

Berrow with Pendock, Eldersfield, Birtsmorton and Hollybush



3rd. Sunday of Lent

Welcome-do have a candle, glass of juice/wine and cracker/piece of bread ready

HYMN

OPENING PRAYER

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

**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.**

Jesus said: Before you offer your gift, go and be reconciled. As brothers and sisters in God's family, we come together to ask our Father for forgiveness.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.**

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**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.

May Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you your sins, and bring you to everlasting life.

Amen

THE 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: mercifully grant 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.

Amen.

READINGS : Exodus 20. 1-17, John 2. 13-22.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please read 1 Corinthians 1 18-25 at home)

REFLECTION

Who am I and what do I do?

What is possible and what is not?

These two questions have been bouncing around in my mind this week. As we enter March 2021, in Lent and as Lock Down restrictions begin to ease, I dare to look forward to what may be ahead for our World, our community, our faith and our Benefice. When Moses comes down from Mount Sinai, he had ten very powerful, life-giving words that will eventually get engraved in stone.

“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.”

These Ten commandments underpin much of the justice system. As I reflect on them, it reminds me of what God has already done, and the focus which is on the relationship between God and God’s people. When we worship God, today and in the future, we come across and encounter the holy, and a system of religion that has changed, shifted and evolved over time. In the Old Testament time, worshipping God revolved around six hundred odd rules of behaviour and life style, plus the rules of animal sacrifice, and the exchange your Roman coins for currency that Jewish scribes and Temple leaders would accept.

We find Jesus attending one of the great religious festivals of the Jews. Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims would have been in Jerusalem. The practice of selling sacrificial animals did not occur within the temple itself but within the temple courtyard or the Courtyard of the Gentiles. The courtyard was large, perhaps the size of two or three football fields.

We can easily visualize the money changers, the oxen, sheep, pigeons and the general chaos in the Temple area, especially in the Court of the Gentiles. People would bring their Roman and Greek coins with images of the emperor on those coins. Such coins were inadmissible in the temple because they were unclean due to the pagan image of the Caesars on those coins. Those coins with the image of Caesar would have to be exchanged for Jewish “kosher” coins. The money-changers made good profits. Larger animals like oxen and sheep were also bought and sold, as were pigeons for the sacrifices for poorer people. The costs of sacrifices were inflated fifteen times

The reputation of Jesus had already spread. Jesus had produced his first mighty miracle, the turning of water into wine.

Jesus making a whip out of cords is graphic in this very vivid scene of chaos. He starts overturning the tables and driving out the merchants. Jesus didn’t mess with *one* money changer and *one* table. He drove them all out.

We may notice that this scene in the temple isn’t just about anger. Jesus is cleansing away those aspects which are not centred on God’s

message about love, the law, the commandments, and the gestures of forgiveness,

Today, the true force of the cross of salvation is known and people can live forgiven and free lives because they know their God has claimed them forever. It's the life the Ten Commandments were intended to foster and flourish and the message that God is always trying to get across.

Jesus said: "You shall love the Lord your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second it like this. You shall love your neighbour as yourself.

God's wisdom that is deep and true, is available to everyone through the ultimate and final sacrifice. Jesus' life given on the cross.

Human nature has not changed. Many aspects of how we approach our faith, how we worship God, live out our discipleship can be influenced by many different strands in our lives. Religious practice can sometimes get in the way of how we connect with God. Does it relate and be relevant to the world we live in? Does it reach out to those who have not 'Come to Christ' as followers?

In this image of the Trinity, we see a community surrounding a table. It's circular in movement. All embracing. It's not about a particular building or place. It's not about who has control or the leader. It's about sharing, and offering each other expressions of grace, mercy, love and service to each other. The circle can be extended and embrace everyone we encounter.

As we look ahead, so many things in life seem impossible. Can we imagine what life, church, our mission will look like? How can we engage others and bring them to faith? How can we make our churches sustainable and strong for the future ahead?

We all will be called at some time to do something that seems impossible. Maybe you will feel that you are ready, not smart enough, hate change, or that you are not strong or capable enough to do these things. But when God calls you—that means you can do it in God's strength and wisdom, He created us each to be who we are, to do what He calls us to do.

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind," before also paraphrasing a second passage; "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." During this season of Lent, we listen for God to see what we can learn, to see how we can grow, to see how we can fly. And we know that with God, we can live the life God calls us to live, we can be what we are called to be, adapt and change in order to come alongside those who may not yet have heard God's call.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please ask for any additional prayers

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us.

**Our Father,
which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done ;
in 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;**

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**for thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

THE PEACE

“Where two or three are gathered together in my name”, says the Lord,
“there am I in the midst of them.”

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

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**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 OFFERTORY PRAYER

Wise and gracious God, you spread a table before us;
nourish your people with the word of life and the bread of heaven.
Amen

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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 saints and angels
 for ever praising you and saying:

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

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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.'

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.

Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast

(consume)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Merciful Lord,
 grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the
 flesh and the devil,
 and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

**We thank you, Lord, that you have fed us in this physical and
 spiritual sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste
 of the heavenly banquet prepared for all peoples. Amen.**

HYMN

THE BLESSING

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing; and the
 blessing of God almighty,
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
 be among you and remain with you always.
Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen