

St James's Church, Piccadilly

The Eucharist for the Fifth Sunday of Lent - Passiontide begins Sunday 21st March 2021 at 11.00am

WITH A CONGREGATION IN THE CHURCH BUILDING AND LIVE ON YOUTUBE

At 11.00am the priest says

Grace, mercy and peace from God and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

The priest welcomes all to the online service and invites those attending to say where they are joining from in the YouTube chat function.

All say

Eternal God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hidden, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

The priest says

Let us make our confession to God, trusting in the assurance of forgiveness and peace.

KYRIE: (MacNamara)

The Cantor sings

When our life is at its strongest
When our days are at their longest
Kyrie eleison
Lord have mercy.

At the first coming of the dawn

On the life that's newly born

Kyrie eleison

Lord have mercy.

At the turning of the tide

On life's ocean deep and wide

Kyrie eleison

Lord have mercy.

When our powers are nearly done

At the setting of the sun

Kyrie eleison

Lord have mercy.

When we come to breathe our last

When the gates of death are passed

Kyrie eleison

Lord have mercy.

Silence is kept.

Ever-loving God,

we confess that we have sinned

in thought, word and deed.

We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you our God.

Amen.

THE ABSOLUTION

The priest says

May the God of mercy and truth forgive you and set you free. May you know you are forgiven and be at peace.

Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Collect (Prayer for the Day)

The priest says

Let us pray.

Christ Jesus,
you have taught us
that what we do for the least of our
brothers and sisters
we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

Amen.

Please sit.

THE FIRST 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.

Listen for what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

Please join in singing the hymn at home.

[Tune: St Columba; Words: John L. Bell (b. 1949) & Graham Maule (1958-2019)]

**Come, Host of heaven's high dwelling
place,
come earth's disputed guest;
find in this house a welcome home,
stay here and take your rest.**

**Surround these walls with faith and love
that through the nights and days,
when human tongues from speaking
cease,
these stones may echo praise.**

**Bless and inspire those gathered here
with patience, hope and peace
and all the joys that know the depth
in which all sorrows cease.**

**So, to the Lord whose care enfolds
the world held in his hands,
be glory, honour, love, and praise
for which this house now stands.**

THE GOSPEL

John 12.20-33

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you O Lord.

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 judgement 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you O Christ.

THE SERMON

The Revd Dr John Russell

Silence is kept for personal reflection.

Please stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from the Iona Community)

**We believe in God,
maker and sustainer of all life.**

**We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ,
the word made flesh,
born of a woman, servant of the poor,
tortured and nailed to a tree.
A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.
He descended into the earth to the place
of death.**

**On the third day he rose from the tomb.
He ascended into heaven,
to be everywhere present,
and his kingdom will come on earth.**

**We believe in God within us,
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the Church,
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of resurrection and of eternal life.
Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

led by a member of the congregation.

Please stand.

THE PEACE

The priest says

Jesus invites us to live, not by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the
mouth of God.

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

*Please share the peace in the chat section
of YouTube.*

CHANT

*As the altar is prepared, please join in
singing at home*

We come to share our story.
We come to break the bread.
We come to know our rising from the dead.

(repeated)

PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

The priest says

Gracious God, you create us from the dust of the earth. Give us a voice to join the praise of all Creation as we gather at this altar in this church without walls.

Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The priest leads the Church's Thanksgiving for Creation and Redemption in Christ ...

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.

The priest continues the Church's prayer of thanksgiving ...

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

All say

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.**

All say

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The prayer of consecration continues recalling Christ's command to his disciples at the Last Supper, ending with: "... as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me"

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The prayer continues. At the end of the prayer, all say

Amen.

Silence is kept.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

You are invited to pray in your own language.

The priest says

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, let us pray in the words that Jesus gave us.

**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.

The Bread is broken as the priest says

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The priest says

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away
the sin of the world. Happy 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 COMMUNION

*For those in the building, please come to
the communion station at the altar. Please
wear a face covering and use the hand
sanitiser on the way.*

*If you are taking part in the service online,
you may like to use one of these prayers at
this moment.*

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion inspired by Richard of Chichester (1198-1253)

Thanks be to you, Christ Jesus,
for all the benefits you have given me
for all the pains and insults you have borne
for me.

Since I cannot now receive you
sacramentally,
I ask you to be present with me spiritually
in my heart.

