



Passionate beliefs, foolish actions

Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering  
'Growing God's Kingdom'



Sunday worship and weekly news  
7 March 2021

LENT 3

Welcome everyone  
As the Rev Canon Dr Sandra Millar leads our  
Video Service



The events in the Temple were a dramatic display of Jesus' power and authority. And what a puzzle he set for those who questioned him. Would we have understood his reply, if we had been there?

Paul speaks of God becoming weak and foolish in the world's eyes, to give strength and wisdom to those who believe. That is the power of the cross, and another paradox for us to grasp. Sometimes it all seems a bit much for our human brain.

The Psalmist, as so often, puts it in a nutshell: "the Lord ... gives wisdom to the simple." To be a simple soul, enriched with God's wisdom, is a good aim for any Christian – in Lent as in any season.

Jonathan

**Today's service on You Tube:** The service can be accessed from the church website [www.glos-stm-stg.org.uk](http://www.glos-stm-stg.org.uk) Click on the blue banner at the bottom of the page. Enjoy, and sing aloud to your heart's content.

If you have **YouTube** as a channel on your TV move to 'search'. Search for **HANS RACKHAM**. Then select this morning's service.

**Church Re-opening:** Last week we were pleased to announce our churches will be re-opening. **St Margaret's will re-open for Communion each Thursday from the 18 March; then both churches will re-open for Sunday worship from the 28th March onwards.**

**Will there be restrictions?**

Sadly...Yes! The same rules that applied pre lockdown will be in place i.e. No singing (except from the heart), Wear a face mask. Observe Social Distancing – the 2metre rule. No mixing or socialising, either before or after the service. Sorry to say these rules are necessary.

Processional Hymn

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise**

In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;  
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
And wither and perish, but naught changest thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight  
All laud we would render: O help us to see  
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

**THE GREETING**

Minister. 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.**

**Prayer of preparation for worship**

Minister. Let us pray

**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**

**Prayer of penitence**

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.**

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty

days he was tempted by the devil.

Let us confess our sins remembering before God the times when we have fallen short from temptation into sin.

**Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours 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**

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**

### **Prayer for Today**

Eternal God,  
give us insight  
to discern your will for us,  
to give up what harms us,  
and to seek the perfection we are promised  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **I Corinthians I**

#### **Christ the Power and Wisdom of God**

**Read by Joceline Blunt**

18 For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.' 20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. 22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23 but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.



*Prayer: Lord thank You for rescuing us through baptism into Your resurrection. Amen*

### **Psalm 19 The Perfect Revelation of the Lord**

**Read by Derek & Sarah Kingscote**

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.**



Psalm 19:9  
The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever;

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.**

*Prayer: Christ, the sun of righteousness, rise in our hearts this day, enfold us in the brightness of your love and bear us at the last to heaven's horizon; for your love's sake.*

### **John 2 Jesus Cleanses the Temple**

**Read by Helen McGeoch**

13 The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. 15 Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. 16 He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' 17 His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' 18 The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' 19 Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' 20 The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' 21 But he was speaking of the temple of his body. 22 After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

*Prayer: Lord your clarion call is enticing and clear. Help us to be constant and clear in our answer. Amen*

### **Reflection from Rev Canon Dr Sandra Millar**

I am quite often amazed at people's willingness to do extreme things, especially when it's for a cause they are passionate about. Comic Relief is soon upon us, and ridiculous challenges will be taken on in order to raise money and raise awareness.

There are also people who make dramatic gestures, to draw attention to something they care about. They climb trees, chain themselves to buildings, lie in roads – all driven by their passionate beliefs.

John's account of the dramatic action in the temple, follows on from the account of Jesus changing water into wine, the first sign of the kingdom. John places every incident carefully so that we might understand more about who Jesus is – he is the Christ, he is the Saviour, he is the one bringing in the kingdom of God. God's house is



not a place of trading, but should be a place of praise and prayer.

In I Corinthians, chapter I, we find St. Paul reflecting on the foolishness of Christian belief, especially the foolishness of the cross. Which brings me back to my first thought – sometimes our passionate beliefs enable us to do things that look foolish to others. But that which seems foolish to people may be the wisdom that brings about change.

Soon we will journey with Jesus to the cross, a journey that seemed foolish to his followers, as they stepped in to prevent him. As he died there, many thought the cause had been lost, for dying on a cross was the most humiliating and scandalous thing to happen. And yet, it was transformed from death to life, God's foolishness turning out to be wiser than human wisdom, or as Sister Monica Joan says in *Call the Midwife*, the cross is our anchor. This message is the message we share – it is this that sustains and strengthens us on our journey, not just through Lent, but through all of our lives. Amen.

