



**14<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

## **Sunday next before Lent**

*Our Celebrant is Revd Simon Foster.  
Our Preacher is Revd Chidi Mbanude.*

### **¶ Welcome and Introduction**

#### **♪ Hymn ♪**

When morning gilds the skies  
my heart awaking cries,  
may Jesus Christ be praised:  
alike at work and prayer  
to Jesus I repair;  
may Jesus Christ be praised.

Whene'er the sweet church bell  
peals over hill and dell,  
may Jesus Christ be praised:  
O hark to what it sings,  
as joyously it rings,  
may Jesus Christ be praised.

My tongue shall never tire  
of chanting with the choir,  
may Jesus Christ be praised:  
this song of sacred joy,  
it never seems to cloy,  
may Jesus Christ be praised.

Does sadness fill my mind?  
A solace here I find,

may Jesus Christ be praised:  
or fades my earthly bliss?  
My comfort still is this,  
may Jesus Christ be praised.

Be this, while life is mine,  
my canticle divine:  
may Jesus Christ be praised:  
be this the eternal song  
through ages all along:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!

*Beim frühen Morgenlicht (German, 19th century or earlier) translated by Edward Caswall (1814-1878)*

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 Confession and Absolution**

#### **Invitation to confession**

God so loved the world  
that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ  
to save us from our sins,  
to be our advocate in heaven,  
and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and  
faith, firmly resolved to keep God's  
commandments and to live in love and  
peace with all.

**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.**

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.

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you,  
we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,  
only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand**

**of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

## **The Collect**

*A period of silent prayer*

Holy God, you know the disorder of our  
sinful lives:  
set straight our crooked hearts,  
and bend our wills to love your  
goodness and your glory  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## **¶ The Liturgy of the Word**

Let us prepare ourselves for the Word  
of God as it comes to us in the reading  
of Holy Scripture.

**Our hearts and minds are open.**

## **First Reading**

*2 Kings 2.1-12*

When the LORD was about to take  
Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah  
and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.  
<sup>2</sup>Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the  
LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.' But  
Elisha said, 'As the LORD lives, and as  
you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So  
they went down to Bethel. <sup>3</sup>The  
company of prophets who were in  
Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to  
him, 'Do you know that today the LORD  
will take your master away from you?'  
And he said, 'Yes, I know; keep silent.'

<sup>4</sup>Elijah said to him, 'Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.' But he said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they came to Jericho. <sup>5</sup>The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?' And he answered, 'Yes, I know; be silent.'

<sup>6</sup>Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.' But he said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on. <sup>7</sup>Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup>Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

<sup>9</sup>When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' <sup>10</sup>He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.' <sup>11</sup>As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup>Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

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

## Second Reading

*2 Corinthians 4.3-6*

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup>For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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

### ♪ Hymn ♪

Amazing grace (how sweet the  
sound)  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am  
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 has brought me safe  
thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

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

Amazing grace (how sweet the  
sound)  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am  
found;  
was blind, but now I see.

*John Newton (1725-1807)*

## The Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**  
I am the light of the world, says the Lord.  
Whoever follows me will never walk in  
darkness but will have  
the light of life.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

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

*Mark 9.2-9*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and  
John, and led them up a high mountain  
apart, by themselves. And he was  
transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup>and his  
clothes became dazzling white, such as  
no one on earth could bleach them.  
<sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with  
Moses, who were talking with Jesus.  
<sup>5</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is  
good for us to be here; let us make  
three dwellings, one for you, one for  
Moses, and one for Elijah.' <sup>6</sup>He did not  
know what to say, for they were  
terrified. <sup>7</sup>Then a cloud overshadowed

them, and from the cloud there came a  
voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen  
to him!' <sup>8</sup>Suddenly when they looked  
around, they saw no one with them any  
more, but only Jesus.

<sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the  
mountain, he ordered them to tell no  
one about what they had seen, until after  
the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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

## The Sermon

### 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.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*To the words*  
Lord, in your mercy,

*We respond*  
**hear our prayer.**

*After the final prayer we say:*  
Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers for the sake of  
your Son, our Saviour,  
Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

## **¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

### **The Peace**

Christ is our peace.  
He has reconciled us to God  
in one body by the cross.  
We meet in his name and share his  
peace.

