'  
Where, oh where are you?**

**Defend me, God;  
send forth your light and your truth.  
They will lead me to your holy mountain,  
to your dwelling place.**

**Then I shall go unto the altar of my God.  
Praising you, O my joy and gladness,  
I shall praise your name.**

*Words & Music: Bob Hurd (b.1950) based on Psalms 42,43*



## **Prayers** - led by Keith & Jo Green

With confidence and trust let us pray to the Lord,  
that we may walk in his way.

Lord our God,  
as we are baptised in your Name,  
protect us from all evil  
and deliver us from all temptation.  
May we use this Lent as a time of dedication and renewal,  
of refreshment and new beginnings.

Lord of compassion,  
**in your mercy hear us.**



Lord our God,  
may your church stand against evil and seek good,  
and in faithful witness,  
preach the gospel to the ends of the earth,  
We pray for those who have lost faith,  
who find it hard to worship or pray in Lockdown.

Lord of compassion,  
**in your mercy hear us.**

Lord our God,  
we pray for those who have become  
possessed by greed or selfishness.  
We remember the exploited peoples of the world,  
and pray for those nations living under oppression or fear.

Lord of compassion,  
**in your mercy hear us.**



Lord our God,  
bring peace into the lives of those who are anxious,  
and comfort to all who suffer, in body, mind or spirit.  
We pray for all who care for others,  
at home, in care homes and in hospices and hospitals.

Lord of compassion,  
**in your mercy hear us.**

Lord our God,  
we give you thanks and praise  
for all who have triumphed over evil and temptation  
and who are now with you in the peace of your kingdom.  
Give us grace to amend our lives  
that at the last we may share with them in glory.

Lord of compassion,  
**in your mercy hear us.**



Most holy Lord, you were tempted as we are;  
be our strength in times of weakness.  
When we fall, lift us up,  
when we are in error, direct us.  
In all our wanderings be our guide;  
that we may be your faithful people  
to our life's end.  
**Amen.**

## ***The Lord's Prayer***

Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

## **Anthem –**

*Sung by the St Martin's Singers*

*O for a closer walk with God,  
a calm and heavenly frame;  
a light to shine upon the road  
that leads me to the Lamb.*

*Return, O holy Dove, return, sweet messenger of rest,  
I hate the sins that made thee mourn and drove thee from my breast.*

*The dearest idol I have known, whatever that idol be,  
help me to tear it from thy throne, and worship only thee.*

*So shall my walk be close with God, calm and serene my frame,  
so purer light shall mark the road, that leads me to the Lamb.*

*Words: William Cowper (1731-1800) Music: Grayston Ives (b.1948)*

## **The Peace - Linda**

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

*Romans 5.1,2*

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

*We offer each other peace.*





## ***Final Prayer - Brenda***

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.**



## ***Hymn***

**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 every 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 every passion blending,  
pleasure that can never cloy:  
thus provided, pardoned, guided,  
nothing can our peace destroy.**

*words: James Edmeston (1791-1867)*

*music: MANNHEIM Melody from Friedrich Filitz 'Choralbuch' (1847)*



## ***Blessing - Paul***

God,  
who from the death of sin raised you to new life in Christ,  
keep you from falling and set you in the presence of his glory;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

## ***Final Responsory - Michelle***

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;  
**O my God, in you I trust.**

You are the God of my salvation;  
**To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**

In you I hope all the day long.  
**O my God, in you I trust.**

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.  
**To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;  
O my God, in you I trust.**



## ***Music at the end:***

*Adagio from Concierto de Aranjuez, Joaquin Rodrigo*

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