

**YouTube service for St John's and All Saints' on the first Sunday of Lent, 21st February 2021**

**Welcome and introduction**

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

**Opening prayer**

**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.**

**Music**

*Dear Lord and Father of mankind*  
John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-92)  
The church of St Laurence, Chorley

**Invitation to confession**

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. Let us confess our sins remembering before God the times when we have fallen from temptation into sin.

**The Confession**

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:  
fill us with your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:  
fill us with your Spirit.  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:  
fill us with your Spirit.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

**The Absolution**

May the God of love  
bring you back to himself,  
forgive you your sins,  
and assure you of his eternal love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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.**

**Old Testament reading**

Genesis 9:8-17

## Music

*Forty days and forty nights*  
George Hunt Smyttan (1822-70)  
Chet Valley Churches, Norfolk

## New Testament reading

Mark 1:9-15

## Reflection

Jeff Golding (our ordinand on attachment)

## Reflective music for Lent

*Dear Lord and Father of mankind*  
Best of Celtic Music

## Sonnet

Temptations: Stones into Bread by  
Malcolm Guite from *Sounding the Seasons*

## The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God.  
**All We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on 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.**

## Music

*Find me in the river*  
Martin Smith and Delirious

## Intercessions

Concluding with 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.

## Music

*Purify my heart*  
Brian Doerkson  
Chet Valley Churches, Norfolk

## Concluding prayer

*The Slow Down Prayer* from the Iona  
Community

Slow us down for the fast.

Still our restless spirits ... Calm our racing  
minds ... Centre our being ...  
Let our longing linger. Let it take root

and create a beautiful yearning space that  
has the time to ache ...

Slow us down for the fast.  
Silence the siren voices ...

Wait for our weary wanting  
to meet our need and find common  
ground ... Hold back the driving beat of  
our hearts

and let the drums of our internal wars fall  
silent ... Slow us down for the fast.

Before the journey begins ... Before the  
wanderlust calls us ... Before the wilder-  
ness beckons and breaks our searching  
spirits ...

Slow us down for the fast.

*From prayers, meditations, reflections and medi-  
tations for Lent.* Copyright Sally Foster-Ful-  
ton and the Iona Community

### **Blessing and dismissal**

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,  
to deny yourselves, take up your cross,  
and follow him;  
and the blessing ...

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen**

