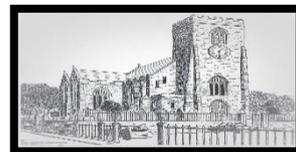


The United Benefice of **Saint Aidan & Saint Leonard**



Bamber Bridge

Walton-le-Dale

“Making Disciples – Transforming Lives”

A warm welcome to our friends at St Laurence, Chorley

The First Sunday of Lent

21st February 2021



**‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near;
repent, and believe in the good news.’**

Entrance Hymn

Do not be afraid for I have redeemed you

Gerard Markland

Gathering

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit
Amen.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Confession

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. Let us confess our sins remembering before God the times when we have fallen from temptation into sin.

A moment of silence as we call to mind our sins

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:
fill us with your Spirit.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:
fill us with your Spirit.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:
fill us with your Spirit.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

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.

Collect

Let us pray.

A moment of silence is kept.

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.

The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading

In a violent and sinful world, the unchanging rhythm of the processes of nature is assured by God's patience with his creation. He may have an untold number of occasions for anger but holds back, just as if he had hung up his bow in the sky. It is a covenant with the world: the first pledge of divine mercy.

A reading from the Book of 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.

Gospel Reading

Endowed with the Holy Spirit so that he might preach the good news, Jesus, the new Adam, makes actual what he says: the powers of evil, typified by the wild beasts are overcome, thanks to God and his angels. The people of God who now face the trials of the desert, will emerge victorious in him who makes us strong.

Acclamation

Praise to you O Christ, king of eternal glory.

We do not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Matthew 4.4

Praise to you O Christ, king of eternal glory.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

1.9-15

Glory to you, O Lord.

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 Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

Profession of Faith

Stand

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Intercessions

At the end:

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Peace

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to his grace.

Romans 5.1,2

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

Preparation of the Table

Lord, make us worthy to bring you these gifts. May this sacrifice help us to change our lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And now we give you thanks
because you give us the spirit of discipline,
that we may triumph over evil and grow in grace,
as we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery
with mind and heart renewed.

And so, with joyful hearts we echo on earth the song of the angels in heaven
as they praise your glory without end:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness.
Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us + the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks. He gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus.

Dying you destroyed our death.

Rising you restored our life.

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup,
and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom.
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
St Laurance, St Aidan, St Leonard and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

By whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

A moment of silent prayer precedes...

The Lord's Prayer

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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread saying:

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant us peace.

Invitation to Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

The Body of Christ.
Amen.

Communion Prayer

My Jesus, my King, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Communion Reflection

Your love is finer than life (Psalm 63) *Marty Haugan*

*Oh God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you, your love is finer than life.
Oh God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you, your love is finer than life.*

As a dry and weary desert land, so my soul is thirsting for my God,
and my flesh is faint for the God I seek, for your love is more to me than life.
Oh God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you, your love is finer than life.

I think of you when at night I rest, I reflect upon your steadfast love.
I will cling to you, Oh Lord my God, in the shadow of your wings I sing.
Oh God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you, your love is finer than life.

I will bless your name all the days I live, I will raise my hands and call on you.
My joyful lips shall sing your praise, you alone have filled my hungry soul.
Oh God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you, your love is finer than life.

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

A moment of silence is kept.

Lord God,
you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven;
by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love:
teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread,
and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**We thank you, Lord,
that you have nourished us with your Word and Sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for all peoples.
Amen.**

Blessing

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;
And the blessing of almighty God + the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
come down upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Final Hymn

The Kingdom of God is justice and joy