

Sunday Worship for 7 March 2021

The Third Sunday of Lent

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Rev Canon Chris Russell, Archbishop of Canterbury's Adviser for Evangelism & Witness

The president says

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

SONG

10,000 Reasons

Performed by Matt Redman

The sun comes up
It's a new day dawning
It's time to sing your song again
Whatever may pass
And whatever lies before me
Let me be singing
When the evening comes

Bless the Lord oh my soul
Oh my soul
Worship his Holy name
Sing like never before
Oh my soul
I'll worship your Holy name

You're rich in love
And you're slow to anger
Your name is great
And your heart is kind
For all your goodness
I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons
For my heart to find

Bless the Lord oh my soul
Oh my soul
Worship his Holy name
Sing like never before
Oh my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name

And on that day
When my strength is failing
The end draws near
And my time has come
Still my soul
Sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years
And then forevermore
Forevermore

Bless the Lord oh my soul
Oh my soul
Worship his Holy name
Sing like never before
Oh my soul
I'll worship your Holy name

Bless the Lord oh my soul
Oh my soul
Worship his Holy name
Sing like never before
Oh my soul
I'll worship your Holy name
Forevermore
I'll worship Your Holy name
Yes I'll worship Your Holy name

Words and Music: Matt Redman

GOSPEL READING

Read by Sherlon Bartenbach

A reading from the Gospel according to John. (2.13-22)

When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me."

The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

REFLECTION

Given by Sherlon Bartenbach

PRAYERS

Led by Lyndall Bywater and Primrose Northrop

PSALM

Psalm 19

Sung by St Martin's Voices, directed by Andrew Earis

- 1 The heavens are telling the glory of God
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
- 2 One day pours out its song to another
and one night unfolds knowledge to another.
- 3 They have neither speech nor language
and their voices are not heard,
- 4 Yet their sound has gone out into all lands
and their words to the ends of the world.
- 5 In them has he set a tabernacle for the sun,
that comes forth as a bridegroom out of his chamber
and rejoices as a champion to run his course.
- 6 It goes forth from the end of the heavens
and runs to the very end again,
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.
- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure
and gives wisdom to the simple.
- 8 The statutes of the Lord are right and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is pure
and gives light to the eyes.
- 9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever;
the judgements of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold,
sweeter also than honey,
dripping from the honeycomb.

11 By them also is your servant taught
and in keeping them there is great reward.

12 Who can tell how often they offend
O cleanse me from my secret faults!

13 Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins
lest they get dominion over me;
so shall I be undefiled,
and innocent of great offence.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

Glory to the Father and to the Son,
And to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning is now,
And shall be forever.
Amen.

SERMON

Rev Canon Chris Russell, Archbishop of Canterbury's Adviser for Evangelism & Witness

DECLARATION OF FAITH

Led by the community of St Anselm

Let us declare our faith in God.

All I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

The president says

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.

Silence is kept.

God of mercy,
**All we acknowledge that we are all sinners.
We turn from the wrong that we have thought and said and done,
and are mindful of all that we have failed to do.
For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,
forgive us for all that is past,
and help us to live each day
in the light of Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

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

All Amen.

SONG

Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Sung by Lucy Grimble

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Nothing but the blood of Jesus!
Nothing but the blood,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!
Nothing but the blood.

Words and Music: Robert Lowry

PRAYERS

Led by Lyndall and Primrose

We're going to reflect and pray some more around the idea of Jesus coming to change things, to show us new ways and to give us new hope. And I invite you to grab a pen and paper, because we're going to do some of our praying through drawing and writing.

POEM

The cleansing of the temple

By Malcolm Guite

*Come to your Temple here with liberation
And overturn these tables of exchange
Restore in me my lost imagination
Begin in me for good, the pure change.
Come as you came, an infant with your mother,
That innocence may cleanse and claim this ground
Come as you came, a boy who sought his father
With questions asked and certain answers found,
Come as you came this day, a man in anger
Unleash the lash that drives a pathway through
Face down for me the fear the shame the danger
Teach me again to whom my love is due.
Break down in me the barricades of death
And tear the veil in two with your last breath.*

Jesus, in you there is freedom. No matter what has bound us in the past; no matter how our life choices have left us stuck, you come to overturn, to clear out and to make anew. Forgive us our tendency to consume instead of worship; to shop instead of pray; to acquire stuff instead of seeking you. Help us to let go of the things that hold us, things we use to anaesthetise pain, to assuage our boredom, to make us feel more secure and help us to let you in. You who love us so much that you chase out what stops us receiving your love in the deepest parts of ourselves. Come in and set us free.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All 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.

COLLECT

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
grant mercifully that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
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.

All Amen

BLESSING

Rev Canon Chris Russell

May 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 with you, and those you love and for whom you pray,
this day and always.

All Amen.

HYMN

Father hear the prayer we offer

Sung by St Martin's Voices

Father, hear the prayer we offer:
not for ease that prayer shall be,
but for strength that we may ever
live our lives courageously.

Not for ever in green pastures
do we ask our way to be;
but the steep and rugged pathway
may we tread rejoicingly.

Not for ever by still waters
would we idly rest and stay;
but would smite the living fountains
from the rocks along our way.

Be our strength in hours of weakness,
in our wanderings be our guide;
through endeavour, failure, danger,
Father, be thou at our side.

*Words: Love Maria Willis (née Whitcomb) (1824-1908),
Samuel Longfellow (1819-1892)
Tune: Cypress Court*

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BSL Interpretation by Gill Behenna.

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