

2nd Sunday before Lent 7th February 2021

WELCOME TO PRAYING TOGETHER BUT SEPARATELY

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

HYMN **Thou, whose almighty word.** (*the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Field*)

- 1 Thou, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight;
hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel-day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.
- 2 Thou, who didst come to bring
on thy redeeming wing
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind,
O now to all mankind
let there be light.
- 3 Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy Dove,
speed forth thy flight;
move on the water's face,
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.

- 4 Holy and blessed Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might;
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride,
through the earth far and wide
let there be light. John Marriott (1780-1825)

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

I am in the presence of the Living God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

PSALM 104:24-END

R: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live

O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
There is the sea, spread far and wide,
And there move creatures beyond
number, both small and great.

R: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live

There go the ships, and there is the Leviathan
Which you have made to play in the deep.
All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.

R: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live

When you give it them, they gather it;
you open your hand and they are filled with good.
When you hide your face, they are troubled;
when you take away their breath,

they die and return again to the dust.
When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth.

R: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live

May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works;
He looks on the earth and it trembles,
he touches the mountains and they smoke.
I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will make music to my God while I have my being.

R: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live

So shall my song please him,
while I rejoice in the Lord.
Let sinners be consumed out of the earth,
and the wicked be no more.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.
Alleluia!

R: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live

CONFESSIO

As those who know the generosity of God, let us confess our sins,
especially the ways in which we take his good gifts for granted.

Father, in creation you are generous towards us,
yet we have sown sparingly;
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus, you show us the way of humility,
yet we have given reluctantly;
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit, you show us the gift of grace,
yet we have loved grudgingly;
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

THE ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given *us*
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive *us* our sins,
open our eyes to God's truth,
strengthen *us* to do God's will
and give *us* the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
From whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and
made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all
your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus
Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns
supreme over all things,

BIBLE READINGS:

PROVERBS 8: 1.22-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?
The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his
acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the
beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought
forth, when there were no springs abounding with water.

Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth—
when he had not yet made earth and fields,
or the world's first bits of soil.

When he established the heavens, I was there,
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of the deep,
when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
then I was beside him, like a master worker;
and I was daily his delight,
rejoicing before him always,
rejoicing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the human race.

2ND READING COLOSSIANS 1: 15-20

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all
creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or

powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He
himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is
the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn
from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in
everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to
dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all
things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the
blood of his cross.

HYMN: All creatures of our God and King

the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields

- 1 All creatures of our God and King
lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia, alleluia.
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam,
*O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*
- 2 Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, alleluia.
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice; *Chorus*
- 3 Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia, alleluia.
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
that givest us both warmth and light: *Chorus*

- 4 Let all things their creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness;
O praise him, alleluia.
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One; *Chorus*

William Henry Draper (1855-1933)

based on Laudato sii, O me signore St Francis of Assisi's Canticle of the Sun

THE GOSPEL JOHN 1.1-14

HEAR THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

SERMON:

HYMN **Immortal, invisible, God only wise** *sung by St Martin's Voices*

- 1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.
- 2 Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
- 3 To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changest thee.
- 4 Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908)

OUR PRAYERS

Blessed are you Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

You have made us

and in you we live and move and have our being.

In you we rejoice.

In you is the fullness of life.

Silence

Lord of love, **in you we live and move and have our being.**

We give thanks
for the wonders and the beauty of Creation.

May we delight in your world
as you delight in it.

May your Church show a great love and care for the world
- as you love and care for it.

We pray for all who do not know
of your love or your presence.

We ask you to bless all who preach the Word.

Silence

Lord of love, **in you we live and move and have our being.**

We pray for all who teach us
to respect and love your world.

Bless all who work in conservation
and in protecting the resources of the earth.

Help us to enjoy the world and delight in it
with artists and musicians and all craftspeople.

Silence

Lord of love, **in you we live and move and have our being.**

God, we thank you for your presence
in our homes and communities,
in our schools and in our work.

Bless our loved ones
and all who have enriched our lives by their goodness.

Silence

Lord of love, **in you we live and move and have our being.**

God, we ask your presence to bring comfort and hope
to all who are struggling at this time.

We remember those injured in accidents or acts of violence,

those who are ill,
and all who are in hospital
as well as those who care for them there and seek to bring healing.

Silence

Lord of love, **in you we live and move and have our being.**

You give life and light;

in you life and light are eternal.

May all our loved ones departed and all the saints
rejoice in the fullness of eternal light and love.

Silence

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

A PRAYER CONCERNING THE CORONAVIRUS

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.

in their loneliness, be their consolation;

in their anxiety, be their hope;

in their darkness, be their light;

through him who suffered alone on the cross,

but reigns with you in glory,

Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,

I believe that You

are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly
to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN **O worship the King.** *sung by St Martin's Voices*

1 O worship the King all glorious above;
O gratefully sing his power and his love;
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise.

2 O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
his chariots of wrath the deep thunder clouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm..

3 Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.

4 Frail children of dust and feeble as frail,
in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;
thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end!
our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend.

5 O measureless might, ineffable love,
while angels delight to hymn thee above,
thy humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall sing to thy praise.

William Kethe (fl.1559-1594), Robert Grant (1779-1838)

THE BLESSING AND GO IN PEACE