

# Sunday Worship for 28 February 2021

## The Second Sunday of Lent

### HYMN

Take up thy cross

*Sung by St Martin's Voices*

Take up thy cross, the Saviour said,  
if thou wouldst my disciple be;  
deny thyself, the world forsake,  
and humbly follow after me.

Take up thy cross—let not its weight  
fill thy weak spirit with alarm:  
his strength shall bear thy spirit up,  
and brace thy heart, and nerve thine arm.

Take up thy cross then in his strength,  
and calmly every danger brave;  
'twill guide thee to a better home,  
and lead to victory o'er the grave.

Take up thy cross, and follow Christ,  
nor think till death to lay it down;  
for only he who bears the cross  
may hope to wear the glorious crown.

To thee, great Lord, the One in Three,  
all praise for evermore ascend:  
O grant us in our home to see  
the heavenly life that knows no end.

*Words: Charles William Everest (1814-1877)*

*Tune: Breslau*

### WELCOME

*The Archbishop of Canterbury says*

Welcome in the name of Christ. God's grace, mercy and peace be with you.

It's good to be with you this morning as we continue our journey through Lent. People often talk about giving something up for Lent, but in one of today's readings from the Bible, Jesus tells us that if we want to follow him, we need to take up our cross. We'll think about what this means for each one of us.

I'm joined today by Hannah Steele, Director of St. Mellitus College London, who has written a book about sharing God's love with others. It's called *Living His Story*. I'm also joined by Stephen Hance, National Lead for Evangelism and Witness for the Church of England, who will lead us in prayer.

*The Archbishop says*

We begin by admitting before God and each other that we have not always lived up to the standards that God asks of us, and asking for God's forgiveness.. When I say, 'Lord, have mercy' or 'Christ, have mercy', I invite you to say it after me.

*A brief silence is kept.*

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:

fill us with your Spirit.  
Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:

fill us with your Spirit.  
Christ, have mercy.

**All Christ, have mercy.**

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:

fill us with your Spirit.  
Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

May Almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Read by Lori Cook, Community of St Anselm, Integrated Member*

*A reader says*

A reading from the book of Genesis. (17.1-7,15-16)

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.'

Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations.

I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

### **ANTHEM**

O for a closer walk with God

*Sung by St Martin's Voices*

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*

### **GOSPEL READING**

*Read by Bornface Otengo, Community of St Anselm, Immersive Member*

*Archbishop Justin says*

We will now hear today's Gospel reading read by Bonny, and then Hannah Steele will preach for us.

*The gospeller says*

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark. (8.31-end)

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

This is the word of the Lord.

## **SERMON**

*The Rev Dr Hannah Steele, Director of St. Mellitus College London*

## **SONG**

*The cross stands above it all*

*Sung by Geraldine Latty with Carey Luce (piano)*

Beyond this lifetime  
Beyond this darkness there's light  
Your cross is shining  
So people open your eyes

The cross stands above it all  
Burning bright in this life  
The cross towers over it all  
One hope, one Deliverer  
Saviour reigning high above it all  
Above it all

These chains are breaking  
Your love is shaking us free  
A great awakening  
The world will finally see

That the cross stands above it all  
Burning bright in this life  
The cross towers over it all  
One hope, one Deliverer  
Saviour reigning high above it all  
Above it all

Christ has overcome  
It is finished, He has won  
Christ has overcome  
We're standing strong

The cross stands above it all  
In the waiting days.

The cross stands above it all  
In uncertain times.

The cross towers over it all  
The cross stands above it all

*Tim Hughes, Nick Herbert, Ben Cantelon and Matt Redman © 2013 Thankyou Music/Worshiptogether.com  
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*A moment of silence. Then Archbishop Justin says*

Reflecting on these words, let us declare our faith in God.

**All     We believe in God the Father,  
          from whom every family  
          in heaven and on earth is named.  
          We believe in God the Son,  
          who lives in our hearts through faith,  
          and fills us with his love.  
          We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
          who strengthens us  
          with power from on high.  
          We believe in one God;  
          Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
          Amen.**

*The Archbishop says*

Stephen Hance will now lead us in prayer.

## INTERCESSIONS

*Led by Rev Dr Stephen Hance, National Lead for Evangelism and Witness*

Today, we're going to pray for some people and situations needing God's loving care.

If you have a piece of paper to hand, please draw two lines, one top to bottom, one left to right, to create four squares to write in.

When I say, "Lord in your mercy", would you respond "Hear our prayer".

In the top left square, I invite you to write down something you're grateful for. Perhaps the love of family and friends, your health, or anything you like.

Loving God, thank you for all the good things I experience in my life.

Help me always to remember to be grateful.

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

In the top right square, I invite you to write down one of your own needs that you want to bring to God. It could be a grief you carry, or something you're worried about, big or small.

Lord, you know all our needs.

Please help us with these concerns we bring to you today.

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

In the bottom left square, I invite you to write down something you'd like to pray for in our nation. Perhaps remembering our NHS staff, our teachers or our leaders.

God of the nations, show your mercy to our nation now,

and bless those who serve us.

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

Finally, in the bottom right square, I invite you to write down the names of people who need to know God's love at this time, perhaps someone who is unwell, or bereaved, or someone who needs hope or to hear the Good News.

Lord Jesus, you healed the sick and cared for the hurting.

Be with these people we bring before you now.

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

Thank you Lord that you hear all these prayers,  
which we make in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

Perhaps keep that piece of paper and add to it over the next few days, bringing all these needs to God in prayer. Each time you use it, or add to it, pray: 'Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.'

*Background music during prayers:  
'I heard the voice of Jesus say', played by Michael Cayton*

### *Archbishop Justin prays*

We gather together our prayers, asking that we may be drawn more and more into the life, death, and rising of Jesus, discovering what he calls us to do to respond to him.

Almighty God,  
by the prayer and discipline of Lent  
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,  
and by following in his Way  
come to share in his glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

I invite you all to join in the prayer that Jesus himself gave us in whichever version or language you prefer

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

## BLESSING

*Archbishop Justin says*

And now, to end our service, I shall invite God's blessing on us all.

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 amongst you and remain with you,  
and those for whom you love and pray,  
today and always.

All     Amen.

## HYMN

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

*Sung by St Martin's Voices*

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;  
self denying, death defying,  
thou to Calvary 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)*

*Tune: Manheim*



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Service led by The Most Rev and Rt Hon Justin Welby Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury.*

*With thanks to Rev Dr Stephen Hance, National Lead for Evangelism and Witness, and Rev Dr Hannah Steele, Director of St. Mellitus College London. Bornface Otengo, Community of St Anselm, Immersive Member Lori Cook, Community of St Anselm, Integrated Member.*

*Music Performed by the St Martin's Voices and Geraldine Latty with Carey Luce (piano).*

*BSL Interpretation by Esther Rose Bevan.*

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