

Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's



Sunday 28th February 2021

Led by Simon McDowell

Welcome to our service of Morning Prayer.

Notices can be found on your [Friday Email](#), on our [website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). At the end of the service sheet, as well as our Roots Activity Sheets, there is information about two new projects leading up to Easter that the whole church can get involved in. "Images of Christ" and "Sticking Together".

Thanks to Janet Cottrell for choosing our music today.

Please join in today's service using the words in **bold**.

Opening Hymn

"Praise to the Holiest in the height"

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

O loving wisdom of our God!
when all was sin and shame,

a second Adam to the fight
and to the rescue came.

O generous love! that he, who smote
in man for man the foe,
the double agony in man
for man should undergo;

And in the garden secretly,
and on the Cross on high,
should teach his brethren, and inspire
to suffer and to die.

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise:
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

John Henry Newman (1801-1890)

Sung by St Martin's Voices, used with permission from the Church of England's resource hub

Prayer of Preparation

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

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

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

Prayers of Penitence

Jesus says, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand"
So let us turn away from our sin and turn to Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.
We have offended against your holy laws.
We have left undone those things that we ought to have done;
and we have done those things that we ought not to have done;
and there is no health in us.
But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us sinners,
Spare those who confess their faults.
Restore those who are penitent,
according to your promises declared to mankind
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may live a disciplined, righteous and godly life,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

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

Hymn

“All who are thirsty”

All who are thirsty
All who are weak
Come to the fountain
Dip your heart in the stream of life

Let the pain and the sorrow
Be washed away
In the wave of His mercy
As deep cries out to deep

We sing, come Lord Jesus come

Come Lord Jesus, come

All who are thirsty
All who are weak
Come to the fountain
Dip your heart in the stream of life

Let the pain and the sorrow
Be washed away
In the wave of His mercy
As deep cries out to deep

We sing, come Lord Jesus come
Come Lord Jesus, come
Come Lord Jesus, come
Come Lord Jesus, come

As deep cries out to deep
As deep cries out to deep
As deep cries out to deep
As deep cries out to deep

We sing, come Lord Jesus come
Come Lord Jesus, come
Come Lord Jesus, come
Come Lord Jesus, come

Lyric Source: Musixmatch

Songwriters: Brenton Brown, Glenn Robertson

Led by Brittany Hurlbert, Tim Packer, Sam Plyming and Brandon Hurlbert for evening worship during lockdown at St Nic's Church, Durham, Sunday 13 December 2020.

Psalm

Psalm 22:23-31

²³ You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you descendants of Jacob, honour him!
Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!

²⁴ For he has not despised or scorned
the suffering of the afflicted one;
he has not hidden his face from him
but has listened to his cry for help.

²⁵ From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly;
before those who fear you^[a] I will fulfil my vows.

²⁶ The poor will eat and be satisfied;

those who seek the LORD will praise him –
may your hearts live for ever!
²⁷ All the ends of the earth
will remember and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
will bow down before him,
²⁸ for dominion belongs to the LORD
and he rules over the nations.
²⁹ All the rich of the earth will feast and worship;
all who go down to the dust will kneel before him –
those who cannot keep themselves alive.
³⁰ Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord.
³¹ They will proclaim his righteousness,
declaring to a people yet unborn:
He has done it!

**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**

Scripture Reading Mark 8:31-38 read by Judy Giles

³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. 'Get behind me, Satan!' he said. 'You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.'

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life^[a] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? ³⁷ Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels.'

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Hymn

“God of the poor (Beauty for Brokenness)”

Beauty for brokenness
Hope for despair
Lord, in the suffering
This is our prayer
Bread for the children
Justice, joy, peace
Sunrise to sunset
Your kingdom increase!

Shelter for fragile lives
Cures for their ills
Work for the craftsman
Trade for their skills
Land for the dispossessed
Rights for the weak
Voices to plead the cause
Of those who can't speak

Chorus

*God of the poor
Friend of the weak
Give us compassion we pray
Melt our cold hearts
Let tears fall like rain
Come, change our love
From a spark to a flame*

Refuge from cruel wars
Havens from fear
Cities for sanctuary
Freedoms to share
Peace to the killing-fields
Scorched earth to green
Christ for the bitterness
His cross for the pain

Chorus

Rest for the ravaged earth
Oceans and streams
Plundered and poisoned

Our future, our dreams
Lord, end our madness
Carelessness, greed
Make us content with
The things that we need

Chorus

Lighten our darkness
Breathe on this flame
Until your justice
Burns brightly again
Until the nations
Learn of your ways
Seek your salvation
And bring you their praise

Chorus x2

Lyric source: Musixmatch

Songwriters: Graham Kendrick Copyright 1993 Make Way Music, re-recorded In 2011 for "The Very Best of Graham Kendrick" Used with kind permission from grahamkendrick.co.uk Lockdown Resources

Sermon Pat Hegarty is opening God's word for us today

The 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.

