

Morning Worship Online – 21st February 2021

The First Sunday of Lent

Words of Welcome – Gareth

I. The Introduction

May the grace and peace of God, who is full of compassion and tenderness, and who calls us back with all our heart, be with you all.

And also with you.

We have come together as the family of God in our Father's presence, to offer him praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive his word, to bring before him the needs of the world and to seek his grace, that, through his Son, Jesus Christ, we may give ourselves to his service.

God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Confident of his saving love, let us acknowledge our failures and ask the Lord for pardon and strength.

Silence

Let us confess our sins to the Father and seek his pardon and peace.

**Almighty and merciful God,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with all our heart;
and we have not loved others as Christ loves us.
We are truly sorry.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Help us to amend our lives;
that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you and set you free from sin, strengthen you in goodness and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We are gathered to worship our God.
Send your Spirit upon us.

We come from many places, with many burdens.
Send your Spirit upon us.

We turn our hearts to you, O God.
**Send your Spirit upon us,
and make us your beloved family.**

— adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2006, and posted on the **Worship Elements** page of the **Ministry Matters** website.

2. *The Ministry of the Word*

Hymn – Breathe on me, breath of God (Choir of St John’s Church, Maindee)

Reading – Mark 1:9-15 (NIV)

The Baptism and Testing of Jesus

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

¹² At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, ¹³ and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

Jesus Announces the Good News

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon – Adam

The Baptismal Creed

**I believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist.**

**I believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again.**

**I believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world.**

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

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

3. *Prayers – Gareth*

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard.

We pray for the Church:
that we may learn afresh to worship the Lord our God
and to serve him alone.
Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who bear hardships for the sake of the gospel:
that they may rely on the power of God,
who has saved us and called us to be holy.
Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

We pray for peace between all nations:
that all leaders may know the perfect law of the Lord,
a rule to be trusted, giving wisdom and joy, light and life.
Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who live in poverty:
that they may know the immeasurable riches of the Lord,
who is full of grace and goodness.
Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for those caught up in political conflicts or military action:
that the leaders of the nations and all people everywhere
will be illuminated by the light of Christ to seek peace and reconciliation.
Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for our own communities of faith:
that through humble service and a pure heart
we may preach Christ crucified, the power of God and the wisdom of God.
Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

God our Father,
hear our prayer which we have made from the depths of our heart
and in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We conclude our prayers by praying with confidence to the Father, as Jesus 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.**

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days
to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness
to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

4. *Conclusion*

Whatever wilderness the Spirit has brought you to:
walk in boldness, as a beloved child of God
walk in peace, under the shelter of the Most High
walk in faith, knowing Christ walks with you. Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father,
the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

~ written by Joanna Harader, and posted on her **Spacious Faith** blog. <http://spaciousfaith.com/>

Farewell Words - Gareth

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all, evermore. Amen.**

Final Hymn – Spirit of the Living God (BandLab Team)