

Second Sunday of Lent 28th February



"let them take up their cross and follow me"
Mark 8:34

Call to Worship

Pilgrims, we are invited to journey
through this season of Lent
**towards the One who calls us each by
a new name.**

Disciples, we walk with Jesus wherever
he leads us,
**putting our fears, our doubts, our
longings behind us.**

Believers, we seek to trust the God who
always surprises us,
**Let us take up our cross
and follow Him**

Opening Prayer

The night has passed,
and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O
God, set our hearts on fire with love for
you; now and for ever. **Amen**

Invitation to Confession

My sisters and brothers, as we prepare
to encounter God anew today in the
online gathering of this community, it is
good that we should call to mind our
sins, and seek God's promised
forgiveness together.

Silent Prayer

For the poverty of our worship, our unbelief
and hesitating witness, our blindness to
what you would have us to be and to do,
Lord, have mercy.

(All) : Lord, have mercy.

For imagining ourselves to be the centre of
the world, for avoiding the way of the cross
and for seeking security in the works of our
own hands and minds, Christ, have mercy.

(All): Christ, have mercy.

For the waste of your gifts, and for letting so
little of your love pass through us to others
to relieving the sufferings and injustices that
they endure, Lord, have mercy.

(All): Lord, have mercy.

Words of Forgiveness

God has promised forgiveness of sins to
those who repent and turn in faith. May
God keep us in grace by the Holy Spirit,
lead us to greater faith and trust, and bring
us in peace to eternal life, through the cross
of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Hymn

Who would true valour see
Let him come hither
One here will constant be
Come wind, come weather
There's no discouragement
Shall make him once relent
His first avowed intent to be a pilgrim

Whoso beset him 'round
With dismal stories
Who but themselves confound
His strength the more is
No lion can him fright
He'll with a giant fight
But he will have a right to be a pilgrim.

No goblin nor foul fiend
Can daunt his spirit
He knows he at the end
Shall life inherit
Then fancies flee away
He'll fear not what men say
He'll labour night and day to be a pilgrim

Reading

Mark 8:31-38

At end of reading:

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God, who knows our names and recognises our deepest needs.

We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God, and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.

We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.

We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures, and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.

We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination, and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine.

We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road, and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.

This is our faith and we are humbled to profess Jesus, the Christ.

Amen

Intercessions

The response to 'Lord in your mercy' is:

(All) 'Hear our prayer'

At the end we say together

Merciful father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

The Collect

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, that by taking up our cross and by following in His Way we come to share in His glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: Take up thy cross, the Saviour said

1. Take up thy cross, the Saviour said,
If thou wouldst My disciple be;
Deny thyself, the world forsake,
And humbly follow after Me.

2. Take up thy cross, let not its weight
Fill thy weak spirit with alarm;
His strength shall bear thy spirit up,
And brace thy heart and nerve thine arm.

3. Take up thy cross then in His strength,
And calmly every danger brave,
'Twill guide thee to a better home,
It points to victory o'er the grave.

4. Take up thy cross and follow Christ,
Nor think til death to lay it down;
For only those who bear the cross
May hope to wear the glorious crown.

Notices

Blessing & Dismissal

Go now with God,
on your pilgrimage through Lent.

We will discover the new name given to each one we journey with.

Go now with Jesus,
walking wherever he leads.

We will take up our cross and follow Him

Go now with the Spirit,
who is always full of surprises.

We will share our love of Jesus with everyone we meet.

And the blessing...

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ, Amen