

ST PETER & ST PAUL'S CHURCH, AYLESFORD



A Service of the Word

A Difficult Truth

Lent 2

28th February 2021

Welcome and Gathering

Hymn

Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us
You are one with us, Mary's Son.
Cleansing our souls from all their sin
pouring your love and goodness in
Jesus our love for you we sing, living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, now and every day
Teach us how to pray, Son of God.
You have commanded us to do
this in remembrance Lord of you
Into our lives your power breaks through,
living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us
Born as one with us, Mary's Son.
Led out to die on Calvary,
risen from death to set us free,
living Lord Jesus help us see
you are Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, I would come to you
live my life for you, Son of God.
All your commands I know are true,
your many gifts will make me new,
into my life your power breaks through,
living Lord.

Patrick Appleford (b. 1925)

Gathering Prayer

Holy God, we come from our busy lives.
We often forget that you walk with us.
As we gather now, help us to be
more aware of who you are. Give us
the courage to admit when we don't
understand, so that we might grow more
like you in all we do. **Amen.**

Prayer of confession

Words of greeting and words of love on
your lips - this is the example you gave us.
**Forgive us when we fail to act as you do,
Lord.**

Words of retaliation, insincerity and
malice on our lips:
**forgive us when we act towards others in
this way, Lord.**

Overwhelmed by complex relationships
and rocky paths:
**forgive us for not setting our minds on
you and your ways.**

Fear of rejection and wary of being our
true selves:
**forgive us and help us to give of
ourselves as you give.**

**Forgive us, Lord, for our failure to trust
you; for not allowing you to be in the
driving seat.**

**Lord of covenant relationship, lead us
and help us to live your way.**

In your name we pray.

Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness

Jesus was handed over to be crucified because of our sins. He died and rose again to make us right with God. Through him we are forgiven. Let us follow the Lord our God, giving our lives as he gave his for us. **Amen.**

The Collect

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

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Romans 4.13-25

It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring--not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed--the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said

to him, "So shall your offspring be." Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead--since he was about a hundred years old--and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness--for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

'Forgive our sins as we forgive',
you taught us, Lord, to pray,
but you alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say.

How can your pardon reach and bless
the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs, and will not let
old bitterness depart?

In blazing light your cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew,
how small the debts men owe to us,
how great our debt to you!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls,
and bid resentment cease;
then, reconciled to God and man,
our lives will spread your peace.

Rosamond E. Herklots (1905-1987)
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Gospel Reading

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 8.31-38

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Song

Jesus, you have called us:
Come, follow me,
take up your cross,
deny yourself
and live.

Jesus, I am willing
though I am weak;
I'll trust you
and I'll go where you lead.

*I will follow,
I will follow,
I will follow
where you lead.*

Jesus, you have shown us
how we should live:
in sacrifice,
humility
and love.

Jesus, I am willing
though I am weak;
I'll follow you
with your Spirit in me.

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Reflection

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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Response:
Your promise is to all generations:
**We believe that all things are possible
with 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

God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your pow'r.
Crown your ancient church's story,
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us,
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore.
Let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.

God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your pow'r.
Crown your ancient church's story,
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.
Amen. Amen.

Harry Emerson Fosdick

Offertory Prayer

Gracious God, you call us to let go of the things we cling to and step out in faith, trusting in your love and provision. Give us courage to step out boldly, to act generously, and without fear. Use our gifts to accomplish more than we could possibly imagine, so that, through us, your kingdom might come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. **Amen.**

A Sending Out Prayer and Blessing

Everything I am Lord, and everything I do.
Help me to be always more like you.

Teach me to be yours, Lord, show me when I'm wrong.
Help me to be always more like you.

You accepted all, Lord, help everyone to find the way.
Help me to be always more like you.

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

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

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