



# Connection

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021**  
**Third Sunday of Lent**



## **View from a Vicarage by Bishop Martin**

I don't know about you but I've found Lockdown Three particularly hard. The days have been short, the weather cold and the news very depressing as the virus spread so rapidly once again. The death rate per 100,000 has been higher in the UK than any other country and passing that awful milestone of 100,000 Covid deaths was a sobering moment. The pressure on health and care staff, on clergy and families has been immense and our thoughts are especially with Allison and Bob with prayers for a speedy recovery. One of my daughters is a teacher in central London. Most of her children have been home schooling, some in difficult households with very little space. Two days a week she comes into school, the rest of the week she teaches children from home, on her laptop. Keeping up morale amongst them is a real problem and most carry a level of anxiety and worry about the future that she has not seen before.

We all long for hopeful news. The vaccine roll out is wonderful, but still the end doesn't quite seem to be in sight. Every day I scan the papers and listen to the news, but often things still sound so bleak. From where is our hope to come?

I'm reminded of verses from the well-known Psalm 121.

I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
from where is my help to come?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
the maker of heaven and earth.  
He will not suffer your foot to stumble;  
he who watches over you will not sleep.



Many people have found solace and comfort in the natural world. 'Lifting up eyes to the hills' perhaps, but perhaps just treasuring a tree outside a window, or the changing sky from day to day. My daughter has discovered a love of birds, putting out crumbs each day outside her London basement flat and watching blue tits and robins come to pick them up. Nature reminds us that whatever our current problems, we are part of something bigger. Part of God's world, God's creation. Ultimately our help and our hope come from the Lord, 'the maker of heaven and earth.' And 'he who watches over you will not sleep.'

May that same Lord of heaven and earth hold you and keep you this day and always. Amen.

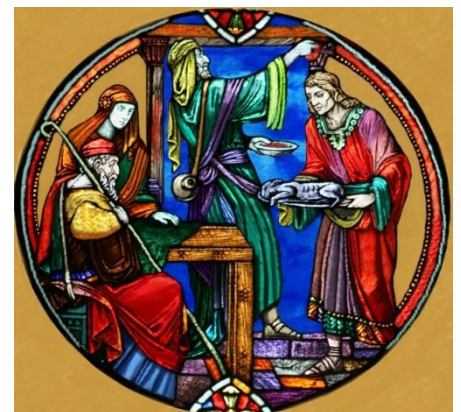
*Bishop Martin*

## Service of Holy Communion for the Third Sunday of Lent

### Collect

Eternal God,  
give us insight  
to discern your will for us,  
to give up what harms us,  
and to seek the perfection we are promised  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

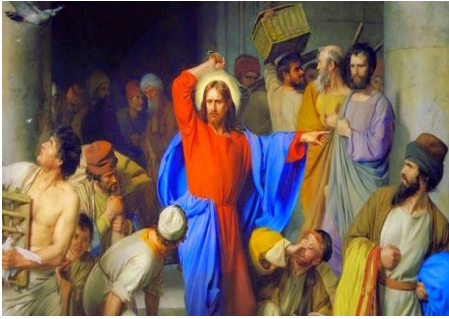


### 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

For 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. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>but</sup> we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>but</sup> to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

## John 2: 13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.



### Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord,  
grant your people grace to withstand the temptations  
of the world, the flesh and the devil,  
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

## Hymns

1 Praise to the holiest in the height,  
and in the depth be praise;  
in all his words most wonderful,  
most sure in all his ways!

3 O wisest love! that flesh and blood,  
which did in Adam fail,  
should strive afresh against the foe,  
should strive, and should prevail;

5 O generous love! that he who came  
as man to smite our foe,  
the double agony for us  
as man should undergo:

7 Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
and in the depth be praise;  
in all his words most wonderful,  
most sure in all his ways!

2 O loving wisdom of our God!  
when all was sin and shame,  
a second Adam to the fight  
and to the rescue came.

4 And that the highest gift of grace  
should flesh and blood refine:  
God's presence and his very self,  
and essence all-divine.

6 And in the garden secretly,  
and on the cross on high,  
should teach his brethren, and inspire  
to suffer and to die.