Prayers

Prepared and read for us by Richard Beckingsale
The response is: In you O Lord ~ **do we put our trust**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come;
your will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our sin,
As we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
Now and forever. Amen.

The Collect

for the Second Sunday of Lent

Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,
that they may return to the way of righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted
 into the fellowship of Christ's religion,
that they may reject those things
 that are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

Final Hymn

“Guide me, O thou great Redeemer”

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises
I will ever give to thee.

Arglwydd arwain drwy'r anialwch

Written by William Williams (1717-1791) Translated by Peter Williams (1727-1796)

Sung by St Martin's Voices, used with permission from the Church of England's resource hub

The Blessing

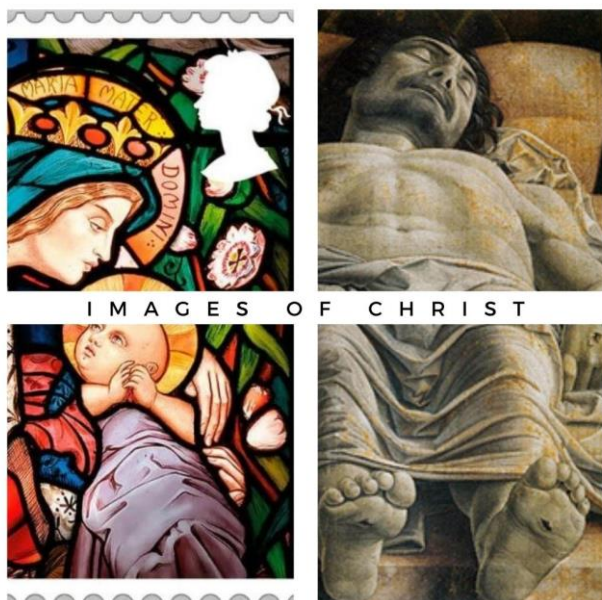
Grant, we beseech you, merciful Lord,
to your faithful people pardon and peace,
that they may be cleansed from all their sins
and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Intro/outro music by www.purple-planet.com

Note To contact the church please email office@stokepogeschurch.org or phone 01753 642331. Please do not come to the office in person without checking that someone will be there, as we are once again working from home.

Thank you for joining us today



Images of Christ

Throughout Holy Week, we invite you to share your favourite images of Christ. What image springs to mind when you think of Jesus? What image stopped you in your tracks the first time you saw it? If you know the artist or would like to explain its significance to you, please do. Please send your digital images to office@stokepogeschurch.org by Sunday 21st March. (Images here: Royal Mail Christmas Stamp 2020 & "Christ and three mourners" or "The Lamentation of Christ" by Andrea Mantegna)

"Sticking Together" All Age - All Ability Easter Art Project

Can't paint or draw? Love to paint and draw? We need you ALL!

The plan is for EVERYONE who belongs to our church to take part in a pattern collage to put up in the church. [Click here for full details](#). You can place your patterns in the folder outside St Andrew's or in the box in St Giles' from 10-3pm on weekdays from Monday 1st – Friday 26th March.

The final piece will be created ready for Easter Sunday.



(Pattern inspiration clockwise from Pitjantjatjara people, Paul Smith, Wassily Kandinsky and Jackson Pollock)

Rocky relationships

Mark 8.31-38

We witness a difficult conversation when Jesus tells his followers that he must embrace rejection and suffering. Peter speaks up in protest and is strongly rebuked. Jesus then tells his disciples that being his follower means being prepared to share his fate; it is clear that this involves suffering.

Now read Mark 8.31-38 see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

No one likes conflict, but imagine getting into conflict with Jesus! Granted, Jesus seems to be saying some challenging things and perhaps Peter felt justified in trying to talk him down, but Jesus takes a pretty hard line with Peter. How might observers of this conversation have responded? Whose side would you have taken? Would you speak up and make your views known in a situation like this, or listen and silently disagree?



How do you respond in situations of conflict or debate?

REFLECT

Jesus points out to Peter that he doesn't have the things of God on his mind but rather 'human things' (v.33). Often Jesus talks in a way that seems upside down to the way we might naturally consider things. Sit and chat to someone about the way you spent one of your days this week or reflect on your own. Talk/think about where you saw the things of God come into play and where it was all about human things. Is it always easy to tell which is which? How do you recognise when something is of God?

The cost of Christianity

Jesus speaks strongly in this passage about the cost of following him. In many parts of the world, this is experienced in difficult and dangerous ways. Visit opendoorsuk.org and read a story there about persecuted Christians across the world. Write the name of a person in the story, or the area of the world that you read about, on a sticky note, along with a request you have to God, on behalf of the person or nation.

