**Second Sunday of Lent**

**28th February 2021**

Introduction & welcome: *Rev Trish*

Jesus said, ‘Whoever wants to be a follower of mine must renounce self; take up his cross and follow me.’

*Hymn: The God of Abraham praise (mute!)* *https://youtu.be/OvTgzJ2nZGo*

Gathering: *Richard Pickles*

Jesus said, ‘Those who would come after me, must deny themselves, take up their cross and follow me.’

Lead us, Lord Jesus.

**Help us to follow you.**

You denied yourself.

**Help us to follow you.**

You took up the cross.

**Help us to follow you. Amen**

A prayer of confession*: Mark Pryce*

When we find it easier to walk the way of the world and not the way of the cross.

Forgive us, Lord,

**and set our minds on you.**

When we place self before others and seek reassurance in our own importance.

Forgive us, Lord,

**nd set our minds on you.**

When we turn our backs on God because we fear the consequences of looking to the future and our vision is narrowed by what we think we might achieve.

Forgive us, Lord,

**and set our minds on you.**

When we give up our lives for the sake of a comfortable existence.

Forgive us, Lord,

**and set our minds on you.**

When the cross is rough and heavy and our shoulders ache and we feel unable to carry on.

Forgive us, Lord,

**and set our minds on you. Amen.**

*Silence*

Hear the words of grace ‘Your sins are forgiven.’

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Collect: *Sue Tye*

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ’s sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Epistle*: Jean Owen*

*Romans 4.13–25*

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, ‘I have made you the father of many nations’)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become ‘the father of many nations’, according to what was said, ‘So numerous shall your descendants be.’ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith ‘was reckoned to him as righteousness.’ Now the words, ‘it was reckoned to him’, were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God**

Prayer of thanksgiving: *Des Roberts*

God, the creator of the rich tapestry of humankind,

we give you thanks for our heritage: for our ancestors, known and unknown,

for our ever-evolving culture, shaped deep in the past, yet flowering today.

We thank you for our Judaeo-Christian heritage, for the tales of the patriarchs,

for the opportunity to rejoice in your gifts,

and for your love, so deep that you sent your Son to die for us.

Make us faithful, Lord, responsive to our calling and eager to hear your voice, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gospel: *Helen Probin*

*Mark 8.31–38*

Then Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, ‘Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.’

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God**

Address: *Chris Lawton*

Prayers of intercession**:** *Jill Bottomley*

We bring our cares and concerns , our prayers for the world, and for all God’s people before God.

We have so much that we constantly throw away, wasting the earth’s resources and denying others what they really need.

We pray for the earth that we have plundered and the people we have denied.

Help us to live in harmony with the earth and in co-operation with one another.

We have so much that we make ourselves immune to others’ pain,

offering money, not rolling up our sleeves.

We pray for those who suffer the pain of hunger, disease or poverty.

Help us to challenge injustice and be willing to share from our abundance.

We have so much freedom to believe and to express ourselves.

We pray for those who long to be free, to determine their own future, free of prejudice and discrimination.

Help us to feel compassion and to pick up our cross and follow you. **Amen.**

*Silence*

A prayer for all ages:  *Sian Matthews*

God who calls us to a new way of living, of loving, of sharing, different and special, name us as your children. Enable us to welcome others and send us out to live in your name. **Amen.**

We pray together as Jesus taught us, **Our Father…**

The Peace: *Rev Yvonne*

The peace of the Lord be always with you;

**And also with you**

Tangnefedd yr Arglwydd a fo gyda chwi bob amser

**A hefyd gyda thi**

The Blessing: *Rev Phil*

Go and continue on your life’s journey, knowing that God is with you each step of the way.

And may the God of peace bring you every blessing, with which to serve him and make his will known through Jesus Christ, to whom be all glory and honour, now and for ever more. **Amen.**

*Hymn: Be thou my vision (mute!)*

[*https://youtu.be/6AdBkEJurR4*](https://youtu.be/6AdBkEJurR4)

Go in the light and peace of Christ to love and serve the Lord.
**Thanks be to God. Amen**