*cf Ephesians 2.15,16*

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

### **♪ Hymn ♪**

When I needed a neighbour,  
were you there, were you there?  
when I needed a neighbour,  
were you there?

*And the creed and the colour  
and the name won't matter,  
were you there?*

I was hungry and thirsty,  
were you there, were you there?  
I was hungry and thirsty,  
were you there?

I was cold, I was naked,  
were you there, were you there?  
I was cold, I was naked,  
were you there?

When I needed a shelter,  
were you there, were you there?  
when I needed a shelter,  
were you there?

When I needed a healer,  
were you there, were you there?  
when I needed a healer,  
were you there?

Wherever you travel,  
I'll be there, I'll be there,  
wherever you travel I'll be there.  
and the creed and the colour and the  
name won't matter,  
I'll be there.

*Sydney Carter (1915-2004) © 1965 Stainer & Bell,  
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## The Eucharistic Prayer (G)

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.**

Blessed are you, Lord God,  
our light and our salvation;  
to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the beginning you have created all  
things and all your works echo the silent  
music of your praise.

In the fullness of time you made us  
in your image,  
the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech, that with  
angels and archangels  
and all the powers of heaven  
we may find a voice to sing your praise:

**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.**

How wonderful the work of your hands,  
O Lord.

As a mother tenderly gathers her  
children, you embraced a people as your  
own.

When they turned away and rebelled  
your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our  
Saviour, born of Mary,  
to be the living bread,  
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners,  
and with a love stronger than death  
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,  
he came to supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.  
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is  
given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of  
wine, he gave you thanks, and said:  
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.**

Father, we plead with confidence  
his sacrifice made once for all upon  
the cross;  
we remember his dying and rising in  
glory, and we rejoice that he intercedes  
for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring  
before you these gifts of your creation;  
may they be for us the body and blood  
of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in  
your presence, form us in the likeness of  
Christ, and build us into a living temple  
to your glory.

Bring us at the last with St Matthew and  
all the saints to the vision of that eternal  
splendour for which you have created us;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
by whom, with whom, and in whom,  
with all who stand before you in earth

and heaven, we worship you, Father  
almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory  
and power be yours  
for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

We praise the Father,  
and pray in the words of Christ himself.

**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.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

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.**

## **Agnus Dei**

**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,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

## **Giving of Communion**

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.**

## **♪ Song ♪**

I love you, Lord,  
and I lift my voice  
to worship You,  
O my soul, rejoice.

Take joy, my King,  
in what You hear,  
let it be a sweet, sweet sound  
in Your ear.

*Laurie Klein (b. 1950)*

## **Prayer after Communion**

*Silence is kept.*

Holy God, we see your glory in the face  
of Jesus Christ:

may we who are partakers at his table  
reflect his life in word and deed,  
that all the world may know his power  
to change and save.

This we ask through Jesus Christ  
our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Father of all,  
we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and  
brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your**

love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.

May we who share Christ's body

live his risen life;

we who drink his cup bring life

to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.

Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,

so we and all your children shall be

free, and the whole earth live to praise your name;

through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

♪ Song ♪

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'...

We are marching in the light of God,

we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching in the light of God,

we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, oh

we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching oh,

we are marching in the light of God.

v.1 Anders Nyberg (b.1955) vv. 2,3 Andrew Maries (b.1949)

Words from *Freedom Is Coming*, 1990. © 1990, WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow, G2 3DH, Scotland. [www.wrg.co.uk](http://www.wrg.co.uk).

## ¶ The Dismissal

### Blessing

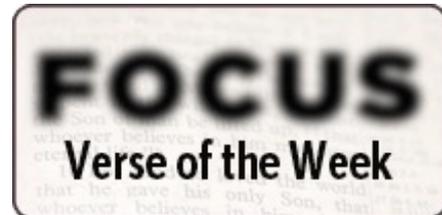
The peace of God,  
which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds  
in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;  
and the blessing of God almighty, the  
Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be  
upon you and remain with you, and all  
those whom you love and all those for

whom you pray this day and  
for evermore.

Amen.

May we remain in the love and peace of  
Christ.

Thanks be to God.



It is God who said, 'Let light shine out of  
darkness,' who has shone in our hearts  
to give the light of the knowledge of the  
glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

*2 Corinthians 4.6*

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