

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



Sunday 28 February 2021
God's Promise to Abraham

with Rev DAVID PAYNE &
Reader Gillian Kern

Recorded at
St John the Baptist, Flitton

Words of Welcome and Opening Prayers

O Lord, open our lips

All: and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

O God make speed to save us.

All: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;

**All: as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Praise the Lord.

All: The Lord's name be praised.

Almighty God,

by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,
and by following in his Way
come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn: Lead Us, Heavenly Father, Lead Us

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

Prayers of Penitence

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.
So let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,
and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

**All: Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you,
through our own fault,
in thought, and word, and deed,
and in what we have left undone.
We are heartily sorry,
and repent of all our sins.
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

So may the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Bible Reading: Genesis 17:1-7 & 15-16

Read by Clare Butler-Ellis

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

New Revised Standard Version

Address: Reader Gillian Kern

Affirming Our Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All: We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All: **We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All: **We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

All: **This is our faith.
We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Hymn: Just as I am, without one plea

1. Just as I am, without one plea
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidst me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come.

3. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come.

5. Just as I am (thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down),
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.

2. Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings within and fears without,
O Lamb of God, I come.

4. Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come.

6. Just as I am, of that free love
the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,
here for a season, then above,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Intercessions: Margaret Butt

Lord, your word has been shown to us since the time of Abraham,
so let us believe your promises and follow your guidance.
Guide us through this often confusing and disturbing world
by letting us trust in you.
During Lent, make us aware of the sacrifice you made for us
and teach us to humbly realise what you did for us all.
May you live in us so we can see the light of your Resurrection.

Lord in your mercy

All: **Hear our prayer**

Lord, you told people to look around them to find God.
We can see the beauty of the earth and sky,
and the wonders of the countryside but let us also recognise
God's presence in the houses, factories, offices and traffic
which make up the urban landscape.

We pray that we will look after the earth,
use its resources wisely and never cease
to marvel at the wonders of creation.

We see God's presence in the work of scientists
especially now with the vaccines against Covid 19,
and we give thanks that the vaccine programme
is leading us out of the pandemic.

Lord in your mercy

All: **Hear our prayer**

We pray for the ending of hatred and injustice
which lead to violence and war,
especially for countries where tensions are high
and peace seems so far away.

We pray for the end of terror, war, cruelty and hatred
so that we can all live in peace and love.

Bless all those in prison and captivity,
all refugees and all those who live in fear.

Give them strength and courage to overcome their hardships
and let everyone try to help them towards a better life.

Lord in your mercy

All: **Hear our prayer**

We give thanks for the miracle of healing
and pray for all those who care for the sick
whether it is in hospital, care homes or at home.

We give thanks for our NHS and for all those
who are working or volunteering in vaccination centres.

We pray for children who are ill and especially for children in hospital
who may be frightened by what they are experiencing.

We give thanks for amazing hospitals like Great Ormond Street
and all the research teams trying to find cures for illnesses.

In a few moments of silence, we think of anyone we know who is ill or in need at this time.

Lord, bless all those in our hearts and those who love and care for them.
Give them comfort, encouragement and peace.

Lord in your mercy

All: **Hear our prayer**

Lord, be with those who are grieving today over the loss of a loved one.
May they be comforted and know that you are with them.

As we look at the lighted candle,
we can think of all those family members and friends we miss.
The candle represents Jesus the eternal light of the world
whose light shines through the darkness
to bring hope and comfort.

Lord in your mercy

All: **Hear our prayer**

At this time of Lent
we remember how Jesus was tempted by the forces of evil.
He chose faithfulness instead of popularity,
service instead of fame, sacrifice instead of power.
We pray for strength to overcome our own temptations
so we can be of use to God and mankind.

Merciful Father,

**All: accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen**

The Lord's Prayer: Matthew 6: 6-15

Instead of saying the Lord's Prayer Margaret reads from Matthew's Gospel where Jesus starts to teach his disciples how to pray.

When you pray, go to a room by yourself, shut the door, and pray to your Father who is there in the secret place; and your Father who sees what is secret will reward you.

⁷ 'In your prayers don't go babbling on like the heathen, who imagine that the more they say the more likely they are to be heard. ⁸ Do not imitate them. Your Father knows what your needs are before you ask him.

⁹ 'This is how you should pray:

"Our Father in heaven,
Thy name be hallowed,

¹⁰ Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,

On earth as in heaven.

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.

¹² Forgive us the wrong we have done,
As we have forgiven those who have wronged us.

¹³ And do not bring us to the test,
But save us from the evil one."

¹⁴ For if you forgive the wrongs they have done, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; ¹⁵ but if you do not forgive others, then the wrongs you have done will not be forgiven by your Father.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Closing Prayer & Blessing

God the giver of life, give you hope.
May Christ the Redeemer, give you peace,
May The Holy spirit, who inspires all, give you joy.

And the blessing of God Almighty
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
Be yours and remain yours
Now and forever more.

Amen

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

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Please remember in your
prayers this week:



Those who have recently
died, including

Jean Bird,
Brian Finney,
Bill Firth,
Gerald & Kathleen Jones,
Bridget Martin,
Martins Ogunbuyi,
Janet Powers,
Doreen Wrightson

and their families and
friends who mourn them

Those who are ill, including

Des Brazier,
Kara De Napoli
(granddaughter of Margaret Butt),
James Kerr,
Stella Lawton,
Sally & Andy Metianu,
Sue Olney,
Bill Powers,
Joan Preston

We also remember: Jonah - born at 27 weeks -great-grandson of Anne Stiles
The residents and staff at Taymer Nursing Home

#LIVE LENT



God's Story
Our Story

Until Easter Day on 4 April we will be publishing a daily Family Lenten
Activities 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.

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/>

Don't forget TEA at THREE - ZOOM time together every Sunday from 3pm to 4pm – everybody
welcome. A chance to catch up with others, laugh, moan, get things off your chest. .

It's the same code every week, so if you joined us last week you can use the same code this week.
Contact Rev David on 01525 864858 or vicar@3churches.uk for the ZOOM access code