

Church of St Chad
Hopwas



Morning Prayer
7th March 2021



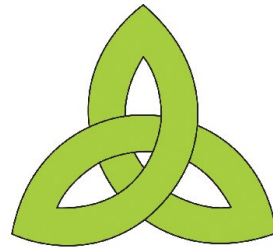
*Following Christ in the footsteps
of St Chad*

Welcome

HYMN Father Lord of all creation

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

Amen.



THE GREETING

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom
no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify
your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**



PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Summary of the Law

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

"The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.

The second is this: Love your neighbour as yourself.'

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets".

Amen. Lord, have mercy

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. Let us confess our sins remembering before God the times when we have fallen from temptation into sin.

Silence

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Make in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy spirit from me.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.



Almighty God,
who forgives
all who truly repent,
have mercy upon *you*,
pardon and deliver *you*
from all *your* sins,
confirm and strengthen *you*
in all goodness,
and keep *you* in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen



THE COLLECT

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Lent IS A TIME TO
GROW
CLOSER TO JESUS

FIRST READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

For it is written,
 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
 and the discernment of the discerning
 I will thwart.'

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.

For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.

For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

HYMN Make me a channel of your peace

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **JOHN (2:13-22)**

Glory to you O Lord

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables.

Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.

He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.'

The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?'

Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.'

The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body.

After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.'

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ

SERMON

Our Gospel reading from John relates the story of Jesus cleansing the Temple. This story is in all 4 gospels, but John's account is rather different from the other three gospels. Rather than place it at the end of Jesus' ministry where it serves as a catalyst for his arrest, his conviction and his crucifixion, in John's gospel, this is Jesus' first venture into the public side of life.

John tells us that in the temple, Jesus found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. John goes on to say, *making a whip of cords, Jesus drove all of them out of the temple*. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables

In the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke Jesus says *My house shall be a house of prayer*. In the Fourth Gospel John has Jesus saying: *The Temple has become a market place*.

But that's what it had to be! You needed certain animals to obey the laws of sacrifice. Worshippers didn't carry around doves or rams. They bought them at the Temple. So what Jesus is asking for seems well nigh impossible. So why does he do it? Because the Temple, according to John is now obsolete. This is why the cleansing of the Temple, comes right at the beginning of Jesus' ministry in John's account. Because the Word that was with God, and is God, has now become flesh and has come into the world to reveal God.

It is important to note here that John's gospel was written some years after the Temple was destroyed (at least 20 years after). History tells us that the Temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD.

Later in this gospel, John has Jesus saying to the Samaritan woman. *The hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem*.

Because God is now present in Jesus and, after Jesus' resurrection and ascension, God is present everywhere to believers through the Holy Spirit. Which realistically means that we don't have to come to church to experience God. We don't have to come to church to be a believer!

What does this do then to any notion of Judgement? Especially on those who do not come to church? Our churches cannot contain God any more than the Temple in Jesus' time, so why come to church? But when we worship together in church, through hearing the scriptures; singing the songs and praying the prayers, we can hear again God's Word declared in ways that helps us see and experience God in all of life.

But as a church in general we have become very exclusive. Church should be the place to help us to learn to see God everywhere, not because we see church as the one place where God is. Church should be the place where we constantly recharge our spiritual batteries so that our worship life becomes focussed outward from church to the world.

Mission is more about going out from the church into the community and helping people to see where God is already working in and amongst the community, and to encourage people to identify and partner with God in the world. We should abandon the notion that bums on seats is the only measurement of mission.

The second reason I believe Jesus cleansed the temple was that he wanted it to be a place for everyone, for Jews and non-Jews alike. The area in which the buying and selling took place was the court of the Gentiles. This was the only area that the Gentiles were allowed to gather in the temple. All other areas were for Jews only. Gentiles entering areas forbidden to them did so at the risk of death.

