**LENT 5**

**Passion Sunday**

**Sunday 21st March**

Introduction & welcome: *Rev Trish*

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain: but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

*Hymn: Unless a grain of wheat shall fall (mute!)*

*https://youtu.be/Z2fR9fUD5bM*

Gathering:  *Sian Matthews*

Night has gone, day has broken.

**Thanks be to God.**

We are loved as the people we are.

**Thanks be to God.**

With hearts aflame with love,

**We praise the Lord. Amen**

A prayer of confession*: Richard Pickles*

Lord our God, you know who we are, and how we are:  
Our strengths and our weaknesses are known to you.

Forgive our failure to hear and respond.

Forgive our unwillingness to trust your promises.

Let us know the healing touch of your forgiveness,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Silence*

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

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Collect: *Ann Wilkinson*

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,

that we may know eternal peace

through the shedding of our Saviour’s blood,

Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Old Testament reading: *Mark Pryce*

*Jeremiah 31:31-34*

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord.  But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

Prayer of Petition: *Jean Owen*

Jesus said: ‘Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain.’  
Help us, Lord, to understand this saying

**and to be one of those who bear much fruit in your name.**

Jesus said: ‘Those who love their life, lose it.’  
Help us, Lord, to understand this saying

**and to be willing to give up all we have in your service.**

Jesus said: ‘When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself.’  
Help us, Lord, to understand this saying

**and to be part of your mission to bring good news to our neighbours and to all humankind.** **Amen**.

Gospel: *Sally O’Brien*

*John 12:20-33*

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.  Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. “Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.”  Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out.  And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”  He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

Address: *Chris Lawton*

Prayers of intercession**:** *Des Roberts*

Wherever we find devastation and hopelessness:

help us to plant seeds; **make us nurturers of fertile ground.**

Wherever we meet fear and anxiety:  
help us to plant seeds;

**make us nurturers of fertile ground.**

When we find people who want to give up:

help us to plant seeds;

**make us nurturers of fertile ground.**

When people want to learn; when people don’t want to learn:

help us to plant seeds;

**make us nurturers of fertile ground.**

Make us workers with you, Lord, in your project of creation:  
help us to plant seeds;

**make us nurturers of fertile ground. Amen.**

*Silence*

We pray together as Jesus taught us,

**Our Father…**

The Peace: *Rev Matt*

May God, who watches the world with us, grant peace in our hearts and hope in our lives, that we may be at peace with one another.

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 Matt*

May God bless you with rain,

may God bless you with sunshine.

May God bless you with food,

may God bless you with shelter.

And until we meet again,

may you grow in God’s love

and plant seeds of God’s love,

wherever you may be. **Amen.**

*Hymn: Christ triumphant, ever reigning (mute!)* *https://youtu.be/0r3EogSdfPU*

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