**First Sunday of Lent**

**21st February 2021**

Introduction & welcome: *Rev Trish*

The Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness and he remained there for 40 days tempted by Satan.

*Hymn: Jesu, lover of my soul (mute!)*

*https://youtu.be/AvluR3KbPDs*

Gathering: *Dawn Jones*

Spirit of God, moving over the deep, bringing order out of chaos in the beginning, bring us your peace.

**Come, Holy Spirit**.

Lowly dove, winging your way over the waters of the flood,

bringing signs of a new beginning for the world,

bring us your hope.

**Come, Holy Spirit**.

Spirit, descending as a dove over the waters of the Jordan,

bringing the approval of God at the beginning of Jesus’ ministry,

bring us your blessing.

**Come, Holy Spirit. Amen**

A prayer of confession: *Berwyn Thomas*

Living, loving God, you know our weaknesses and our frailties,

you know the many times we stumble and fall and fail you.

Forgive us the times when we have gone our own way.

Help us to know the strengthening and leading of your Spirit,

that we may be led to serve and worship you in spirit and in truth,

for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Silence*

Hear the words of grace ‘Your sins are forgiven.’

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Collect:*John Delieu*

Holy God, our lives are laid open before you:

rescue us from the chaos of sin and, through the death of your Son

bring us healing and make us whole in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Old Testament reading*: Lesley Brown*

*Genesis 9.8–17*

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ‘As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, 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. 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.’ 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: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, 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. 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.’ 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.’

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God**

Personal prayer: *Rob Shotton*

Lord Jesus Christ, in the inhospitality of the desert,

you were tested and challenged to reveal who you were.

In spite of the pressure you did not give in to temptation.

In the inhospitable place of our lives,

help us to resist the temptations we encounter,

when we want to find comfort in possessions,

when we want to find self-worth through domination,

when we want to deny that we follow Jesus.

In the comfort zone of the church,

help us to resist the temptations we encounter,

when we take refuge in tradition,

when we allow finance to limit our vision,

when we accept others only if they conform.

Help us to turn once again to you.

Give us strength when our commitment is weak.

Enable us to place our trust in you. **Amen.**

Gospel: *Jane Davies*

*Mark 1.9–15*

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 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. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God**

Address: *Rev Trish*

Prayers of intercession**:** *Cerys Bennett*

We bring our cares and concerns, our prayers for the world, and for all God’s people before God.

We pray for those who feel that all that was precious to them has been washed away:

**Lord, remember them.**

For those who feel that they are lost in a wilderness, beset by temptation:

**Lord, remember them.**

For those who have never heard your voice speaking to them, for those who feel in need of cleansing:

**Lord, remember them.**

For those who need to know what way they should go next,

for those who feel they have no more strength to go on:

**Lord, remember them.**

May they hear your good news.

May they know that you are near at hand.

May they know your Spirit descending on them,

through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

A prayer for all ages**:** *Shirley O’Neill*

Saving God, Thank you for your promise to your people so long ago.

Help us to live in a way that pleases you, reflecting your goodness and love for all.

You created all things and still sustain us in love today.

Help us to remember that we are not alone,

but can count on your help.

Help us to make a good impression on our world

and on the people we meet, that all may come to know

your love, your goodness and your promise. **Amen.**

*Silence*

We pray together as Jesus taught us, **Our Father…**

The Peace: *Rev Heather*

The peace of the Lord be always with you;

**And also with you**

Tangnefedd yr Arglwydd a fo gyda chwi bob amser

**A hefyd gyda thi**

The Blessing: *Rev Kate*

May you know God breathing his peace

over the troubled depths of your soul.

May you know that Jesus is with you

on your journey in the week to come.

May you know the Holy Spirit strengthening and sustaining you,

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

*Hymn:* *Do not be afraid (mute!)*

*https://youtu.be/v2rO0LhSWJ0*

Go in the light and peace of Christ to love and serve the Lord.
**Thanks be to God. Amen**