

Sunday Worship at Home, 7th February, 2nd Sunday before Lent

Opening Prayers:

God meets us in our scattered lives,

let us worship him together

God of our days and years, we set this time apart for you.

Form us in the likeness of Christ so that our lives may glorify you.

Amen

A Prayer of Confession:

God shows his love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

We are often slow to follow the example of Christ. **Lord, have mercy.**

We often fail to be known as Christ's disciples. **Christ, have mercy.**

We often fail to walk the way of the cross. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,

and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Collect for the Second Sunday before Lent

Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person,

that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Reflection on the reading:

Our gospel reading this morning is probably familiar to many of you as the Christmas gospel, read at carol services and midnight mass, and yet here we are seven weeks later looking at it again. Perhaps that is because at Christmas, we are focussed on the human baby Jesus. Today I want to focus on my reflection on the Word of God!

So John's Gospel begins: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God and everything came into being through the Word. We think of Old Testament as being before Jesus and Jesus as being New Testament, but in the first three verses of Genesis we have the Holy Trinity:

Verse 1 Beginning, God created the heavens and the earth – God the Father

Verse 2 A wind from God swept over the face of the waters – God the Holy Spirit

Verse 3 And God said let there be light... the Word of God is what brought his creation into being, bringing order to and life to the chaotic and formless void.

John tells us "the Word became flesh and lived among us". Jesus is the Word of God become human. The word John uses for lived in "lived among us" is literally translated as "pitched his tent". God intended to stay with us as a human to show us the way for some time, but only temporarily, 33 years in fact. Jesus is the light of the world, God's first word in creation. And Jesus is our saviour, his final words for us on the cross before he gave himself back to his Father declaring "it is finished" were "Forgive them". Jesus the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End – the First and the Last Word of God, who was before the universe began and will be after it ends, calling us back to God and reconciling us to God. If we would only hear his voice, listen to the Word of God, and believe. **Amen.**

The Creed

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

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

Be still and pray: In your prayers, include prayers for the church, the needs of the world and our local community. Particularly pray for: Our Prime Minister, the Government and all world leaders they struggle to control COVID-19 and manage vaccination programmes; for our front-line health workers caring for the sick and vulnerable, and administering vaccinations; for healing and peace for those who are ill; and for the souls of those who have recently died and comfort for those who are mourning their loss.

Finish with The Lord's Prayer:

Conclusion

May God bless us and keep us, make his face to shine upon us, and give us his peace; **Amen**

Reverend Eddie