



*St* **NICOLAS' CHURCH**  
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

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# **THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

## **A Service of the Word**



**Sunday 21 February 2021**  
**Officiant: Bishop Henry Scriven**

The music before the service:  
How deep the Father's love for us  
Stuart Townend

## Welcome and Notices

O Lord, open our lips  
*All* and our mouth shall proclaim your praise

### Safe in the shadow of the Lord

Safe in the shadow of the Lord  
beneath his hand and power,  
I trust in him,  
I trust in him,  
my fortress and my tower.

My hope is set on God alone  
though Satan spreads his snare;  
I trust in him,  
I trust in him,  
to keep me in his care.

From fears and phantoms of the night,  
from foes about my way,  
I trust in him,  
I trust in him,  
by darkness as by day.

His holy angels keep my feet  
secure from every stone;  
I trust in him,  
I trust in him,  
and unafraid go on.

Strong in the everlasting name,  
and in my Father's care,  
I trust in him,  
I trust in him,  
who hears and answers prayer.

Safe in the shadow of the Lord,  
possessed by love divine,  
    I trust in him,  
    I trust in him,  
and meet his love with mine.

*Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926), based on Psalm 91  
Holy Trinity Church, Dromore*

## **Prayers of Penitence**

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.  
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,  
and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness  
and cleanse me from my sin:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Make me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Cast me not away from your presence  
and take not your holy spirit from me:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

cf Psalm 51

## **Promise of Forgiveness (Absolution)**

May the God of love and power  
forgive you and free you from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,  
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

## 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.**

## The Word of God

### First Reading:

**I Peter 3: 18 - 22**

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

### Forty days and forty nights

**CP 95**

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 dewdrops nightly shed;  
Prowling beasts about thy way;  
Stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.

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 minister'd 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)*  
*Chet Valley Churches*

**Second Reading:**

**Mark 1: 9 - 15**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

**Lead us heavenly Father lead us:**

**CP 496**

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
O'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,  
For we have no help but thee,  
Yet possessing every blessing  
If our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us;  
All our weakness thou dost know,  
Thou didst tread this earth before us,  
Thou didst feel its keenest woe;  
Lone and dreary, faint and weary,  
Through the desert thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,  
Fill our hearts with heavenly joy,  
Love with every passion blending,  
Pleasure that can never cloy;  
Thus provided, pardoned, guided,  
Nothing can our peace destroy.

*James Edmeston (1791–1867)*  
*Chet Valley Churches*

## **SERMON**

### **Affirmation of Faith**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

**We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*At the end of each bidding when the leader says:*

Lord in your mercy,

*Please respond:*

**Hear our prayer**

*At the end of the prayers we say the Lord's Prayer together.*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
are yours now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

### **Name of all majesty**

**CP 525**

Name of all majesty, fathomless mystery,  
King of the ages by angels adored;  
Power and authority, splendour and dignity,  
Bow to his mastery,  
Jesus is Lord!

Child of our destiny, God from eternity,  
Love of the Father on sinners outpoured;  
See now what God has done sending his only Son,  
Christ the beloved One,  
Jesus is Lord!

Saviour of Calvary, costliest victory,  
Darkness defeated and Eden restored;  
Born as a man to die, nailed to a cross on high,  
Cold in the grave to lie,  
Jesus is Lord!

Source of all sovereignty, light, immortality,  
Life everlasting and heaven assured;  
So with the ransomed, we praise him eternally,  
Christ in his majesty,  
Jesus is Lord!

*Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)*  
*Chet Valley Churches*

## **The Blessing**

**We shall keep the Zoom session open if anyone wants to stay online  
and chat - don't forget to un-mute.**

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