**We declare together our commitment to faith:**

**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**

*Intercessions from Linda Medwell*

Let us pray.

Loving father we open our hearts, minds and souls to worship you. Thank you that today we dwell in your kingdom and live in your presence. Loving Father we turn



our fears and worries to the one who is able to carry all our burdens. As our schools re-open we pray for all teachers, students and staff this week as our children return to their classrooms.

As they renew their friendships and begin once again to socialise and create bonds, grant them self-discipline, allay any fears and anxieties they may have and may this year be a year of growth for all of us, but especially for our young people as they make decisions that will impact on their future. As the plans to re-open our churches go ahead, grant us wisdom to make the right decisions on behalf of our congregations.

Lord in your mercy...

Loving father bless and heal our damaged world. May your love comfort every soul as only you can. Bring hope to the hopeless and unity where there is conflict. Motivate us, by love, to work together, show us our place and embolden us to obey your direction. While our world is crumbling you remain the same, loving, defending and protecting. Forgive us for allowing the ways of the world to overwhelm us. Help us to be a consistent source of light for all those around us.

Lord in your mercy...

Loving Father we pray for the sick and the departed and those who are mourning. We pray for all those families who are prevented from visiting sick or confused elderly relatives or young grandchildren since even though we know we have the government roadmap, previous rules still apply.

We pray for all people suffering pain or worry from non-covid ailments at this time. We ask your help for all those on our parish prayer list, give your strength and skill to all our doctors and nurses, care workers and priests.

May those for whom this earthly life is over rest in peace.

Silence...

Merciful Father accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

### **We share God's Peace**

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

The peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you**

### ***Offertory Hymn***

**Cleanse me from my sin, Lord,**

Put Thy pow'r within, Lord,

Take me as I am, Lord,

And make me all Thine own.

Keep me day by day, Lord,

Underneath Thy sway, Lord

Make my heart Thy palace

And Thy royal throne.

Cleanse me from my sin, Lord,

Put Thy pow'r within, Lord,

Take me as I am, Lord,

And make me all Thine own.

Keep me day by day, Lord,

Underneath Thy sway, Lord

Make my heart Thy palace

And Thy royal throne.

### **THE SACRAMENT**

#### **The Table is prepared**

Minister: God of our journey, as we walk with you on your path of obedience, sustain us on our way and lead us to your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and their majesty; for everything in heaven, and on earth, is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you. Amen.**

#### **Eucharistic Prayer**

Minister: 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.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart. Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your mercy and join with the saints and angels for ever praising you and saying.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven on 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.**

All glory be to you, our heavenly Father, who, in your tender mercy, gave your only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there by his one oblation of himself once offered a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; he instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray, and grant that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, we receiving these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying; 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.

Jesus Christ is Lord: **Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free, You are the saviour of the world.** Therefore, Lord and heavenly Father, in remembrance of the precious death and passion, the mighty resurrection and glorious ascension of your dear Son Jesus Christ, we offer you through him this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

Grant that by his merits and death, and through faith in his blood, we and all your Church may receive forgiveness of our sins and all other benefits of his passion. Although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer you any sacrifice, yet we pray that you will accept this the duty and service that we owe.

Do not weigh our merits, but pardon our offences, and fill us all who share in this holy communion with your grace and heavenly blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord, **by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father for ever and ever. Amen.**

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

Let us pray for the coming of gods kingdom, as our saviour has 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.**

### **We break 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.**

**Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. (repeat)**

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

### **We share in Communion**

Jesus is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the whole 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.**

Most merciful Lord, your love compels us to come in. Our hands were unclean, our hearts were unprepared; we were not fit even to eat the crumbs from under your table. But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation, and share your bread with sinners. So cleanse and feed us with the precious body and blood of your Son, that he may live in us and we in him; and that we, with the whole company of Christ, may sit and eat in your kingdom. **Amen**

Rev Canon Dr Sandra Millar takes communion on our behalf

### **Prayers**

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 people shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **THE DISMISSAL**

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 all whom you hold in your heart this day and always. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ, Amen**

### ***Final Hymn***

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,  
Whate'er 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.



### **News 7 – 14 March**

**ANNUAL REPORTS:** If you normally write a report for St George's APCM, would you please prepare it NOW and send it to Glenda as soon as possible. Emailed documents are preferred; but if your report has to be handwritten please let Glenda have it immediately, in order that she can process it in time for the Annual Report and Accounts pack.

**Remember your report covers the period 1 JANUARY TO 2020 - 31 DECEMBER 2020 only. The deadline for ALL reports is TODAY, SUNDAY 7 MARCH;** your report will not appear in the report pack if it is received after this date.

**ELECTORAL ROLL:** The 2021 Annual meetings of St George's and St Margaret's will be held at some point in 2021. If your name does not appear on the current Electoral Roll you will not be eligible to vote at the APCMs or be elected onto either PCC. The Electoral Roll for St George's and St Margaret's

would normally be displayed on the notice board from **Sunday 7 March 2021 - 28 March 2021** but neither church may be open during that period.

If you wish your name to be added to the list, forms can be obtained from Margaret Barber, for St George's or Jill Ponter, for St Margaret's (see contact details at the front of Crossroads).

Completed forms should be returned by no later than **Sunday 28 March 2021**.

**In Memoriam:**

Raymond Manley, Joan King RIP

**We pray for all who are ill or in need at this time mentioning by name:**

Margaret, Angela, Susan, Mike and Laura, Lynne, Bill, Sarah, Pat, Christine, June, Daphne, Ginnie, Veronica, Darren and family, Hedley and Rosemary, Carol, Christopher and Christine, David and Angela

**Anniversaries of death:**

Frank Hayward, Jessica Adkins, Albert Crowther, Terrence Rue, Joyce Foreman, Elizabeth Garrett, Barbara Seyers, Ronald Bufton, Albert Hindley, Edwin Jenkyn, Joan Heath, Aldwyn Claridge, John Sugden, Dorothy Tudor, Marian Lane, Carol Johnson

**Birthdays and Anniversaries:**

Margaret Rowell 13th, Sarah Kingscote 14th.

**DIARY DATES – 7 – 14 March**

Sun 7			<b>No service</b>
Mon 8 to Fri 12	10.00am to 12.00noon	G	Food Parcels each day
Mon 8	7.00pm	Z	Lent Group
Wed 10	8.15am 10.00am	Z Z	Morning Prayer Mission Group
Thu 11			<b>No service</b>
Fri 12	10.30am	Z	World day of Prayer Lent Group
Sun 14			<b>No service</b>

**G = St George's Z = Zoom**

**Food Parcels: St George's Church, Grange Road,** is now open for Food Parcel collections each Monday to Friday from 10.00am until 12.00noon Anyone requiring help outside of these times please phone Sylvia on 01452 416184. All food parcels are **FREE OF CHARGE** Please be aware of social distancing guidelines.

**Tree Planting:** Although tree planting is cancelled we are hoping to Litter Pick / Path Clear when restrictions allow. Watch this space.

**Daily Hope** is a phone line with recorded messages each day for us to enjoy. Options include a 'Live Lent' daily reflection with music, a reading, a thought and a prayer. These are all based on the Archbishop's Lent Book 'Living His Story'. Each reflection lasts just five minutes.

Other options include 'Hymns we love'; a Mothers' Union midday prayer; Morning and Evening Prayer; a weekly service; and there's even help to 'sleep well'!

It's from the Church of England, and it's all free. Just ring 0800 804 8044.

Enjoy. And do pass the message on.

**WHAT TO DO for THIS WEEK:**

❖ **Keep bringing items for the Foodbank; new collection point is the Church Centre hallway on a Friday morning from 9.30am until 11.30am.**

**Toiletries now accepted at the foodbank, in addition long life milk and tinned carrots needed.**

**Thank you!**

**Know someone who:**

- ❖ is stuck at home without support?
- ❖ can't make ends meet?
- ❖ Just wants to talk?

**Then Contact Gloucestershire Community Help Hub on 01452 583519**

**Keep picking up the phone!**

People are finding phone calls with friends invaluable to combat loneliness. Thank you everyone; please keep up the good work!



**CONTACTING US:**

**Vicar:** Vacancy (please pray for new appointment)

**Reader:** Jonathan MacKechnie-Jarvis 01452 502174

**Pioneer:** Helen McGeoch 07729 615993

**Email:** tuffleypioneer@gmail.com

**Website:** www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk

**Facebook:** St. George's, Tuffley and St Margaret's Whaddon

**Administrator:** Glenda Stevens 01452 307456

**Email:** stgeorgeschurch1@gmail.com

The Administration office is open on Friday mornings from 9.30am until 11.30am until further notice. Please contact the Church Administrator by email or leave a message on the office telephone and our Administrator will get back to you.

We are part of the Church in Tuffley, working in partnership with English Martyrs (Roman Catholic), Grange (Baptist) and St Barnabas (Anglican).

