

The Benefice of Silsoe, Pulloxhill and Flitton
Growing as beacons of Christ's light in our communities



Wednesday 17 February 2021
Ash Wednesday

**with Rev DAVID PAYNE
& Rev ANNE BARKER**

**Recorded at
St James the Great, Silsoe**

Words of Welcome

Opening Prayers

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you.

All: **and also with you.**

Let us then pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

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.**

Hymn: Forty Day and Forty Nights

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

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

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

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

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

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

A Reading from Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness;
according to the abundance of your compassion
blot out my offences.

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

For I acknowledge my faults
and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,

So that you are justified in your sentence
and righteous in your judgement.

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

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

Give me again the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your gracious spirit;

Then shall I teach your ways to the wicked
and sinners shall return to you.

All: **Glory to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Bible Reading: Isaiah 58:1-12 (NRSV)

Read by Nick Thompson

1 Shout out, do not hold back!
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

2 Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practised righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgements,
they delight to draw near to God.

3 'Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?'
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day,
and oppress all your workers.

4 Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

5 Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

6 Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

8 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator[[a](#)] shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rearguard.

9 Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

10 if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

11 The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

12 Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Address: Rev Anne Barker

Prayers of Penitence & Ashing

Make our hearts clean, O God;

All: and renew a right spirit within us.

**All: Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love,
and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed,
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light. Amen.**

Dear friends in Christ,
I invite you to receive these ashes
as a sign of the spirit of penitence
with which we shall keep this season of Lent.

God our Father,
you create us from the dust of the earth:
grant that these ashes may be for us
a sign of our penitence
and a symbol of our mortality;
for it is by your grace alone
that we receive eternal life
in Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.
Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

Those who wish to make for themselves the sign of the cross may do so here.

The Lord enrich you with his grace,
and nourish you with his blessing;
the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil;
the Lord accept your prayers,
and absolve you from your offences,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **Amen.**

Hymn: Father, Hear the Prayer We Offer

1 Father, hear the prayer we offer:
not for ease that prayer shall be,
but for strength that we may ever
live our lives courageously.

2 Not for ever in green pastures
do we ask our way to be;
but the steep and rugged pathway
may we tread rejoicingly.

3 Not for ever by still waters
would we idly rest and stay;
but would smite the living fountains
from the rocks along our way.

4 Be our strength in hours of weakness,
in our wanderings be our guide;
through endeavour, failure, danger,
Father, be thou at our side.

Prayers of Intercession

O Lord our God,
listen to the prayers of your servants;
hear our cry and grant us the requests
we bring before you today.

We bring before you, O Lord,
the troubles and perils of peoples and nations,
the sighing of prisoners and captives,
the sorrows of the bereaved,
the necessities of strangers,
the helplessness of the weak,
the despondency of the weary,
the failing powers of the aged.
O Lord, be near to each;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Lord's Prayer

All: **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,
And 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.**

Closing prayers & Blessing

May 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 amongst you and remain with you this Lenten time and forever more. **Amen.**

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After the recorded service and notices, there is a short video of Rev David explaining about Lent.



Starting Monday 22 February at 7:30pm for 90 mins, an 8 week Zoom course – **Teach Us to Pray**. Contact Rev David on 01525 864858 or vicar@3churches.uk for details of how to join.

STOP PRESS: We are thinking about running a 2nd course through the day on a week day. If you are interested, please contact Rev David.

#LIVE LENT



God's Story
Our Story

From Wednesday 17 February until Easter Day on 4 April we will be publishing a daily Lenten activity for Children from the Church of England on the Virtual Vicar web page and our Facebook pages.

<https://www.facebook.com/ThreeChurchesUBSFP>

<https://www.facebook.com/flittonchurch>

There will also be information about how to access daily reflections for Lent, etc.

Prayers for the Nation – this is the link to the daily prayer:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/prayer-nation>

Daily HOPE - A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers – 0800 804 8044

If you would like to be part of one of our services by either reading from the Bible or leading our prayers, please contact Rev Payne on 01525 864858 or vicar@3churches.uk

If you have a few minutes, please let take the time to answer a few questions which will help us to plan future services:

<https://3churches.uk/feedback-on-recorded-services/>