

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.

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised 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
chain, 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.

May God our Redeemer show us compassion and
love.

Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God

THE UNITED BENEFICE OF WALMERSLEY ROAD

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

7 March 2021

Third 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 most dear Son went
not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was
crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in
the way of the cross, may find it none other
than the way of life and peace; 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: John 2: 13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus
went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he
found people selling cattle, sheep, and
doves, and the money-changers seated at
their tables. Making a whip of cords, he
drove all of them out of the temple, both the
sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the
coins of the money-changers and overturned
their tables. He told those who were selling
the doves, 'Take these things out of here!
Stop making my Father's house a market-
place!' His disciples remembered that it was
written, 'Zeal for your house will consume
me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign
can you show us for doing this?' Jesus

answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

REFLECTION – The Vicar

*I once heard this passage being used as justification for not selling anything at all in our church buildings. However, our card and book stalls or home-made cakes bear no comparison to the cattle, sheep and doves that were being sold in the temple. Jesus was angry with the people involved in this business activity because the traders were charging inflated prices for the animals and the money changers were giving extortionate rates of exchange. What should have been a service to the worshippers who had come to make a sacrifice to God had become a corrupt and immoral procedure. Those who were rich had been given an advantage over the poor. By driving out the traders and the money lenders, Jesus is making the point that there should be no restrictions placed on who can worship God. God is not only there for the rich, or those with the right credentials but for everyone who wished to attend. We need to ensure that our services are accessible to all. Visitors should be welcomed and not regarded as outsiders. Our card stalls etc can remain but we must be conscious of the danger of discrimination, favouritism, or bias. As we re-open our church buildings for public worship from next week, may we always acknowledge that we are open to **all** the public and not be a private members club. God loves and welcomes everyone.*

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.