

THE BRIDE VALLEY CHURCHES:

Telephone Service for Sunday 21st March 2021 – Passion Sunday

The service for today has been prepared by Liz Howlett, with a reflection by Bishop Karen (on a separate sheet) and can be accessed by phone on Sunday morning on **01308 293062**.

Welcome to this act of worship for the Bride Valley churches for Passion Sunday.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

Psalm 51: 10,11

Invitation to Confession

God shows his love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Prayers of Penitence

O God, you know my foolishness and my sins are not hidden from you:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Let not the flood overwhelm me nor the depths swallow me up:
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Hear me, O Lord, as your loving kindness is good; turn to me as your compassion is great:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Collect

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of the Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 31: 31 - 34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

John 12: 20 – 33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Reflection by Bishop Karen (see separate sheet)

Prayers

And so let us bring to the Father our prayers of intercession through Christ who gave himself for the life of the world.

For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus,
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation, that they may find support and encouragement,
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who still make Jerusalem a battleground
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure or sorrow, feel that God is far from them,
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That we, with those who have died in faith, may find mercy in the day of Christ,
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray
**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**

The Blessing

May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit, give to you a contrite heart. **Amen.**

May Christ, who bore our sins in his body on the tree, heal you by his wounds. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth, speak to you words of pardon and peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you now and always. **Amen.**