

WCRKB Words of Hope 21st February 2021 Lent 1

Intro by David:

'Covenant' is a word that runs right through the Bible, describing God's love and commitment to us, His promises, his testament that is utterly trustworthy, and He calls us to make that same loving commitment to Him, and even when we let Him do, He never lets us go

So welcome to our Words of Hope for this first Sunday in Lent!

Opening music...

Hymn:

Forty days and forty nights,
you were fasting in the wild.
forty days and forty nights
tempted still, yet unbeguiled.

Sunbeams scorching all the day,
chilly dew-drops nightly shed,
prowling beasts about your way
stones your pillow, earth your bed.

Let us your endurance share
and from earthly greed abstain,
with you vigilant in prayer
with you strong to suffer pain.

Then if evil on us press
flesh or spirit to assail
Victor in the wilderness
help us not to swerve or fail.

So shall peace divine be ours
holy gladness pure and true,
come to us, angelic powers
such as ministered to you.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by your side,
that with you we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.

George Hunt Smyttan (1822-1870)
adapted by Michael Forster (b.1946)
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Lent Intro to confess: 'The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite hearts God will not despise. Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion, and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith' (Ps 51:17);

**Almighty God, long-suffering and of great goodness:
we confess to You, we confess with my whole heart
our neglect and forgetfulness of Your commandments,
our wrong doing, thinking, and speaking;
the hurts we have done to others, and the good we have left undone.
O God, forgive us, for we have sinned against You;
and raise us to newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon *you*, pardon and deliver *you* from all *your* sins, confirm and strengthen *you* in all goodness, and keep *you* in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer said together:

**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 for ever, AMEN.**

Collect for 1st Sunday in Lent:

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to Your Spirit; and, as You know our weakness, so may we know Your power to save; through Jesus Christ Your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Psalm 25.1–9 read by Geraldine

1. To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul; O my God, in You I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies triumph over me.
2. Let none who look to You be put to shame, but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated.
3. Make me to know Your ways, O Lord, and teach me Your paths.
4. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You have I hoped all the day long.
5. Remember, Lord, Your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

6. Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions, but think on me in Your goodness, O Lord, according to Your steadfast love.
7. Gracious and upright is the Lord; therefore shall He teach sinners in the way.
8. He will guide the humble in doing right and teach His way to the lowly.
9. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth to those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be for ever. Amen

Genesis 9.8–17 read by Martin or Jane Snaith

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him,

^{9.} ‘As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you,

^{10.} and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark.

^{11.} I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.’

^{12.} God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations:

^{13.} I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

^{14.} When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds,

^{15.} I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

^{16.} When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.’

^{17.} God said to Noah, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.’

Song:

**My Jesus, my Saviour, Lord, there is none like You;
All of my days I want to praise the wonder of Your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength,
Let every breath, all that I am, never cease to worship You.
Shout to the Lord all the earth, let us sing
power and majesty, praise to the King;
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of Your Name.
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands,
for ever I'll love You, for ever I'll stand;
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.**

Darlene Zschech 1993

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Mark 1.9–15 read by Geraldine or Martin or Jane Snaith?

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

^{10.} And just as He was coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on Him.

^{11.} And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with You I am well pleased.'

^{12.} And the Spirit immediately drove Him out into the wilderness.

^{13.} He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and He was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on Him.

^{14.} Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God,

^{15.} and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

Sermon – Tim

Creed?

Prayers led by Lorraine Knight

Hymn:

Forty days and forty nights
in Judah's desert Jesus stayed;
all alone he fought temptation,
all alone he fasted, prayed.
When the heat of passion rules me,
when I feel alone, betrayed,
Lord, you meet me in the desert,
strong in faith and unafraid.

In the garden, his disciples
slept the darkest hours away,
but our Lord did not condemn them
when they would not watch or pray.
Make me constant in your service,
keeping watch both night and day.
Give me grace that I may never
such a love as yours betray.

When the rooster crowed at daybreak,
Peter's fear and panic grew.
He denied three times the charge
that Jesus was a man he knew.
When my love for you is challenged,
when the faithful ones are few,
give me courage and conviction
to proclaim my Lord anew.

Soldiers came, the Galilean
was arrested, bound and tried,
and upon a wooden cross
the Son of God was crucified.
In the darkest hour of torture,
Jesus raised his head and cried,
'Why hast thou forsaken me?',
and faithful to the end, he died.

With a sword they pierced his side -
himself, they jeered, he could not save;
Joseph then prepared the body
with sweet spices for the grave.
This the precious, broken body
which for me my Saviour gave;
such a love as his I long for,
such a faith as his I crave.

Jean Holloway (b.1939)

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David:

Thank you for joining us for our Words of Hope!

Our next Words of Hope will be on the Church Website next Sunday 28th February

There will also be a short said service of Morning Prayer at St Denys Colmworth at 10am.

You are very welcome to join us but do let us know if you are coming via a message on our website so we can prepare for numbers and social distancing.

Our Lent ZOOM Wednesday evening gatherings begin this Wednesday 24th February at 7:30-8:30pm

And if you'd like to join us please message us via our Website for the ZOOM link.

For all details of all our services and other events please see our website.

We also value your generosity to support the church financially in our work serving our communities. If you are able to give via your bank please email us via the website for details, and you can also give online via our website.

And our final blessing

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross and follow Him...(Lent)

and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.