

Morning Worship Service
Sunday 21th February 2021
Lent 1

Introduction

We have come to the city of the living God,
to the heavenly Jerusalem,
with thousands of angels in joyful assembly.

Alleluia

We have come to God the judge of all,
to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant.

Alleluia

SONG

Together we pray:

Lord, direct our thoughts,
teach us to pray,
lift up our hearts to worship you
in Spirit and in truth,
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Confession

The grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all.
Though we have grieved him, yet he will heal us if we confess our sins in penitence
and faith.

Together we confess our sins to Almighty God:

God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins:
For turning away from you and ignoring your will for our lives:
For behaving just as we wish, without thinking of you:
For failing you by what we do, think and say:
For letting ourselves be drawn away from you by temptations in the world around us:
For living as if we were ashamed to belong to your Son:
Father, forgive us, save us and help us. Amen.

Absolution

May God who is both power and love,
Forgive us and free us from our sins,
Heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
And raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect

Reading

Mark 1:9-15

Now in those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan River. And just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens splitting apart and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my one dear Son; in you I take great delight." The Spirit immediately drove him into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, enduring temptations from Satan. He was with wild animals, and angels were ministering to his needs.

Now after John was imprisoned, Jesus went into Galilee and proclaimed the gospel of God. said, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the gospel!"

Sermon

The sermon for this week has been recorded and can be found on our website <https://stjamesroundsgreen.com/videos>

Creed

**We believe and trust in God the Father,
who made all things.**

**We believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ,
who redeemed the world.**

**We believe and trust in his Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God.**

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

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

Intercessions

Intercessions for Lent 1 (2021)

God of grace, your Kingdom draws near to us in your Son. Increase in the people of your Church trust in the fulfilment of your promises through Jesus.

Fill our hearts with the joy of your good news announced to us.

We pray especially today for any of your followers who have lost hope in those promises; any who are in dark places and can't grasp hold of your good news, let alone find joy in it; any who are being persecuted for their faith in you and are struggling to trust that their future is safe in your hands; any for whom life has lost its sparkle and abundance.

We ask that, in your mercy, you will meet afresh with them, reveal to them a glimpse of your splendour, comfort them with your unending love, and fill them with the grit and determination needed to continue faithfully following you.

God of grace, prophetic witness led to John being arrested and Jesus crucified. Be with all, we pray, who courageously make a stand for justice, liberty, and peace, especially in the many parts of the world where those attributes are denied to so many of the populations.

May there be a shift in power to those who genuinely care for the people of their land and who will strive to create better living conditions for all. Infuse all governments with your wisdom so that grace and mercy will be clearly evident in their deliberations, and careful, thoughtful planning and application of works will benefit both people and planet alike.

God of grace, so many communities are struggling during these long months of pandemic, including our own. Cases of domestic violence have risen, and suffering has increased. Homes, especially the crowded ones, desperately need an influx of your goodness, generosity, and peace.

We pray that your Holy Spirit will find access into the hearts and minds of the angry, the violent, the distressed, the hopeless, the weeping, and bring about Godly change which results in people ministering to each other in kindness and love.

God of grace, in the wilderness your Son had to face the limits of humanity. Hold in your tender care all those we know who are ill at this time, whether in body, mind, or spirit.....From this very moment may they know your healing radiating throughout their whole being, bringing them release from pain and comfort.

Let us continue in prayer saying together the words our Saviour taught us:

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.

SONG

Blessing

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.