

## Family Service – 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026 – 1st Sunday of Lent

### The Temptation of Christ

#### Welcome and Notices

#### Opening Prayer

Almighty Father, as we walk with Jesus through these days of Lent, show us how to know him more nearly and love him more dearly each day.

Confident of the light and strength of the Holy Spirit, as we embark on our Lenten journey, we ask these graces in the name of Jesus who lived and died that we may have new life.

**Amen.**

#### Opening Responses

We come, bringing our stories, our lives,  
and our whole selves

**All are welcome.**

We come with our faith, and our doubts,  
With our hopes and fears.

**All are welcome.**

We come as we are,  
Invited by God who will never turn us away.

**All are welcome.**

#### Lenten Liturgy:

Each week throughout Lent we place on the Lenten Cross a symbol to remind us of the story of our Lord's journey to the cross, climaxing in his death and resurrection.

Our symbol is a crown of thorns, the soldiers taunting Jesus and beating him and after his arrest, made him wear a crown of thorns.

#### ***Bible Reading***

Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him and then wove a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put

a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. “ Hail, King of the Jews!” they said.

*(Matthew. 27: 27-29)*

*The crown of thorns is brought forward and placed on the Lenten Cross.*

### **Prayer**

Lord, there are times when we feel hurt and abandoned, unloved and alone. To those feelings of loneliness and abandonment you also suffered pain, the pain of being mocked and the physical pain, a crown of thorns pressed down on your brow. Lord, we are with you now, entering a little into your pain; help us to know that you are always with us in ours.

**Amen.**

### **Opening Song: Jesus, all for Jesus**

*Jesus, all for Jesus*

*All I am and have and ever hope to be*

*Jesus, all for Jesus*

*All I am and have and ever hope to be.*

**All of my ambitions, hopes and plans**

**I surrender these into your hands**

**All of my ambitions, hopes and plans**

**I surrender these into your hands**

**For it's only in your will that I am free**

**For it's only in your will that I am free**

**Jesus, all for Jesus**

**All I am and have and ever hope to be.**

*(repeat from start)*

*Jesus, all for Jesus*

*All I am and have and ever hope to be*

*Jesus, all for Jesus*

*All I am and have and ever hope to be.*

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### **Confession**

Empty, broken, here we stand: touch us with your healing hand.

Take our arrogance and pride: wash us in your mercy's tide.

**Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**

When our faith has all but gone: give us the strength to carry on.  
When our dreams have turned to dust, in you, O lord, we put our trust.  
**Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**

When our hearts are cold as ice: Your love speaks of sacrifice.  
Love that sets the captives free: pour compassion down on us.  
**Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**

You are the voice that calms our fears:  
You are the laughter that dries our tears.  
You are our music, our refrain: help us sing your song again.  
**Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**

Humble heart of holiness: kiss us with your tenderness.  
Jesus, faithful friend and true: all we are, we give to you.  
**Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**

*Nick and Anita Haigh 2000 Break of day Music and the Jesus Prayer (adapted)*

*Moment of silence*

**We receive God's forgiveness:**

May God who loved the world so much,  
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour,  
forgive us our sins  
and make us holy to serve him in the world,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

**Reading:** Matthew 4: 1-11 (*Sue Lyons*)

*Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness*

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:

“He will command his angels concerning you,  
and they will lift you up in their hands,  
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’

Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.

Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

**All age focus:** *Whose voice are you listening to?*

**All age song:** **Gods Love Is The Best Love** *(To the tune of the Flintstones)*

**God ‘s love is the best love  
That the world has ever, ever known.  
Deeper than the oceans  
is the love that God above has shown.**

**Higher than the sun and moon and stars,  
Further than the earth to planet Mars.  
God’s love is the best love  
that the world has ever, ever,  
has ever, ever,  
has ever, ever known.**

**God ‘s love is the best love  
That the world has ever, ever known.  
God loves us so much  
that he sent his one and only Son.**

**Jesus gave his life upon the cross,  
punished for our sin, to rescue us.**

**God's love is the best love  
that the world has ever, ever,  
has ever, ever,  
has ever, ever known.**

Bairns Rock

**Sermon:** *(Richard)*

**Song: Amazing Grace** *(My chains are gone)*

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind, but now I see**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed**

***My chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God, my Saviour has ransomed me  
And like a flood his mercy reigns  
Unending love, amazing grace***

**The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures**

***My chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God, my Saviour has ransomed me  
And like a flood his mercy reigns  
Unending love, amazing grace***

**The earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God, who called me here below,  
Will be forever mine.**

***My chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God, my Saviour has ransomed me  
And like a flood his mercy reigns  
Unending love, amazing grace***

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### **A Lenten Creed:**

**We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God,  
who knows our names and recognises our deepest needs,**

**We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the Living God,  
and that his grace is like living waters that can never be  
exhausted.**

**We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God  
who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.**

**We believe God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures,  
and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts,**

**We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination,  
and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine.**

**We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road,  
and that we are called to one another as God loves us.**

**This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus, the  
Christ.**

*Litany from Patmos Abbey – The Order of Saint Columba*

**Intercessions, Collect & Lord's Prayer**      *(Susan)*

### ***Responses:***

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

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

**Collect for the First Sunday of Lent:**

**Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness and grew closer to you in the desert.**

**Help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love.**

**In Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer:**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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 forever, Amen.**

**Offertory song: Refiners Fire**

**Purify my heart,**

**let me be as gold and precious silver.**

**Purify my heart,**

**let me be as gold, pure gold.**

***Refiner's fire,***

***my heart's one desire***

***is to be holy,***

***set apart for you, Lord.***

***I choose to be holy,***

***set apart for you, my master,***

***ready to do your will.***

**Purify my heart,  
cleanse me from within and make me holy.  
Purify my heart,  
cleanse me from my sin, deep within.**

***Refiner's fire,  
my heart's one desire  
is to be holy,  
set apart for you, Lord.  
I choose to be holy,  
set apart for you, my master,  
ready to do your will.***

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### **Offertory Prayer**

God of life, saviour of the poor,  
receive with this money  
gratitude for your goodness,  
penitence for our pride  
and dedication to your service  
in Jesus Christ, Our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **The Peace**

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,,  
since as the members of one body, you are called to peace.

The peace of the lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

### **Opportunity for sharing**

#### **Closing sentence of scripture:**

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

*Psalm 51: 10-12*

## **Final Song: How Great Thou Art**

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the works thy hand hath made.  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:  
How great thou art, how great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:  
How great thou art, how great thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:  
How great thou art, how great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:  
How great thou art, how great thou art!*

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin:

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:  
How great thou art, how great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:  
How great thou art, how great thou art!*

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
And there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:  
How great thou art, how great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:*

***How great thou art, how great thou art!***

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**Blessing:**

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with us, wherever he may send us.

May he guide us through the wilderness, protect us through the storm.

May he bring us home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown us.

May he bring us home rejoicing once again into our doors.

**Amen.**

**Dismissal:**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen**

***Refreshments & Prayer Ministry***

We are here as God's family, to draw closer to God, to live out our faith  
and welcome all into the love of God.