

Morning Worship

Fourth Sunday before Lent

Sunday 9 February 2014



Opening Sentence from Scripture *Isaiah 58*

Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?
Is it not to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter –
when you see the naked, to clothe him,
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

Minister The peace of the Lord be always with you
All **and also with you**

Minister This is the day that the Lord has made.
All **Let us rejoice and be glad in it**

Opening Prayer

**We have come together
as the family of God
in our Father's presence
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,
to hear and receive God's holy word,
to pray for the needs of the world,
to seek the forgiveness of our sins,
and to seek God's grace
that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God**

Hymn

(Tune Slane)

Come, let us worship the Lord of our birth,
who stretched out the heavens and founded the earth;
his love never falters, his mercy is sure;
in hope ever faithful shall his kingdom endure.

Christ bids us serve him as salt and as light,
to make of creation a feast of delight,
for justice and mercy should flavour the earth,
and salt bland and tasteless is devoid of all worth.

Wholeness and health in creation restore,
give bread to the hungry and shelter the poor;
find clothes for the naked, relieve the oppressed,
and thereby discover, he who blesses is blessed!

O may the gospel so simply be told,
no artful philosophy here to unfold!
We nothing need know but the death of the Lord,
and trust not in words, but in the pow'r of the Word!

Prayer of Confession

Minister The grace of God has dawned upon the world
 through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed
 himself for us to purify a people as his own
 Let us confess our sins

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father**
we have sinned against you and against each
other, in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.

The declaration of forgiveness by Bishop Alan

All **Amen**

Minister **O Lord, open our lips**
All **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
And shall be for ever. Amen

The Offering

Tax payers please use envelopes, so that we can claim the tax back. Envelopes are available each Sunday. Thank you to all of those who pay their offering by standing order. After the offering is collected it may be brought forward.



Gracious God,
accept these gifts,
and with them our lives
to be used in your service
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymn

(Tune: Lights to the world)

All earth was dark until you spoke,
then all was light and all was peace.
Yet still, O God, so many wait
to see the flame of love released.

*Light to the world, O Light of man,
kindle in us a mighty flame,
till every heart, consumed by love,
shall rise to praise your holy name.*

In Christ you gave your gift of life
to save us from the depth of night.
O, come and set our spirits free
and draw us to your perfect light.

Where there is fear may we bring joy
and healing to a world in pain.
Lord, build your kingdom through our lives
till Jesus walks this earth again.

O, burn in us that we may burn
with love that triumphs in despair.
And touch our lives with such a fire
that souls may search and find you there.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, by whose grace alone we are accepted and called
to your service: strengthen us by your Holy Spirit and make us
worthy of our calling; 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.

Common Worship

The Bible Readings

You may follow the Bible readings on Partnership News

Hymn

(Tune: Winchester New)

Lord Jesus, once you spoke to men
upon the mountain, in the plain;
O help us listen now, as then,
and wonder at your words again.

We all have secret fears to face,
our minds and motives to amend;
we seek your truth, we need your grace,
our living Lord and present Friend.

The Gospel speaks; and we receive
your light, your love, your own command.
O help us live what we believe
in daily work of heart and hand.

The Sermon

The Rt Revd Dr Alan Smith

Hymn

(Tune: Moscow)

Thou whose almighty word, chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight; hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the Gospel-day, sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.

Thou, who didst come to bring, on thy redeeming wing
healing and sight, health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind, O now to all mankind
let there be light.

Spirit of truth and love, life-giving, holy Dove,
speed forth thy flight; move on the water's face,
bearing the lamp of grace, and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.

Holy and blessed Three, glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might; boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride, through the earth far and wide
let there be light.

The Creed

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

Prayers

This response may be used:
Leader: Lord, in your mercy
All: **hear our prayer**

ending with
Leader: Merciful Father,
All: **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

Lord's Prayer

**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 Prayer for the Day

**O God, you know us to be set
in the midst of so many and great dangers,
that by reason of the frailty of our nature
we cannot always stand upright:
grant to us such strength and protection
as may support us in all dangers
and carry us through all temptations;
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.**

Hymn

(Tune Ode to Joy)

God has spoken-by his prophets,
Spoken his unchanging word,
Each from age to age proclaiming
God, the one, the righteous Lord.
'Mid the world's despair and turmoil
One firm anchor holds us fast:
God is King, his throne eternal,
God the first, and God the last.

God has spoken-by Christ Jesus,
Christ, the everlasting Son,
Brightness of the Father's glory,
With the Father ever one;
Spoken by the Word incarnate,
God from God, ere time began,
Light from Light, to earth descending,
Man, revealing God to man.

God is speaking-by his Spirit,
Speaking to the hearts of men,
In the age-long word expounding
God's own message, now as then,
Through the rise and fall of nations
One sure faith yet standing fast;
God still speaks, his word unchanging,
God the first, and God the last.

The Blessing by Bishop Alan

Minister: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

All: **In the name of Christ. Amen**

Thank you to all those who have helped prepare our churches or helped us in our worship this morning. We invite you to stay in church after the service where refreshments will be served.