



The Church
of St Peter and
St Simon the Apostle

Ash Wednesday
February 17, 2021

Ash Wednesday Liturgy at 11:00 am

Celebrant: The Reverend Canon Geoffrey Sangwine

Preacher: The Reverend Michael Perry

Organist: David Smith

This service is being live-streamed for those worshipping from home.

The Gathering of the Community

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you despise nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Proclamation of the Word

First Lesson Isaiah 58.1-12

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near - a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again

after them in ages to come. Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

Reader The word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 103.8-14

The Lord is full of compassion and gracious, / long-suffering, and of great goodness.
He will not always be chiding: / neither keepeth he his anger for ever.
He hath not dealt with us after our sins, /
nor rewarded us according to our wickednesses.
For look how high the heaven is in comparison of the earth, /
so great is his mercy also toward them that fear him.
Look how wide also the east is from the west, / so far hath he set our sins from us.
Yea, like as a father pitieth his own children, /
even so is the LORD merciful unto them that fear him.
For he knoweth whereof we are made: / he remembereth that we are but dust.

Epistle 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

A reading from St Paul's 2nd Letter to the Corinthians.

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.

Reader The word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Gospeller The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. Matthew.

All **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus said, “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. “And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. “And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that

your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Gospeller The Gospel of Christ.

All **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily The Reverend Michael Perry

Hymn *Wilt Thou Forgive?*

Wilt Thou Forgive That Sin, Where I Begun,
Which Is My Sin, Though It Were Done Before?
Wilt Thou Forgive Those Sins Through Which I Run,
And Do Run Still, Though Still I Do Deplore?
When Thou Hast Done, Thou Hast Not Done,
For I Have More.

Wilt Thou Forgive That Sin, By Which I Won
Others To Sin, And Made My Sin Their Door?
Wilt Thou Forgive That Sin Which I Did Shun
A Year Or Two, But Wallowed In A Score?
When Thou Hast Done, Thou Hast Not Done,
For I Have More.

I Have A Sin Of Fear That When I've Spun
My Last Thread, I Shall Perish On The Shore;
Swear By Thyself, That At My Death Thy Son
Shall Shine As He Shines Now, And Heretofore.
And Having Done That, Thou Hast Done,
I Fear No More.

Words: John Donne (1573-1631)

Celebrant: Dear friends in Christ, every year at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery. We begin this holy season by remembering our need for repentance and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes, an ancient sign speaking of the frailty and uncertainty of human life and marking the penitence of the community as a whole. I invite you therefore in the name of the Lord to observe a holy Lent by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting and almsgiving, and by meditating on the word of God. Let us pray.

Litany of Penitence

Priest Most holy and merciful Father, we confess to you, to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

Priest 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 **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Priest 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 **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Priest We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

All **We confess to you, Lord.**

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

All **We confess to you, Lord.**

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

All **We confess to you, Lord.**

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

All **We confess to you, Lord.**

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

All **We confess to you, Lord.**

Priest 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.**

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

All **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

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

All **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Priest Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

All **Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.**

Celebrant Almighty God, from the dust of the earth you have created us. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Lenten Prose

Refrain



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

Refrain

Cantor 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

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

Refrain

Cantor Sins oft committed now we lay before thee : with true contrition,
now no more we veil them : grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution.

Refrain

Cantor Innocent, captive, taken unresisting : falsely accused ,
and for us sinners sentenced, save us, we pray thee, Jesu our Redeemer.

Refrain

Celebrant Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

All **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

Celebrant By the cross and passion of thy Son, our Lord,

All **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy upon you,
forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Prayer over the Gifts

Celebrant: Merciful God, turn us from sin to faithfulness. Accept our offering, and prepare
us to celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour, who is alive and
reigns with you now and for ever. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

All **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth, because you bid your faithful people to cleanse their hearts and to prepare with joy for the paschal feast; that reborn through the waters of baptism and renewed in the Eucharistic mystery, we may be more fervent in prayer and more generous in the works of love. Therefore we raise our voices to you in praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

**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.**

Celebrant We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, Father, according to his command,

All **we remember his death,**

**we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Given 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, the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant We break this bread,

All **Communion in Christ's body once broken.**

Celebrant Let your Church be the wheat which bears its fruit in dying.

All **If we have died with him, we shall live with him;
if we hold firm, we shall reign with him.**

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

The Communion

For those worshipping from home, we commend this prayer for Spiritual Communion.

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

(The Prayer of St Richard of Chichester - adapted)

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant God of compassion, through your Son Jesus Christ you reconciled your people to yourself. Following his example of prayer and fasting, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Blessing

Hymn 509 *Precious Lord, Take my hand*

PRECIOUS LORD

Dismissal

Leader Go forth in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *Miserere Mei, Psalm 51. 1-18 (pre-recorded by choir)*

GREGORIO ALLEGRI

*Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness
According to the multitude of thy mercies do away mine 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 thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight:
that thou mightest be justified in thy saying, and clear when thou art judged.
Behold, I was shapen in wickedness: and in sin hath my mother conceived me.
But lo, thou requirest truth in the inward parts:
and shalt make me to understand wisdom secretly.
Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean:
Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness:
that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.
Turn thy face from my sins: and put out all my misdeeds.
Make me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence: and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.
O give me the comfort of thy help again: and stablish me with thy free Spirit.
Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked: and sinners shall be converted unto thee.
Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God,
Thou that art the God of my health: and my tongue shall sing of thy
righteousness.
Thou shalt open my lips, O Lord: and my mouth shall shew thy praise.
For thou desirest no sacrifice, else would I give it thee:
but thou delightest not in burnt-offerings.
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit:
a broken and contrite heart, O God, shalt thou not despise.
O be favourable and gracious unto Sion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem.
Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness,
with the burnt-offerings and oblations:
then shall they offer young calves upon thine altar.*