

# ST PETER & ST PAUL'S CHURCH, AYLESFORD



## A Service of the Word

### The first 100 days

Epiphany 5 | 2nd Sunday before Lent  
7th February 2021

#### Welcome and Gathering

#### Call to Worship

Lift your eyes to gaze on God.  
Hear God's Word and receive God's peace.  
With all that you have been, all that you  
are, and all that you hope to be, offer  
yourself now to God in worship and  
praise.

#### Hymn

We cannot measure how you heal  
or answer every sufferer's prayer,  
yet we believe your grace responds  
where faith and doubt unite to care.  
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross  
survive to hold and heal and warn,  
to carry all through death to life  
and cradle children yet unborn.

The pain that will not go away,  
the guilt that clings from things long past,  
the fear of what the future holds  
are present as if meant to last.

But present too is love which tends  
the hurt we never hoped to find,  
the private agonies inside  
the memories that haunt the mind.

So some have come who need your help,  
and some have come to make amends,  
as hands which shaped and saved the world  
are present in the touch of friends.  
Lord, let your Spirit meet us here  
to mend the body, mind and soul,  
to disentangle peace from pain  
and make your broken people whole

*John Bell*

#### Prayer of Penitence

People. People. Everywhere!  
Day in. Day out.  
Seeking you, Lord.  
Hunting you. Following you.  
Hungry for your presence.  
Wanting your attention.  
Yet not once did you complain.

**We're sorry, Lord, that the weight of  
life's demands causes us to stumble,  
to lose our temper and at times to buckle  
under the pressure. Help us to be more  
like you, Lord.**

**We're sorry for not getting our priorities  
right. Help us to know, as you did, the  
importance of spending time with and  
drawing refreshment from the Father.**

**We're sorry for allowing other people  
and things to take over and squeeze out  
our time with you. Help us to draw daily  
on your refreshing strength in order to  
cope with whatever our day holds.**

**Lord, hear our prayer.  
Amen.**

#### Assurance of Forgiveness

The Son of God loves us. And because  
of his love, healing us and setting us  
free from sin's guilt and power, we are  
forgiven. **Amen.**

## The Collect

**Almighty God,  
give us reverence for all creation  
and respect for every person,  
that we may mirror your likeness  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

### Isaiah 40.21-31

Do you not know? Have you not heard?  
Has it not been told you from the  
beginning? Have you not understood  
since the earth was founded? He sits  
enthroned above the circle of the earth,  
and its people are like grasshoppers. He  
stretches out the heavens like a canopy,  
and spreads them out like a tent to live in.  
He brings princes to naught and reduces  
the rulers of this world to nothing. No  
sooner are they planted, no sooner are  
they sown, no sooner do they take root  
in the ground, than he blows on them  
and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps  
them away like chaff. "To whom will you  
compare me? Or who is my equal?" says  
the Holy One. Lift up your eyes and look  
to the heavens: Who created all these?  
He who brings out the starry host one by  
one and calls forth each of them by name.  
Because of his great power and mighty  
strength, not one of them is missing. Why  
do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say,  
Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord;  
my cause is disregarded by my God"? Do  
you not know? Have you not heard? The  
Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator  
of the ends of the earth. He will not grow  
tired or weary, and his understanding no  
one can fathom. He gives strength to the  
weary and increases the power of the  
weak. Even youths grow tired and weary,  
and young men stumble and fall; but  
those who hope in the Lord will renew  
their strength. They will soar on wings like

eagles; they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Song

Lord I come to You  
Let my heart be changed, renewed  
Flowing from the grace  
That I found in You.  
And Lord I've come to know  
The weaknesses I see in me  
Will be stripped away  
By the power of Your love.

*Hold me close  
Let Your love surround me  
Bring me near  
Draw me to Your side.  
And as I wait  
I'll rise up like the eagle  
And I will soar with You  
Your Spirit leads me on  
In the power of Your love.*

Lord unveil my eyes  
Let me see You face to face  
The knowledge of Your love  
As You live in me.  
Lord renew my mind  
As Your will unfolds in my life  
In living every day  
by the power of Your love.

*Hold me close ...  
Geoff Bullock*

## Prayer of Praise and Adoration

*Inspired by Psalm 147:1-11, Mark 1:29-39*

God of all power, you are the One who  
called this world into being and we  
acknowledge that you have no equal in  
the extent of your power. Yet, you want  
to share your power - your strength -  
with those who are powerless; you ache  
to heal the broken-hearted and to bind

up the wounds of the lost and rejected people of this world.

Such radical love leaves us speechless, but you gave it human form and shape in the person of Jesus, in whom your promises of healing and empowerment were fulfilled. We give you thanks and praise for blessing our lives in this way, and we pray that in Jesus and through the power of the Holy Spirit, we too can become radical lovers of the powerless, and passionate bearers of hope to those whose lives are filled with despair and hopelessness.

O God, for the many ways in which you bless us, may our lives reveal our gratitude in all we think, and do, and say. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Moira Laidlaw*

### Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Mark 1.29-39

As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them. That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. The whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was. Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him,

and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else - to the nearby villages - so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." So he travelled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### Reflection

#### Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

**We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

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

**Amen.**

### Prayers of Intercession

*Response:*

Renew our strength and bind up our wounds  
**Help us to hope in you.**

*And ending with The Lord's Prayer*

As our Saviour taught us so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the  
glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.

Sending

News and Notices

Song

Who you are to me  
*Chris Tomlin*

Offertory Prayer

We give in grateful thanksgiving for all that God has given us. In the upside down world of the gospel, we measure our wealth not by what we have, but what we can give away. Lord, take our offering to heal and bless your church, your people, your creation. **Amen.**

A Sending Out Prayer and Blessing

Lord Jesus, go with you into the world this week. May he help you to remain focused upon him and to make his priorities your priorities in all the places he is sending you.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you and all those you love and miss, this day and always. **Amen.**

May you run and not be weary.  
May you rise up on the wings of eagles.  
May you know without doubt  
that the everlasting God goes with you!

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

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