



All Together Sunday Worship

14th March 2021

**Learning from Jesus about
overcoming betrayal**

Preparing for Worship (stand if able)

Come, worship the God who said:
As a mother comforts her child,
so I will comfort you. (Isaiah 66:13a)

We will come before our God.
Gather us now before you, O Lord,
as a hen gathers her brood to protect them.
Like a mother you gather your people to you;
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.
As we meet today and follow your example,
protect us, support us, and feed us
with your unconditional love. Amen

(Adapted from St Anselm of Canterbury)

Song: Cast your cares on the Lord (Psalm 55:22)

Reading from the Bible

Mark 14:1-31

Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. ² 'But not during the festival,' they said, 'or the people may riot.'

³ While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.

⁴ Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, 'Why this waste of perfume? ⁵ It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor.' And they rebuked her harshly.

⁶ 'Leave her alone,' said Jesus. 'Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. ⁷ The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. ⁸ She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. ⁹ Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.'

¹⁰ Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. ¹¹ They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

¹² On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him, 'Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?'

¹³ So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, 'Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. ¹⁴ Say to the owner of the house he enters, "The Teacher asks: where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?" ¹⁵ He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.'

¹⁶ The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

¹⁷ When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. ¹⁸ While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, 'Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me – one who is eating with me.'

¹⁹ They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, ‘Surely you don’t mean me?’

²⁰ ‘It is one of the Twelve,’ he replied, ‘one who dips bread into the bowl with me. ²¹ The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.’

²² While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, ‘Take it; this is my body.’

²³ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

²⁴ ‘This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,’ he said to them. ²⁵ ‘Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.’

²⁶ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

²⁷ ‘You will all fall away,’ Jesus told them, ‘for it is written:

“I will strike the shepherd,
and the sheep will be scattered.”

²⁸ But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.’

²⁹ Peter declared, ‘Even if all fall away, I will not.’

³⁰ ‘Truly I tell you,’ Jesus answered, ‘today – yes, tonight – before the cock crows twice you yourself will disown me three times.’

³¹ But Peter insisted emphatically, ‘Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.’ And all the others said the same.

Reflecting on God's Word

Learn from Jesus about overcoming betrayal

- Hate Jesus in secret or adore Him in public (v1-10)
- Betray Christ or enter a new covenant with Him (v11-26)
- Rely on our own strength or let Christ reveal our weakness (27-31)

Praying Together

Confessing our Sins

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.**

**We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Declaring God's Forgiveness

Through faith in Christ alone, the LORD forgives us all our sins, heals the sickness of our souls; the LORD redeems our lives from the grave and crowns us with glory and honour. **Amen.**

The Collect for the 4th Sunday of Lent

**Grant, Almighty God, that we,
who deserve to be punished for our evil deeds,
may by your grace and mercy
be spared through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Affirming Our Faith - The 39 Articles of the Church of England

XVII. OF PREDESTINATION AND ELECTION

PREDESTINATION to Life is the everlasting purpose of God, whereby (before the foundations of the world were laid) He has constantly decreed by His counsel secret to us, to deliver from curse and damnation those whom he has chosen in Christ out of mankind, and to bring them by Christ to everlasting salvation, as vessels made to honour. Wherefore, they which be endued with so excellent a benefit of God be called according to God's purpose by his Spirit working in due season: they through Grace obey the calling: they be justified freely: they be made sons of God by adoption: they be made like the image of his only-begotten Son Jesus Christ: they walk religiously in good works, and at length, by God's mercy, they attain to everlasting felicity.

As the godly consideration of Predestination, and our Election in Christ, is full of sweet, pleasant, and unspeakable comfort to godly persons, and such as feel in themselves the working of the Spirit of Christ, mortifying the works of the flesh, and their earthly members, and drawing up their mind to high and heavenly things, as well because it does greatly establish and confirm their faith of eternal Salvation to be enjoyed through Christ, as because it does fervently kindle their love towards God: So, for curious and carnal persons, lacking the Spirit of Christ, to have continually before their eyes the sentence of God's Predestination, is a most dangerous downfall, whereby the Devil does thrust them either into desperation, or into wretchedness of most unclean living, no less perilous than desperation.

Furthermore, we must receive God's promises in such wise, as they be generally set forth to us in holy Scripture: and, in our doings, that Will of God is to be followed, which we have expressly declared unto us in the Word of God.

XVIII. OF OBTAINING ETERNAL SALVATION ONLY BY THE NAME OF CHRIST

THEY also are to be had accursed that presume to say, That every man shall be saved by the Law or Sect which he professes, so that he be diligent to frame his life according to that Law, and the light of Nature. For holy Scripture does set out unto us only the Name of Jesus Christ, whereby men must be saved.

Intercessions

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

Our Father in heaven

Hallowed be your name

Your kingdom come

Your will be done

On earth as is 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 forever. Amen.

Notices

SONG: Jesus strong and kind

Pronouncing God's Blessing

Eternal God and Father, by whose power we are created
and by whose love we are redeemed,
guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,
that we may stand with Christ against corruption
and live this year under His gentle and loving authority;
To the glory of your majestic name. **Amen.**

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

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

Notices

PCC met Monday 8th March at 7:30pm. Thank you for your prayer for good discussions and harmony. A brief report of decisions will be available shortly.

New job title and role for Helen Morrow. The Apostle Paul tells us God's purpose for ministers in all circumstances: Christ is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. (Colossians 1:28). With this in mind, Helen's role as assistant pastor will be re-focused on teaching and counselling women and young people to know Christ and follow him. She will undertake a Biblical Counselling Internship and continue to seek ways to set up evangelistic and discipleship ministries with support from church members.

Next Sunday 21st March. The service will be on video in church and YouTube.

Easter story window displays. Make the most of your house and car windows. Tell the gospel story in pictures this Easter. If you want creative ideas, please contact Helen.

Holy Week Services. Good Friday 2nd April private prayer before the cross. 1pm to 3pm in church. Easter Sunday 4th April service 11am. There will be no communion service this Easter.

Leprosy Mission Sunday 11th April. We support the work of the Leprosy Mission and so will focus on this life changing work the Sunday after Easter.

Zoom Sunday Afternoon Tea - 4pm today

Zoom Small Group Bible Study and Fellowship. Tues and Wed at 7:30pm.

Zoom Cake and Chat. 9-11am on Thursday. Drop in for as long as you want.