DRESS UP

Thursday 4 March is World Book Day and children are often encouraged to dress up as a character to represent a particular book. If you had to dress up to represent a Bible character who met Jesus, who would you be and why? What was the relationship between them? What would you wear to represent that person and their relationship with Jesus? If you have children in your household, help them to actually dress up in the way you discuss.



You will need: any craft materials you have or natural objects you can find.

- Make a cross from whatever you have to hand. You could glue or tie lolly sticks, garden canes or other found objects together; or you could fold and cut paper to the right shape; or perhaps you have the skills to crochet or cross stitch a cross.
- As you craft, talk or think about what it means to take up your cross every day and follow Jesus.

LENT GARDEN OF RESPONSES

In this week's passage, Jesus talks about how following him has a cost involved. Sometimes the things we do for others cost us something in time or money or energy, but we often feel good when we do them because we see the joy we can bring to another.

This week, find some ways to do acts of kindness for others, maybe in a secret way so that they don't know it was you. Can you leave something on a friend's doorstep as a surprise? Or can you offer to help someone in a way they need? Could you pay for the coffee of the person in front of you in the queue?

Either place objects that remind you of these acts of kindness in your garden tray or draw them onto your garden page, which you started last week at the beginning of Lent.

Choose a version of the passage to read. The first is the ROOTS version for children, the second is the NRSV text which may be suitable for older children, young people and adults.

Jesus knew that he had to prepare his friends for what was to come. One day, he drew his disciples close and began to talk to them. He told them that he, the Son of Man, would have to suffer and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the scribes. He would be killed, and after three days, he would rise again. He



said all this quite openly. Peter was very upset. He took Jesus away from the others and began to argue with him.

But Jesus shouted at Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan!' Then he turned and looked at his disciples and said, 'You're thinking about human things. This is about heavenly things.' He knew it was hard to hear, but they needed to know.

Calling the crowd to join his disciples, Jesus said: 'If anyone wants to become my followers, let them forget about themselves, take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, but pay for it with their soul? Don't be ashamed of me, and I won't be ashamed of you.'

Mark 8.31-38

Did you know?

- The word Satan means the devil, a personification of evil.

Mark 8.31-38 (NRSV)

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want

to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the Gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

Mark 8.31-38

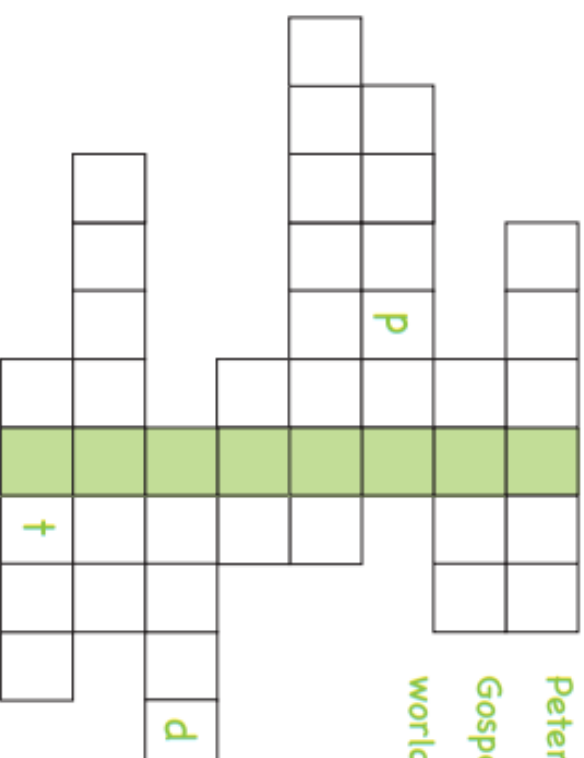
Jesus told the disciples the things that were going to happen to him, even though this was upsetting for them to hear.



The disciples were shocked when Jesus told them he was going to die. In the space below, draw your own reaction to this news.

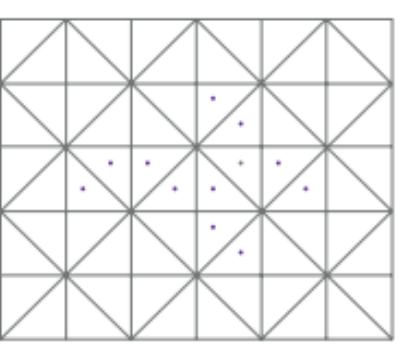
Write

Fit the words from the story into the grid. The shaded column will show a message from Jesus.



Draw

Colour the spotted sections to complete the words of Jesus: 'Take up your _____ and follow me.'



Puzzle

Can you use the code to reveal what Jesus told his disciples?

ç	†	x	Ω	+	±	•	X	÷	+	✿
t	s	o	n	m	h	f	e	d	b	a

+xΩ ç +X •†±•+X† x• +X
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