**Sunday 7th March:**

**LENT 3**

Jesus said ‘Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace’

*Hymn: All heaven declares (mute!)*

*https://youtu.be/X\_Di3qmo\_xg*

A prayer of approach: *James Brown*

When we stand in awe of the magnificence of the Temple:  
**Jesus calls us to look for the kingdom hidden among us.**

When we allow corruption and injustice to go unchallenged:  
**Jesus prompts us to ask the difficult questions.**

We draw near, hesitant, afraid, searching, to worship the one who calls us to a new way of living for ourselves and the world. **Amen.**

A prayer of confession: *Ann Wilkinson*

Our merciful and loving God, we have wandered from your way, following our own ways. We are truly sorry for our failure and humbly claim your promise to forgive. Help us to live lives worthy of your calling, to be fit temples within which you may abide. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Silence*

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

**Thanks be to God. Amen**

Collect: *Sally O’Brien*

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. **Amen**

First Reading: *Berwyn Thomas*

*1 Corinthians 1:18-25*

 For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?  For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.  For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom,  but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,  but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.  For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

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

A prayer of response: *Jean Owen*

Jesus, you spoke words that changed attitudes.

**May we be strong for what is right.**

you spoke words that made the powerful worry.

**May we be strong for what is right.**

you did things that made people fear.

You showed your anger, which made evil run away.

**May we be strong for what is right.**you did all this in your father’s temple.

**May we be strong for what is right. Amen**

The Gospel: *Michael Winwood*

*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 marketplace!”  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.

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

Sermon*: Rev Yvonne*

Prayers of Intercession: C*hris Lawton*

Where earth is polluted and plundered;  
where God’s creation is driven to extinction;

where habitats are destroyed:  
let tears fall as we feel the pain of your creation,

**and make us holy as we tread the earth.**

Where people are hungry or cold;  
where children die of treatable diseases;  
where women are trafficked and abused:  
let tears fall as we feel the pain of injustice,  
**and make us holy as we encounter the lives of others.**

Where war denies the right to life;  
where refugees are driven from homelands;

where people are scarred physically and mentally:

let tears fall as we feel the pain of conflict,  
**and make us holy as we are challenged to live your shalom. Amen**

*Silence*

We pray together as Jesus taught us,

**Our Father…**

The Peace: *Rev Trish*

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 Kate*

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: Jesus is Lord! (mute!)*

*https://youtu.be/8HHYt40whHQ*

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