

**Service for the
Second Sunday of Lent**



*Take up your
Cross
and follow me*

St Laurence Church, Downton

28 February 2021

Preparation

Call to Worship

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.

1 Corinthians 1:18

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Team Rector introduces the service

Hymn: *Be thou my guardian and my guide*
(St Martin's Voices)

Be thou my guardian and my guide,
and hear me when I call;
let not my slippery footsteps slide,
and hold me lest I fall.

The world, the flesh, and Satan dwell
around the path I tread;
O save me from the snares of hell,
thou quickener of the dead.

And if I tempted am to sin,
and outward things are strong,
do thou, O Lord, keep watch within,
and save my soul from wrong.

Still let me ever watch and pray,
and feel that I am frail;
that if the tempter cross my way,
yet he may not prevail.

Isaac Williams (1802-1865)

Prayer:

Oh, God of love, power and faithfulness,
We journey with your son,
ever closer to Jerusalem,
to his cross, his true destiny.

We hear his words "Take up your cross and follow me,"
but we aren't sure if it's the crosses of this life,
or the actual cross of death.

We hear his words, "deny your self,"
and wonder which self it is;
the self we put on for others,
or the self-centred self
that wants it all for ourselves?

Whichever it is,
it seems like Jesus
is asking a lot of us
and we aren't sure we can do this.

God, we will need your Holy Spirit
to be able to do this.
God, we will need your grace and mercy
to be able to do this.

We remember that you empowered your disciples,
the early Christians,
and others who decided to follow you,
we believe that you will do likewise for us. **Amen.**

Rev. Abi

Confession:

Jesus calls us to deny ourselves.
**Yet we trust in our own works
rather than in God's grace.**

Jesus calls each of us to take up our cross.
**Yet rather than allow our selfishness and sin
to be put to death, we cling to what we know.**

Jesus calls us to follow him.

**Yet we fear where faith will lead
and what it might change in our lives.**

So we confess the sin that separates us
from one another and from God.

Words of Assurance

People of God, hear this good news.

God's covenant with us is true.

God is faithful even when we fail.

Through the Holy Spirit,

God gives us the gift of faith and makes us righteous.

Believe in the good news

that you are set free to live as children of God.

Amen. Thanks be to God!

Daniel Flucke

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings:

Romans 4:13-end

Mark 8:31-end

After each reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection by Bishop Andrew

Music: King of glory, King of peace
(George Herbert - Oxford Choir)

Prayers

We are led in a time of prayer

This response is used:

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer is said:

Trusting in the compassion of God
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.**

Conclusion

The Collect

Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,
that they may return to the way of righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted
into the fellowship of Christ's religion,
that they may reject those things
that are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;

through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Blessing:

God,
who from the death of sin
raised you to new life in Christ,
keep you from falling
and set you in the presence of his glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

We proclaim Christ crucified,
the power of God and the wisdom of God. *1 Corinthians 1:23,24*

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.