

**Morning Worship Service
Sunday 21st March 2021
Lent 5**

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

John 12: 20-33

Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.

"Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!"

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

Sermon

Sermon will be recorded live and can be found on our website:

www.stjamesroundsgreen.com

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 5

You come to meet us, O Lord, long before we search for you. We pray that you will transform your multi-denominational, worldwide Church into a gateway to encountering your holy presence and glory. Fill your people with your compassion and love for the lost that we will all recognise the opportunities you give us to direct hearts to you.

Remind us that, while we are in the world, we are not of the world and you call us to live holy lives and not to conform to the standards of the world. As we spread the fragrance of Jesus to those around us, may many be drawn to the power and salvation found in you, our Almighty God.

You come to meet us, O Lord, amidst the struggles and tensions of life. Within our own country, as well as all around the world, tensions and struggles seem to be mounting to fever pitch. So many people seem to be full of nothing but anxiety, fear, or anger without any evidence of internal peace.

We ask, Lord, that in your mercy, you will have an encounter with them so that they can receive the peace in their hearts from the source of perfect peace, Jesus Christ our Lord.

We pray too for places where conflict explodes into physical war. Give everyone the courage to stand for justice and peace through respectful conversation; and bring into the places where hatred abounds your Kingdom of truth and liberty.

In this time of Covid, when we haven't been able to meet with others, the majority of people living in our community, O Lord, have no idea that your desire is to meet with them personally. We continue to pray that those whom you are calling into salvation now will hear the call and come.

We also continue to thank you for every single person who has the good of this community as a priority and works hard to enable everyone to access the best facilities possible. We repent of the abuse and cruelty which goes on, either behind closed doors or publicly in front of all and ask that you will pour into people's hearts kindness, both for themselves and for others.

You come to meet us, O Lord, in strength and weakness. As you shared our frailty we ask you to give comfort to any who are in distress or adversity: who are suffering physical pain: those who are struggling to carry on because every day is so bleak.....May they experience an outpouring of your healing love.

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.