*words; J.H. Newman*

*These words are only slightly adapted from the original, and are therefore public domain*

*Metre: 8 6 8 6 (CM)*

1 Jesus, lover of my soul  
Jesus, I will never let You go  
You've taken me from the miry clay  
You've set my feet upon the rock  
And now I know

2 I love you (I love you)  
I need you (I need you)  
Though my world may fall (though my world  
may fall)  
I'll never let You go

3 My Savior (my Savior)  
My closest Friend  
I will worship You (I will worship You until the  
very end)

4 Sing it, Jesus (Jesus, You're lover of my soul)  
Sweet Jesus (Jesus, I will never let You go)  
And You've taken me (You've taken me from the  
miry clay)  
You've set my feet upon the rock  
And now I know

5 I love you (I love you)  
And I need you (I need you)  
Though my world may fall (though my world  
may fall)  
I'll never let You go  
No, no

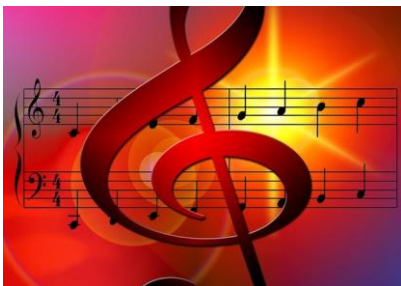
6 My Savior,  
My closest Friend  
My closest Friend  
I will worship You until the very end

7 Jesus, lover of my soul  
Jesus, (Lord) I will never let You go  
And You've taken me  
You've taken me from the miry clay  
Yes, You have  
You've set my feet upon the rock (and now I  
know)  
And now I know

8 I love you (I love you)  
I need you (I need you)  
Though my world may fall I'll never let You go  
Never, never let You go, no

9 My Savior  
My closest Friend  
My closest Friend (I will worship You)  
I will worship You until the very end

10 Oh I love You  
Oh, we need You  
I need you (though my world may fall)  
Though my world may fall  
I'll never let You go  
Never, never, never, never let You go



11 My Savior  
My closest Friend  
(I will worship  
You)  
I will worship You  
until the very end

1 Forth in your name, O Lord, I go  
my daily labour to pursue;  
you, Lord, alone I long to know  
in all I think or speak or do.

2 The task your wisdom has assigned  
here let me cheerfully fulfil;  
in all my work your presence find  
and prove your good and perfect will.

3 You I would set at my right hand  
whose eyes my inmost secrets view;  
and labour on at your command  
and offer all my work to you.

4 Help me to bear your easy yoke  
and every moment watch and pray;  
and still to things eternal look  
and hasten to that glorious day.

5 Gladly for you may I employ  
all that your generous grace has given;  
and run my earthly course with joy,  
and closely walk with you to heaven.



*Jubilate Hymns version of 'Forth in your name, O Lord I go', Charles Wesley (1707 - 1788)*

© Jubilate Hymns Ltd

LM

## Reflection for Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March

This week's Reflection is slightly different from usual as it is a poem inspired by this week's Gospel Reading by Malcolm Guite, the Chaplain of Girton College, Cambridge and associate chaplain of St Edward King and Martyr in Cambridge. He also writes the weekly Poet's Corner column for the Church Times

### Cleansing the Temple



Come to your Temple here with liberation  
And overturn these tables of exchange  
Restore in me my lost imagination  
Begin in me for good, the pure change.  
Come as you came, an infant with your mother,  
That innocence may cleanse and claim this ground  
Come as you came, a boy who sought his father  
With questions asked and certain answers found,  
Come as you came this day, a man in anger  
Unleash the lash that drives a pathway through  
Face down for me the fear the shame the danger  
Teach me again to whom my love is due.  
Break down in me the barricades of death  
And tear the veil in two with your last breath.

**Malcolm Guite**

## Prayers for Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March



Lord, we pray for our religious leaders and clergy everywhere, and all who teach God's word that they may constantly proclaim your message of hope and the need for repentance during this time of Lent  
Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Lord, at a time when the world needs to come together as one to fight this invisible foe, we pray for the governments of the world and all world leaders, that they may always work as one to seek peaceful solutions in their dealings with other nations and rule their own countries with compassion and justice.  
Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Lord, we pray for everyone gathered here and all who seek you with a sincere heart, that during this holy season of Lent we may become more awake to a life in Christ and so seek reconciliation, forgiveness and peace with you and with each other.  
Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Lord, we pray for the children of the Bredon Hill Group and especially for those starting on their journey in faith. Bless them, their families, their friends and all who encourage and guide them in hope that before much longer they can continue on their path towards their first Holy Communion.  
Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Lord, we pray for all those who are looking forward to a time when Baptisms can return to our churches, that they may be blessed with a deeper understanding of the Gospel message and be true messengers of your word as they come to share a new life in Christ.  
Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Lord, we pray for those who serve God through their work with others; for all who care for the sick, provide comfort to the dying and console the bereaved; those who give support to prisoners, the lonely and troubled, that they, and those whom they serve, may experience your forgiveness, love and compassion.  
Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Lord, we pray that by observing Lent faithfully it may help us to renew our commitment to the true values in life and grow in humility so that we may actively work to spread your Gospel of repentance, reconciliation and love to all we meet.  
Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

**Amen**

## Requests for Prayers

If there is someone or something that you would like to pray for please email us at [eckingtonvicarage@hotmail.com](mailto:eckingtonvicarage@hotmail.com)



**Please continue to pray** for the ill and isolated, frontline, hospital and medical staff and for all those who are in any kind of need. We give thanks for all those who are working towards the successful completion of Census 2021, especially those who are volunteering in these difficult times.