This, amongst other things was a huge barrier preventing Gentiles coming to God. Jesus cleansed the temple to make room for the Gentiles and to welcome all people into God's family. Jesus' action in cleansing the Temple in John's Gospel points to a time when HE would make a New Covenant based not on animal sacrifices, and not dependent on one holy building. A New Covenant is made effective through Christ's suffering, death and resurrection for all humankind. This is God's way of inviting, and accepting you and me and all people into his family

As we journey through our Season of Lent; as we look to an end to our long journey through this Pandemic wilderness, I'm left with two questions as from this gospel passage. The first is this: Does our worship, here at St Chad's provide us with sufficient spiritual renewing so that our church life becomes ultimately focussed outward from church into the world rather than the other way around. Are we enabled to see and partner with God in the world rather than trying to get the world to come where we are?

Secondly, but no less important. What are we doing that prevents those outside of our church from partnering with God where they are and joining us here for worship - even occasionally. In other words:

What do we need to do to cleanse our Temple??

Amen



HYMN Brother, Sister, let me serve you

CREED

We say together in faith

**Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father,
who created all things:
**for by his will they were created
and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son,
who was slain:
**for with his blood,
he purchased us for God,
from every tribe and language,
from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:
**the Spirit and the Bride say,
'Come!'
Even so come, Lord Jesus!
Amen.**



PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

This response is used throughout these prayers

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

And at the end **Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

Lord, as we journey with you through the Season of Lent and see real signs of our own Covid wilderness coming to an end. Give us strength and perseverance to always be guided and led by you, in all that we do, in all that we say and in all that we truly are, so that we may protect and enable ourselves and all others on our journey of life.

Lord, in your mercy - **Hear our prayer**

Lord we ask you to bless and guide *Elizabeth our Queen*; and to continue to pour out your blessing on Prince Philip as he continues to recuperate in hospital. Give wisdom to all in authority and direct our nation in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honour one another, and seek the common good.

Lord, in your mercy - **Hear our prayer**

✠ We give thanks that the enormously successful vaccine rollout continues and we are now able to see an end in sight for this virus in the UK. Help us to continue to be vigilant and aware of how fragile this recovery may be. We pray for all teachers and pupils as they return to their learning environments, that processes may be in place to enable them to continue their learning, to protect them and all the staff, and to curb any resurgence of this virus.

Lord, in your mercy - **Hear our prayer**

We pray for our Bishops, Michael and Clive, our Archdeacon Sue and our Rural Dean Gary and for the life of all of our churches especially here at St Chad's. We pray for our Church Wardens Sue and Keith, for Roger our Verger and all who are involved and committed to the life and work of this church here in Hopwas.

Lord, in your mercy - **Hear our prayer**

We pray for the people of Yemen facing the largest humanitarian crisis in the world, with more than 80 per cent of the population in need of humanitarian assistance, including more than 12 million children. Open our hearts Lord to all those in need that we would always seek the common good and the needs of others.

Lord, in your mercy - **Hear our prayer**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, give them courage and hope in their troubles; and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray for the vulnerable and suffering among us as we remember them by name.

**Beryl and Roger, Audrey, Jack, Melanie Lees
Lesley Fox, Jim, Barbara and Edwin Bott, Norma,
Catherine and Eric, Dave Atkinson,
Ann Thurgood, Michael Dalton, and Finn Collyer**

Lord, in your mercy - **Hear our prayer**

We pray that the dying may know your comfort and peace and we remember those who have died recently, especially remembering the family of Raymond Cross whose funeral is on 26th March.

We pray for those whose anniversary of loss occurs at this time and for those whose loss is ever before them

Lord in your mercy - **Hear our Prayer**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all your saints, we commend ourselves and the whole creation to your unfailing love.

**Merciful Father
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ
Amen**



*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*

LORDS PRAYER

**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**



HYMN How Great Thou Art

THE GRACE *(Shared with each other)*

**The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all
this day and forever more. Amen**

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.
Amen

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

If you are able to access our church website
you can find us on:

www.stchadhopwas.co.uk

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St Chad's Church Opening Times for March

7 th	Lent 3	10.30am	Morning Prayer
10 th	Wednesday	10am-4pm	Personal Prayer
14 th	Mothering Sunday	10.30am	Morning Worship
17 th	Wednesday	10am-4pm	Personal Prayer
21 st	Lent 5	10.30am	Morning Prayer
24 th	Wednesday	10am-4pm	Personal Prayer
28 th	Palm Sunday	10.30am	Morning Worship

NB: Please note that ALL Covid protocols remain in place, including the wearing of face coverings. Unfortunately Hymn singing is still not allowed

