



Guernsey  
Deanery



**Online Sung Eucharist  
Ash Wednesday  
17th February 2021**

# Welcome to Town Church for the Deanery Ash Wednesday Service.

President: The Revd Penny Graysmith, Vice Dean  
Preacher: The Very Revd Tim Barker, Dean of Guernsey

Zoom meeting code: 979 3928 6686

The Music in this service has been recorded by members of  
the St. Martin's singers from  
The Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London



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## Introduction to Lent

Lent may originally have followed Epiphany, just as Jesus' sojourn in the wilderness followed immediately on his baptism, but it soon became firmly attached to Easter, as the principal occasion for baptism and for the reconciliation of those who had been excluded from the Church's fellowship for apostasy or serious faults.

As the candidates for baptism were instructed in Christian faith, and as penitents prepared themselves, through fasting and penance, to be readmitted to communion, the whole Christian community was invited to join them in the process of study and repentance, the extension of which over forty days would remind them of the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, being tested by Satan.

Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence; from the middle ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross. The calculation of the forty days has varied considerably in Christian history. It is now usual in the West to count them continuously to the end of Holy Week (not including Sundays), so beginning Lent on the sixth Wednesday before Easter, Ash Wednesday.

Liturgical dress is the simplest possible. Churches are kept bare of flowers and decoration. *Gloria in excelsis* is not used. The Fourth Sunday of Lent (*Laetare* Refreshment Sunday) was allowed as a day of relief from the rigour of Lent, and the Feast of the Annunciation almost always falls in Lent; these breaks from austerity are the background to the modern observance of Mothering Sunday on the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

As Holy Week approaches, the atmosphere of the season darkens; the readings begin to anticipate the story of Christ's suffering and death, and the reading of the Passion Narrative gave to the Fifth Sunday its name of Passion Sunday.

**Before the service a recording will be played, of the Town Church organ played by Stephen le Prevost.**

Erbarm dich mein, o Herre Gott BWV 721 J.S. Bach

## **Opening Hymn**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say:  
'Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, thou weary one, lay down  
thy head upon my breast.'  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
weary and worn and sad,  
I found in him a resting-place,  
and he has made me glad.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say:  
'Behold, I freely give  
the living water; thirsty one,  
stoop down and drink and live.'  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
and now I live in him.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say:  
'I am this dark world's Light;  
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,  
and all thy day be bright.'  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I'll walk,  
till travelling days are done.**

Horatius Bonar (1808-1889)

## The Greeting

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.

All

**Amen.**

The Lord be with you,  
**and also with you**

All

*The president explains the meaning of Lent and invites the people to observe it faithfully*

Dear Friends in Christ, since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection and prepared for this by a season of penitence and fasting.

By carefully keeping these days, Christians take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word.

## An excerpt from the Lent Prose will be sung

*Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:  
for we have sinned against thee.*

To thee, Redeemer, on thy throne of glory:  
lift we our weeping eyes in holy pleadings:  
listen, O Jesu, to our supplications.  
*Refrain*

O thou chief Corner-stone, Right Hand of the Father  
Way of Salvation, Gate of Life Celestial  
cleanse thou our sinful souls from all defilement.  
*Refrain*

God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated  
bow down and hearken to thy weeping children  
pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses.  
*Refrain*

## The Collect

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

*Silence is kept*

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you hate nothing that you have made  
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: create  
and make in us new and contrite hearts  
that we, worthily lamenting our sins  
and acknowledging our wretchedness,  
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission and forgiveness;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever  
**Amen.**

## New Testament Reading

2 Corinthians 5.20b – 6.10

Read by *Barrie Linnecor*

*Vale Church*

*A Reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians*

So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, 'At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.' See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*

**Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn

**From ashes to the living font  
your Church must journey, Lord,  
baptised in grace, in grace renewed  
by your most holy word.**

**Through fasting, prayer, and charity  
your voice speaks deep within,  
returning us to ways of truth  
and turning us from sin.**

**From desert to the mountaintop  
in Christ our way we see,  
so, tempered by temptation's might  
we might transfigured be.**

**For thirsting hearts let waters flow  
our fainting souls revive;  
and at the well your waters give  
our everlasting life.**

**From ashes to the living font  
your church must journey still:  
through cross and tomb to Easter joy,  
in Spirit-fire fulfilled.**

*Alan J Hommerding*



## **Gospel Reading**

John 8.1-11

Read by Bryan Pill,  
*LLM Holy Trinity Church*

*All*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

while Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery.

Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.' And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' She said, 'No one, sir.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.'

*All*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

The Very Revd Tim Barker, Dean of Guernsey

# Self-examination and Confession

Led by the Revds. Jan and Tony Fowler  
Alderney

Let us now call to mind our sin  
and the infinite mercy of God.

*All* God the Father,  
**have mercy on us.**

*All* God the Son,  
**have mercy on us.**

*All* God the Holy Spirit,  
**have mercy on us.**

*All* Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,  
**have mercy on us.**

*All* **Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart,  
and mind, and strength.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
We have not forgiven others, as we have been  
forgiven.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

We have been deaf to your call to serve,  
as Christ served us.  
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.  
We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you, Lord ...

all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy  
and impatience of our lives.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,  
and our exploitation of other people.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Our anger at our own frustration and our envy  
of those more fortunate than ourselves.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts  
and our dishonesty in daily life and work.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship  
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Accept our repentance, Lord ...

for the wrongs we have done,  
for our blindness to human need and suffering,  
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty.

*All* **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgements,  
for uncharitable thoughts towards our neighbours  
and for our prejudice and contempt  
towards those who differ from us.

*All* **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation  
and our lack of concern for those who come after us.

