

Service for the Third Sunday of Lent



St Laurence Church, Downton

7 March 2021

Preparation

Call to Worship

Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;

Let us return to the Lord,
that he may have mercy on us.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
**so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts, says the Lord.**

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: *All my hope on God is founded*
(Chet Valley Churches)

All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone calls my heart to be his own.

Pride of man and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour, is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore from his store new-born worlds rise and adore.

Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call one and all: ye who follow shall not fall.

Joachim Neander (1650-1680), translated Robert Bridges (1844-1930)

Gathering:

Loving God, we come to you in worship and thanksgiving.
You are greater than we can understand;
**open our eyes that we may see the wonderful truths
you have shown to us in Jesus.**

You are more loving than our hearts can respond to;
**help us to give ourselves to you in worship
so that we learn what you want us to be.**

You are wiser than we can know;
**still our minds as we worship you
so that we can understand the things you are saying to us.**

Loving God, in Jesus
you chose to come to the world in humility.
You chose the path the world saw as foolish.
You used what the world considered weak.

We worship and adore you. Amen.

The Worship Sourcebook

Canticle:

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
**the decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple;**

the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
**the commandment of the Lord is clear,
enlightening the eyes;**

the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring for ever;
**the ordinances of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.**

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
**sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.**

Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.

Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Psalms 19:7-end

**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.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings:

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

After each reading:

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Reflection by Bishop Nicholas

Music: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul
(Howard Skempton - The Oxford Choir)

Prayers

We are led in a time of prayer

This response is used:

Lord in your mercy,
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 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.**

Blessing:

Christ crucified draw you to himself,
to find in him a sure ground for faith,
a firm support for hope,
and the assurance of sins forgiven;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

May I never boast of anything
except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
**by which the world has been crucified to me,
and I to the world.**

Galatians 6:14

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.