

Prayers

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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.

The Canticle - SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD

Jesus, Saviour of the world,
come to us in your mercy:
we look to you to save and help us.

By your cross and your life laid down,
you set your people free:
we look to you to save and help us.

When they were ready to perish,
you saved your disciples:
we look to you to come to our help.

In the greatness of your mercy, loose us from our chains, forgive the sins of all your people.

Make yourself known as our Saviour and mighty deliverer; save and help us that we may praise you.

Come now and dwell with us, Lord Christ Jesus:
hear our prayer and be with us always.

And when you come in your glory:
make us to be one with you
and to share the life of your kingdom

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father.....

Almighty God,
we thank you for the gift of your holy word.
May it be a lantern to our feet,
a light to our paths,
and a strength to our lives.
Take us and use us
to love and serve
in the power of the Holy Spirit
and in the name of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE UNITED BENEFICE OF WALMERSLEY ROAD

**ST.JOHN with ST.MARK, BURY
CHRIST CHURCH, WALMERSLEY**

21 February 2021

First Sunday of Lent:

Service at Home

You may wish to light a candle and have some reflective music playing in the background.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

Colossians 3: 16

Opening Prayer – Collect for the day

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.

GOSPEL 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.”

REFLECTION – Pam Cowie

At the beginning of his public ministry Jesus was baptised by John in the River Jordan. An act of humility for Jesus and one of solidarity with those he came to save. In the reading from Mark’s gospel, we have none of the details of this occasion or of Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness. (see Matthew 4 & Luke 4). Mark – always in a hurry – wants to tell us who Jesus is and what he did. The three gospels agree that soon after his anointing at Baptism the Spirit led Jesus into the desert where he was tempted by the devil. The wilderness experience was for Jesus a time of testing, of choice and decision. What kind of Messiah would he be? What path would he pursue? None of the temptations look evil in themselves. Changing stones into bread would make him a hero, a popularist. We know where that can lead. By leaping from a high place, he would be a sensation – a flash in the pan magician. The devil then showed Jesus all the Kingdoms of the world and wealth if he would fall down and worship him. Jesus rebuked him by quoting Scripture. A good thing for us to do when we are under pressure. A day came when Jesus shared his experience with the disciples for their warning, for their comfort and for their strengthening. Temptation so often looks attractive, but Jesus shows us how to get through. His leadership experience and words are some of the most sacred in Scripture.

Benedictus (the Song of Zechariah)

- Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, for he has come to his people and set them free.
- He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, born of the house of his servant David.
- Through his holy prophets God promised of old to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us.
- He promised to show mercy to our forebears and to remember his holy covenant.
- This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies.
- Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.
- You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way.
- To give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

THE APOSTLES 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.