**Those who are sick:** We pray for all those who are sick everywhere and for those who have asked for our prayers and for their carers, Roy and Margaret Putnam, Christopher Frith, Edward Bunn, Brian Bolam, Wendy Dufty and Yvonne Seward.

**We continue to pray for:** Percy and Sharon Blizzard, Jackie Pickford, Clive Hunt

**Those in residential care:** Sheila Bigland-Gibbons, Barbara Milton, Rita Sheppy

**We pray for those who have died everywhere:** For those who we know and their families and for those whose anniversary of death falls at this time - Eileen Fincher, Stephen Jeenes, Michael Donnelly, Ronnie Compton, Captain Anthony Greenwood, Betty Kirkpatrick, Margaret Sutton, Liz Gough, Don Dufty



## Church Services during Lockdown

Morning Prayer will continue via Zoom this Sunday at 10.30am. So, if you would like to join us for worship and fellowship, please contact Alison Khan (email [acbhteam@gmail.com](mailto:acbhteam@gmail.com) or telephone 07984 748059) and she will send you an invitation.



## LENT Lent Study Course – Week Three

This week's Lent Study Course will focus on Society and what opportunities we all have to transform the world. Canon Roger will lead the session on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm via Zoom. If you would like to join in; please contact Alison Khan at [acbhteam@gmail.com](mailto:acbhteam@gmail.com) to be sent the Zoom invite.



Thank you to everyone who donated food at Eckington Church last week – 12+ bags of food were collected for the foodbank. Lynne Raymer from the foodbank says – “Thank you all very much for your continued support. I have attached our current list of requirements. Your help is required even more as demand has increased with job losses and families in particularly struggling”.

The figures below speak for themselves

	Number of vouchers	Number of people fed	% increase in number of people fed
January and February 2020	53	148	286%
January and February 2021	167	572	

During March the Foodbank would like these non-perishable items. (They are not able to use chilled or frozen items.)

Coffee  
Rice Pudding  
Veg & tomato soup  
Cereal  
Tinned tomatoes  
Instant mash  
Sponge puddings  
Meat e.g. tinned chicken and mince  
Deodorants  
Pasta in sauce e.g. macaroni cheese



We are continuing to collect at Eckington Church on Wednesdays and Fridays 10am-3pm.



Also watch this space for news of a weekend of collecting for the Foodbank at Holy Trinity, Eckington – we will be asking for **Easter Eggs** in particular so that none of the children in Persnore or the surrounding villages will miss out this year!

Churches Together in Persnore  
Persnore Foodbank is run in partnership with local churches facilitated by Persnore Abbey  
Registered charity number: 1133566 | Registered in England & Wales

## Bags for NHS Staff

Sara Speed who co-ordinated the Bags for NHS Staff says – “I have 100 bags ready for collection by WRH coordinator on Fri am. The labels say they're from Persnore Benefice and Bredon Hill Group churches. It's been an amazing response. Please pass on my thanks to the villages”. Well done to everybody who donated and were involved – thank you!

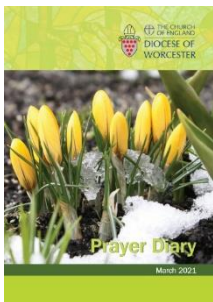


### **Additional Resources during Lockdown**

Even though we are inviting everyone to join our weekly Zoom service at 10.30 on Sunday morning, please be aware that the Freephone Daily Hope programmes of worship services and prayers are still available by ringing 0800 804 8044. This includes a Church of England weekly service (select option 6) and traditional Morning/Evening Prayer (select option 7). This service will not cost the caller anything and provides worship material for those looking for additional services and prayer.



A free phoneline of hymns,  
reflections and prayers



## **News from the Diocese**

Prayers and diocesan news can be found at [www.cofe-worcester.org.uk](http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk)

### **Reverend Allison Davies**

Vicar of Eckington, Defford with Besford and Associate Priest for the churches of the Bredon Hill Group