*All* **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord,  
and let your anger depart from us.

*All* **Favourably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,  
**that we may show your glory in the world.**

*All*

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,  
**bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

*All*

*Silence is kept.*

*All*

**We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly,  
love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.  
Amen.**



## The Imposition of Ashes

We come to God in penitence and faith,  
recognising his holiness and purity,  
and conscious of our own unworthiness.  
In penitence we now hold the ash in our hands,  
And make the sign of the Cross.  
To remind us of our need to repent,  
and to reassure us of our salvation in Christ.

**Holy God,  
with these ashes  
we acknowledge before you our sins and failings.  
May they be a sign  
both of our repentance and our mortality,  
and a token of your free gift of eternal life  
to all who put their trust in you,  
through the death and resurrection  
of your dear Son, Jesus Christ.  
Amen**

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.  
Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.  
**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

*All*

### *Time of reflection with music and images*

**God our loving Father,  
you make us for yourself,  
and our hearts are restless  
until they find rest in you.  
Make us pure in thought and deed,  
unselfish in word and action  
strong in purpose and faith.  
May our minds know your will,  
our hearts respond to it  
and our lives enact it,  
for the sake of your Son,  
Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## The Peace

Since we are justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has given us access to his grace.

*All*

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

### Preparation of the Table Taking of the Bread and Wine

*The hymn is sung, the table is prepared and bread and wine  
are placed upon it.*

**Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us  
for we have no help but thee;  
yet possessing every blessing,  
if our God our Father be.**

**Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us;  
all our weakness thou dost know;  
thou didst tread this earth before us,  
thou didst feel its keenest woe;  
self denying, death defying,  
thou to Calvary didst go.**

**Spirit of our God, descending,  
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,  
love with every passion blending,  
pleasure that can never cloy:  
thus provided, pardoned, guided,  
nothing can our peace destroy.**

James Edmeston (1791-1867)

Merciful God,  
turn us from sin to faithfulness  
and from disobedience to love,  
and prepare us to celebrate  
the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

*All*

**Amen.**

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you**

*All*

Lift up your hearts

*All*

**We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

*All*

**It is right to give thanks and praise**

It is indeed right and good  
to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days  
you lead us into the desert of repentance  
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline  
we may grow in grace  
and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service  
you bring us back to your generous heart.  
Through study of your holy word  
you open our eyes to your presence in the world  
and free our hands to welcome others  
into the radiant splendour of your love.  
As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast  
with joyful hearts and minds  
we bless you for your mercy  
and join with saints and angels  
for ever praising you and saying:

*All*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,  
God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood  
of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

Christ is the Bread of Life:

*All*

**When we eat this bread  
and drink this cup,  
we proclaim your death,  
Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.**



And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once  
for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection  
and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.  
As we offer you this our sacrifice  
of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
and all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*A short silence is kept*

Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom  
and teach us to pray

*All*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

*All*

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

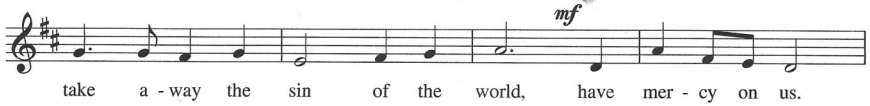
# Agnus Dei

Mass of St. Thomas - David Thorne

We sing the Agnus Dei as the bread is broken.



[Organ] *mp* Lamb of God, you



*mf* take a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy on us.



*mf* Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world, have mer - cy on us.



*mp* Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the *mf* Lamb of



God. *non rall.* world, Grant us peace. *p* 2

## Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

## Receiving even though absent

The president receives the bread and wine on behalf of the community as we make our 'spiritual communion'; taking time to notice God's presence with us and trust that, as we also desire communion with God, God will meet us in our hearts by faith.

There are no special words or actions required for this; only true desire, lively faith and genuine love. If you find it helpful, you may wish to use the following prayer or simply listen to the music and meditate upon God's grace.

Lord, you stand at the door of my heart and knock.  
You wait for me and only I can let you in.  
I believe and trust in you  
and ask you now to fill me with your presence.  
Feed me with your body and unite me in your blood,  
that I may be your blessing to a world in need. Amen

## Music during Communion

Drop, drop slow tears - Orlando Gibbons

## Prayer after Communion

Almighty God,  
you have given your only Son  
to be for us both a sacrifice for sin  
and also an example of godly life.  
give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive  
these his inestimable gifts,  
and also daily endeavour to follow the blessed steps  
of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*

**Amen**

*All*

**God of our pilgrimage,  
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.  
Refresh and sustain us  
as we go forward on our journey,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen**

*The notices are given*

## Final Hymn

**Forty days and forty nights  
thou wast fasting in the wild;  
forty days and forty nights  
tempted, and yet undefiled.**

**Sunbeams scorching all the day;  
chilly dew-drops nightly shed;  
prowling beasts about thy way;  
stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.**

**Let us thine endurance share,  
and awhile from joys abstain,  
with thee watching unto prayer,  
strong with thee to suffer pain?**

**And if Satan, vexing sore,  
flesh or spirit should assail,  
thou, his vanquisher before  
grant we may not faint nor fail.**

**So shall we have peace divine;  
holier gladness ours shall be;  
round us too shall angels shine,  
such as ministered to thee.**

**Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,  
ever constant by thy side;  
that with thee we may appear  
at the eternal Eastertide.**

George Hunt Smyttan (1822-1870),  
Francis Pott (1832-1909)

## The Blessing

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,  
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

*All* **In the name of Christ, Amen.**

## Organ Voluntary

Ich ruf' zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ BWV 639, J.S. Bach

A recording of Stephen le Prevost  
on the Town Church Organ

