

St Mary's Church, Walkley



The Church on the Road:
Inclusive, Eucharistic, a safe place to be with God

Lent Reflection Service

10th March 2024

Welcome to St Mary's Church, Walkley
Officiant: David, Reader at St Mary's
Churchwarden on duty: Janet

Before the service we remain seated and we sing number 115 from the Taizé songbook:

The Introduction

Minister The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
All **a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

Minister The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
All **slow to anger and of great kindness.**

Minister Grace, mercy and peace, from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ, be with you.
All **and also with you.**

Words of welcome may be said.

Minister Dear friends in Christ, since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection and prepared for this by a season of self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word.

This evening's service seeks to offer space for prayer and reflection. By scripture and music, we journey through Jesus' ministry as set down by John the Evangelist. We hear of signs and wonders, beginning with the Wedding at Cana in Galilee. These signs, performed by Jesus, point us towards the new creation and a world redeemed by and through him. They show us Jesus' character, his concern for poor and marginalised and his rejection of earthly power.

This Lent, may we take to heart God's call to repentance, and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord.

The Prayers of Penitence

Minister Come, Holy Spirit of God,
All **and search our hearts with the light of Christ.**

Minister 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.

All **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

We keep a time of silent reflection.

Minister Come, let us return to the Lord and say:

All **Lord our God,
in our sin we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
Have mercy on us;
deliver us from judgement;
bind up our wounds and revive us;
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Hosea 6

Minister May the God of love
bring us back to himself,
forgive us our sins,
and assure us of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

We remain seated and we sing:

Tune: Melita – Eternal Father, strong to save

**Great God, your love has called us here
as we, by love, for love were made.
Your living likeness still we bear,
though marred, dishonoured, disobeyed.
We come, with all our heart and mind
your call to hear, your love to find.**

**We come with self-inflicted pains
of broken trust and chosen wrong,
half-free, half-bound by inner chains,
by social forces swept along,
by powers and systems close confined,
yet seeking hope for humankind.**

**Great God, in Christ you call our name
and then receive us as your own,
not through some merit, right or claim,
but by your gracious love alone.
We strain to glimpse your mercy seat
and find you kneeling at our feet.**

**Then take the towel, and break the bread,
and humble us, and call us friends.
Suffer and serve till all are fed,
and show how grandly love intends
to work till all creation sings,
to fill all worlds, to crown all things.**

**Great God, in Christ you set us free
your life to live, your joy to share.
Give us your Spirit's liberty
to turn from guilt and dull despair
and offer all that faith can do
while love is making all things new.**

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The First Reading: John 2. 1 - 11

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to John.

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.'

Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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

We keep two minutes silence.

We remain seated and we sing number 1 from the Taizé songbook:

The Second Reading: John 4. 46 - end

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to John.

Then he came again to Cana in Galilee where he had changed the water into wine. Now there was a royal official whose son lay ill in Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went and begged him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. Then Jesus said to him, 'Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe.' The official said to him, 'Sir, come down before my little boy dies.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your son will live.' The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started on his way. As he was going down, his slaves met him and told him that his child was alive. So he asked them the hour when he began to recover, and they said to him, 'Yesterday at one in the afternoon the fever left him.' The father realized that this was the hour when Jesus had said to him, 'Your son will live.' So he himself believed, along with his whole household. Now this was the second sign that Jesus did after coming from Judea to Galilee.

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

We keep two minutes silence.

We remain seated and we sing number 30 from the Taizé songbook:

The Third Reading: John 5. 1 - 15

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to John.

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralysed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, ‘Do you want to be made well?’ The sick man answered him, ‘Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Stand up, take your mat and walk.’ At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who had been cured, ‘It is the sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your mat.’ But he answered them, ‘The man who made me well said to me, “Take up your mat and walk.” ’ They asked him, ‘Who is the man who said to you, “Take it up and walk”?’ Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had disappeared in the crowd that was there. Later Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, ‘See, you have been made well! Do not sin any more, so that nothing worse happens to you.’ The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

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

We keep two minutes silence.

We remain seated and we sing number 154 from the Taizé songbook:

The Fourth Reading: John 6. 4 - 15

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to John.

Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, ‘Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?’ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do.

Philip answered him, 'Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?' Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.' Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, 'This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.'

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

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

We keep two minutes silence.

We remain seated and we sing number 20 from the Taizé songbook:

The Fifth Reading: John 9. 13 - 17, 28 - 39

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to John.

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.' Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.'

The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.' He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him. Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.'

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

We keep two minutes silence.

We remain seated and we sing number 3 from the Taizé songbook:

We remain seated or kneel.

The Prayers

Intercessor In penitence and faith let us make our prayer to the Father and ask for his mercy and grace.

For your holy people,
that they may triumph over evil and grow in grace,
we pray to you, O Lord:

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor For candidates for baptism and confirmation,
that they may live by every word that proceeds from your mouth,
we pray to you, O Lord:

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor For the leaders of the nations,
that you will guide them in the ways of mercy and truth,
we pray to you, O Lord:

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor For the needy,
that they may not be forgotten,
nor the hope of the poor be taken away,
we pray to you, O Lord:

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor For the sick in body, mind and spirit,
that they may know your power to heal,
we pray to you, O Lord:

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor For the poor in spirit,
that they may inherit the kingdom of heaven
and see you face to face,
we pray to you, O Lord:

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessor Let us commend the world, for which Christ suffered,
to the mercy and protection of God.

The Collect

Minister 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.**

The Lord's Prayer

Minister Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom
and teach us to pray:

All **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.**

We keep two minutes silence.

*We remain seated and we sing number 37 from the Taizé
songbook:*

The Blessing

Minister To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;

All **O my God, in you I trust.**

Minister You are the God of my salvation;

All **To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**

Minister In you I hope all the day long.

All **O my God, in you I trust.**

Minister Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.

All **To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
O my God, in you I trust.**

Minister Christ give us grace to grow in holiness,
to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow him;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always.

All **Amen.**

We remain seated as we sing:

Tune: Eventide – Abide with me

**Draw nigh to thy Jerusalem, O Lord,
thy faithful people cry with one accord:
ride on in triumph; Lord, behold, we lay
our passions, lusts, and proud wills in thy way.**

**Thy road is ready; and thy paths, made straight,
with longing expectation now await
their consecration by thy beauteous feet,
and silently thy promised advent greet.**

**And then, if our stiff tongues shall faithlessly
be mute in praises of thy deity,
the very temple stones shall loud repeat
Hosanna! and thy glorious footsteps greet.**

Jeremy Taylor

The Dismissal Gospel: John 12. 1- 8

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to John.

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

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

For more information: stmaryswalkley.co.uk

If you would like to provide feedback on this service please speak a member of the Worship Group, Kath, Catherine, Janet or David. You can also email us worship@stmaryswalkley.co.uk

