

## Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021 – Bulwell United Reformed Church

On this first Sunday of Lent we read Mark's account of the baptism of Jesus, his temptation in the wilderness and his first proclamation of the good news, in Galilee. Mark records the voice as a personal experience for Jesus, identifying him in a special relationship with the Father, and setting a seal on his ministry and role. *A short service for personal communion focusing on confessing Jesus is Lord is included. Please have your bread & wine/juice ready.*

### **A prayer of approach**

To you, O Lord, we lift up our hearts,  
offering worship and praise.  
Show us your path.  
Teach us to follow.  
Guide us in your truth.  
For our hope is in you all day long.  
**Amen.**



### **A prayer of confession**

God of justice,  
do not remember our sins,  
our transgressions, our offences,  
and the failings of our community and nation.  
Remember us according to your love.  
In your compassion, forgive us our sins,  
and teach us to be faithful to your ways.  
**Give us humility and wisdom,  
that we might journey through Lent  
as a people worthy of your name,  
and that of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



*Our Father who art in heaven...*

**Song            How deep the Father's love for us**

[\(376\) How Deep the Fathers Love for Us - Stuart Townend - YouTube](#)

### **Mark 1:9-15 - The baptism and testing of Jesus**

<sup>9</sup> At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'

<sup>12</sup> At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, <sup>13</sup> and he was in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted<sup>[a]</sup> by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

**Jesus announces the good news**

<sup>14</sup> After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup> 'The time has come,' he said. 'The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!' (NIVUK)

### Meditation for the first Sunday of Lent

#### **Lead us on our journey**

God, our God, you have called us to be a people  
on the move;  
travelling light,  
dying to live, ready to lose ourselves for the sake of the world.

You have called us to be a people  
with a purpose;  
travelling without a map,  
travelling to where we are led,  
sustained by your Spirit,  
committed to the gospel for the hope of the world.

You have called us, your people,  
to be the church.  
But we are a church with problems:  
too strong for the weak,  
too staid for the young,  
too respectable for the poor,  
too divided for mission,  
too obsessed with our own lives to think of the lives of others,  
too unsure of our message to speak to the world.

Move us on our journey  
from where we are to where you want us to go.  
Open our eyes on the way  
to the people of different cultures, continents and countries,  
who can bring colour to our lives.

Take us on our journey  
from where we are to what you want us to be;  
so that we become a community  
where all are welcomed and no one is excluded,  
all are valued and no one is made to feel inadequate,  
all are forgiven and no one is ashamed to belong,  
all are encouraged and no one is too hurt to come among us.

Lead us on our journey  
from who we are to who you want us to be;  
so that patience is built into us,  
kindness is assumed in us,  
gentleness is part of us,  
compassion flows from us,



truth is second nature to us,  
and the commitment of love is part of us.

Let us go gladly on the journey towards Easter –  
the journey towards death and resurrection.  
Let us journey in the peace and power of the Spirit.

*Ruth Harvey, from Eggs and ashes, Wild Goose publications*

### **Intercessions**

Dear Father, in this season of learning and repentance, growth and healing, we accept your Son's invitation to be ever-mindful of the needs of others, offering our prayers on behalf of the community he loved in the church and the world.

So Lord, fill us with your strength to resist the seductions of our foolish desires and the tempter's vain delights, that we may walk in obedience and righteousness, rejoicing in you with upright hearts.

We pray for all those whose lives are affected by illness, including the current pandemic that your healing power surrounds them, so that they recover and praise your holy name.

We pray for the whole world, tented by all forms of sin and conflict, greed for power and wealth that they discover your call to go on loving and serving, as we pray in your holy name. **Amen.**

*Please add your prayers for others you wish to pray for today . . .*

### **Song            As the deer pants for the water**

[\(376\) As the deer pants for the water - Robin Mark - YouTube](#)

### **Holy Communion - First Sunday of Lent**

We bring you a gift of thanks, O God,  
as we raise the cup of freedom in your name, for you have made a covenant with us in the blood of Christ and broken us free from the grip of death.

In your creative love, you brought the world to birth, and from the first you loved all who live in it.

You heard the cries of your suffering people  
and protected them with the blood of the Passover lamb as you struck down those who oppressed them.

You sent your Son, Jesus, as our Teacher and Lord and gave all things into his hands.  
Laying aside his power, he gave himself to us in humble service and taught us to love one

another as he had loved us.

When the hour for his departure came, he was betrayed by a friend and his body broken on the cross.

With his outpoured blood you marked out those who will follow where he has gone, into the promised land of resurrection life.

***Therefore, with our hearts lifted high,  
we offer you thanks and praise at all times  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen..***

### **The Story of the Lord's Supper**

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, 'Take; this is my body'. Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, I tell you, I will never again drink the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.' (Mark 14: 22-25)

### **The Sharing of the Bread and the Wine**

*Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to the wedding feast of the Lamb. Alleluia.*

Take, eat; this is the body of Christ, broken for you. Do this in remembrance of him.

This cup is the new covenant in the blood of Christ, shed for you and for all, for the forgiveness of sin. Drink of it, all of you, in remembrance of him.

### **Prayer after Communion**

God of a love stronger than death, you have given us new birth into a living hope through the gift of your Son.

God with us, you have fed us with yourself and strengthened us for journeying ahead.

God of truth and power, you take our weakness and our sin and refashion us by grace.

### **A sending out prayer**

Creator God, you made us in your image  
to be your people, wherever we go.

This coming week, whatever we experience,  
wherever we find ourselves,

help us to know that you are with us –  
guiding, revealing and sustaining – always.

**Amen.**



