

Service for the First Sunday of Lent



St Laurence Church, Downton

21 February 2021

Preparation

Call to Worship

This is love, not that we loved God,
but that he loved us and sent his Son.

He is the sacrifice for our sins,
that we might live through him.

If God loves us so much
we ought to love one another.

If we love one another
God lives in us.

cf 1 John 4.10-12

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Team Rector introduces the service

Hymn: Forty days and forty nights
(St Martin's Voices)

Forty days and forty nights
thou wast fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled.

Sunbeams scorching all the day;
chilly dew-drops nightly shed;
prowling beasts about thy way;
stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.

Let us thine endurance share,
and awhile from joys abstain,
with thee watching unto prayer,
strong with thee to suffer pain?

And if Satan, vexing sore,
flesh or spirit should assail,
thou, his vanquisher before
grant we may not faint nor fail.

So shall we have peace divine;
holier gladness ours shall be;
round us too shall angels shine,
such as ministered to thee.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by thy side;
that with thee we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.

George Hunt Smyttan (1822-1870), Francis Pott (1832-1909)

Gathering:

As darkness gives way to light
and winter sleep to fresh beginnings,
We come today to be reminded of God's love for us.

Like the green shoots of renewed life,
stirring beneath the soil,
We welcome an awakening of God's word in our lives.

In this time of reflection and repentance,
**We affirm our identity, we claim our security,
as children of God.**

Canticle:

Lord almighty and God of our ancestors,
you who made heaven and earth in all their glory:

All things tremble with awe at your presence,
before your great and mighty power.

Immeasurable and unsearchable is your promised mercy,
for you are God, Most High.

You are full of compassion, long-suffering and very merciful,
and you relent at human suffering.

O God, according to your great goodness,
**you have promised forgiveness for repentance
to those who have sinned against you.**

The sins I have committed against you
are more in number than the sands of the sea.

I am not worthy to look up to the height of heaven,
because of the multitude of my iniquities.

And now I bend the knee of my heart before you,
imploping your kindness upon me.

I have sinned, O God, I have sinned,
and I acknowledge my transgressions.

Unworthy as I am, you will save me,
according to your great mercy.

For all the host of heaven sings your praise,
and your glory is for ever and ever.

Prayer of Manasseh

**Glory 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.**

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 peace. **Amen.**

Christian Aid

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings:

1 Peter 3:18-end

Mark 1:9-15

After each reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection by Bishop Karen

Music: *My God, my God Look upon me*
(Salisbury Cathedral Choir)

Prayers

We are led in a time of prayer

This response is used:

Lord, meet us in the silence,

give us strength and hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer is said:

Trusting in the compassion of God

let us pray with confidence 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.**

Conclusion

The Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves
in obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
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.**

Blessing:

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross,
and follow him;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

This is love, not that we loved God,
but that he loved us and sent his Son.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.