

Crosslacon Sunday Worship on the First Sunday of Lent
21st February 2021



Welcome

Call to Worship

Come God,
Come walk with your people,
For you alone are our strength and glory,
And we put our trust in you.

Come God,
walk behind us, beside us, before us.
For you alone are our shelter and direction.
And we put our trust in you.

Come God,
Come seek and find and put us right,
For you alone are the light in our darkness
And we put our trust in you.

Opening Prayer

God of revelation,
unveil your Kingdom in our midst.
Show us who we truly are in you:
expose the illusions that distort our vision,
deliver us from temptations that contort our living,
open our eyes in this time of trial –
that resistance may be the secret of our joy
and our joy a sign of your shalom. Amen.

Hymn: Father, hear the prayer we offer.

1 Father, hear the prayer we offer:
not for ease that prayer shall be,

but for strength that we may ever
live our lives courageously.

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

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

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

*Love Maria Willis (nee Whitcomb) (1824-1908), Samuel
Longfellow (1819-1892)*

Invitation to Confession

Let us in silence admit our frailty and confess our
failings.

A period of silence...

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy,
We begin this Lenten season in confession.
We do not live according to your ways,
But according to our own.
We condone violence,
Participate in systems of injustice,
And use power to our own advantage at the expense
of others.
Forgive us we pray, when we are tempted to follow
paths other than those you set before us.
Teach us your commandments;
Help us to turn from evil in its many guises,
And turn us toward your kingdom drawing near.
In covenantal love, remember us we pray,
And be for us once more and always,
An ark of safety and new life.
In Christ's name we pray,
Amen

Absolution

May our merciful God enrich you with grace,
And nourish you with blessing;
defend you in trouble
and keep you from all evil;
May the God of compassion accept your prayers,
And absolve you from your offences,
For the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour,
Amen.

Collect

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.

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:9-15

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to:
Glory to you O Lord

About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. And there was a voice from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness."

At once the Spirit forced Jesus out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among the wild animals, and the angels took care of him.

After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee announcing God's good news, saying, "Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom! Change your hearts and lives and trust this good news!"

The is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you O Christ.

For the word of God in Jesus,
For God's wisdom all around us,

For God's word and wisdom in us,
Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Affirmation of Faith

Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Philippians 2.6-11

Prayers of Intercession

Lord God, as we begin this season of Lent, we ask you to remind us of what is important and what is not. Of where we are wandering astray and what we need to change, so that by Easter we will be renewed, strengthened, and ready to serve.

Silence

Lord in your Mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Lord God, in these difficult times, give wisdom to our leaders, strength to all key workers and volunteers, and hope to all. Help us to care for one another, and be ready to find good in all people and all situations.

Silence

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord God, we come to you with the demands of home, family, work and expectations warring in us for space and attention.

We come on behalf of those too busy or too exhausted to pray, and ask that all our daily lives may be flooded with your joy.

Silence

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord God, we bring to you the needs and sorrows, pain and suffering of our brothers and sisters all over the world, who are aching physically, emotionally or spiritually.

We pray for all vulnerable children especially those trapped by war, famine, and the pandemic, and ask you to watch over and protect them.

Silence

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord God, we remember those who, freed from the ageing and pain of their bodies, can now live with you in peace and happiness. We pray for those in our own community who have lost a loved one, and ask you to bring them comfort.

Silence

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord God, we come with thankfulness for the gifts of life, health, family and friends. We thank you for the seasons, and the joy of Spring. Give us the grace to appreciate what we have, and make us ready to respond positively to whatever the future brings.

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

The Lord's Prayer

(A modern version from the Iona Community)

God in heaven,

Your name is to be honoured.

May your new community of hope Be realised on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today the essentials of life.

Release us from our wrongdoing

As we also release those who wrong us.

Do not test us beyond our enduring;

Save us from all that is evil.

For you embrace justice, love and peace,

Now and to the end of time,

Amen

Sharing the Peace

Jesus' birth, life death and resurrection has brought us a peace with God that we could not earn and that cannot be taken away from us.

Let us share it with one another now.

The peace of the Lord be always with you...

And also with you.

We listen to a piece of music whilst we take the opportunity, if watching live, to record a peace greeting on the comments box in Facebook Live.

Hymn: Lead us Heavenly Father, Lead us.

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

James Edmeston (1791-1867)

Blessing

May you know that you are blessed
by God's unfailing love,
that you are saved by the Son through baptism,
and sustained by the Spirit through the wilderness.
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
Be among you and remain with you always.
Amen

Closing Responses

From where we are to where you need us,
Jesus, now lead on.

From the familiarity of what we know
to the wonder of what you will reveal,

Jesus, now lead on.

To transform the fabric of this world
until it resembles the shape of your kingdom,

Jesus, now lead on.

Because good things have been prepared
for those who love God,

Jesus, now lead on.

Things to ponder in the week ahead.

Read this poem by Malcom Guite based on the first
temptation of Christ:

Stones into Bread

The Fountain thirsts, the Bread is hungry here
The Light is dark, the Word without a voice.
When darkness speaks it seems so light and clear.
Now He must dare, with us, to make a choice.
In a distended belly's cruel curve
He feels the famine of the ones who lose
He starves for those whom we have forced to starve
He chooses now for those who cannot choose.
He is the staff and sustenance of life
He lives for all from one Sustaining Word
His love still breaks and pierces like a knife

The stony ground of hearts that never shared,
God gives through Him what Satan never could;
The broken bread that is our only food.

What does this poem reveal to you about our Lenten
journey?

How is Jesus nourishing you at this time?

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280X; Online ISSN: 2635-2818.

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