

Morning Worship Service
Sunday 7th March 2021
Lent 3

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

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The message of the cross seems foolish to those who are lost and dying. But it is God's power to us who are being saved. It is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of those who are wise. I will do away with the cleverness of those who think they are so smart." (Isaiah 29:14)

Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where are the great thinkers of our time? Hasn't God made the wisdom of the world foolish? God wisely planned that the world would not know him through its own wisdom. It pleased God to use the foolish things we preach to save those who believe. Jews require signs. Greeks look for wisdom. But we preach about Christ and his death on the cross. That is very hard for Jews to accept. And everyone else thinks it's foolish. But there are those God has chosen, both Jews and Greeks. To them Christ is God's power and God's wisdom. The foolish things of God are wiser than human wisdom. The weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

Sermon

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

[Videos](#) | [stjamesroundsgreen](#)

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 3 (2021)

Lord, when you lived on earth you went to your Temple with zeal and indignation. Come to your worldwide Church today and drive from it all false piety and misguided priorities.

While we know that traditions can be important, may we not be guilty of holding fast to them when you are wanting us to do 'the new thing' you are setting before us. Help us to keep our eyes open and focused on you for guidance as to how we can best live out our Christian faith in the communities in which we live.

Particularly anoint leaders with courage, boldness, and wisdom when they meet opposition to implementing what they believe to be your fresh plans for the 'future look' to the churches they lead.

May the words, thoughts and deeds of all of us be acceptable in your sight.

Lord, so many people in power make decisions without any reference to you or thought about how their rulings effect both people and planet.

We ask that you infiltrate places of power with your holy, Godly wisdom. Remove from office those who are consumed with purely selfish motives in order to line their own pockets and increase their material comforts - always at the expense of those with little influence.

Bring to the fore men and women who will challenge and fight against such authority so that resources will be distributed more equitably, and the planet cared for more lovingly.

Lord, as we enter this new phase of exiting Lockdown, we ask that you guide all those who are planning to reopen venues and activities. Take away from them any fear, stress, or anxiety as they look to achieving this process safely.

We especially pray for all schools as they receive back all their pupils tomorrow, instead of just those of key workers. May it be a joyful occasion for both pupils and staff as together they enter into their unique community once more.

Then, in the weeks ahead, as other groups reopen their doors, we pray for safe keeping for all; and ask that, in your mercy, you will prevent the pandemic from spiralling out of control again.

Lord, be with all those we know who are experiencing difficult times just now, whether through sickness, grief or heartbreak.....May they know your resurrection power bringing them wholeness and peace.

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.