O most merciful redeemer,
friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly,
day by day.

Amen.

Prayers for use during Communion

Christ Jesus, you promised in your gospel
'I am with you always'. Be with me as part
of this community today in this Eucharist;
Hear my prayers for others and for myself.
May I bind myself to you, in communion
with all that lives this day, knowing that
nothing can separate me from your love.
Amen.

O God, help me to trust you,
and to know that you are with me now.
Help me to know that all are yours,
and you are ours,
in this Eucharist and for ever.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Almighty God,
you see that we have no power of
ourselves to help ourselves:
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,
and inwardly in our souls;
that we may be defended from all
adversities which may happen to the
body, and from all evil thoughts which
may assault and hurt the soul;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.
Amen.**

Notices are given by the priest.

FINAL HYMN

***Please sing along at home if you would
like to join the hymn.***

[Tune: Luckington; Words: George Herbert
(1593-1633)]

**Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
my God and King!
The heav'ns are not too high,
his praise may thither fly;**

**the earth is not too low,
his praises there may grow.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
my God and King!**

**Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
my God and King!
The church with psalms must shout,
no door can keep them out;
but, above all, the heart
must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
my God and King.**

***In place of a physical collection, please
make a text donation by texting WREN20,
WREN10 or WREN5 to 70085 to donate
£20, £10 or £5 respectively.***

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The priest gives the blessing.

May Christ go before you as you grow in holiness and take up your cross. And the blessing of God; Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you now and always.

Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

***Please make an online donation to
support the work of St James's Church
www.sjp.org.uk***

***Please use this QR code to make a
donation at kindlink.com***



Jeremiah 31.31-34

As the pace quickens liturgically towards the events of Holy Week and Easter, the prophets' word that "soon" the "new" covenant will be made between God and people draws us into that sense of urgency often found in Jeremiah, Isaiah, Amos and the prophets. Instead of the law being written on tablets of stone, Jeremiah states that God will write them on the "hearts" of the people. This will herald a new relationship between people and Yahweh.

John 12.20-33

The distinctive saying of Jesus that "unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies it remains a single grain" is repeated in all the gospels either as the final line in a parable, or as a saying of Jesus to his disciples to help them understand what was about to happen. Typical hyperbole also makes an appearance here as Jesus urges his disciples to get their priorities right, even saying that they have to "hate" their life in order to keep it – or more probably, to give it away in order to gain it.

LENT CONTEMPLATIVE SPACE

Until 26th March

Mon, Wed, Fri at 6.00pm

A regular space for prayer, readings and silence on Zoom.

Each session is facilitated by a member of the St James's Church community and includes a welcome, guided silence, a scripture reading, a poem, a prayer, and time to share reflections.

Email David at secretary@sjp.org.uk for the Zoom invitation.

Download the resources [here](#).

LENT STUDY COURSE

Parables for the End of Time

For God, *"the night is as bright as day, darkness is a burning light."* (Psalm 139). This Lent study explores end-times Bible narratives as sources of prayer, reflection, and light.

The final session is on **Thurs 25th March from 6.30 - 7.45pm.**

Email David at secretary@sjp.org.uk for the Zoom invitation.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT ST JAMES'S

All services will be live streamed on our YouTube channel unless otherwise stated. Although some restrictions are still in place, please do join us in-person if you can travel safely. Social distancing will be maintained, tickets **must be booked in advance** [here](#) and please remember to wear a face-covering.

Eucharist for Palm Sunday

Sun 28th March at 11am – although we won't have a procession or donkey this year, we'll hear the Passion Gospel, and bless the palm crosses as usual.

Silence and Eucharist

Tues 30th March at 6pm – continuing on Zoom. Please email David at secretary@sjp.org.uk for a Zoom invite.

Maundy Thursday Eucharist

Thurs 1st April at 6.30pm and Watch of Prayer until **10pm**

Good Friday The Three Hours

Fri 2nd April 12noon-3pm

Holy Saturday Evening Prayer

Sat 3rd April at 6.30pm (online only)

Easter Day Dawn Eucharist

Sun 4th April at 6.30am in the garden

Eucharist for Easter Day

Sun 4th April at 11am

POETRY FOR LENT

The Soul's Garment

by Margaret Cavendish (1623-1673)

Great Nature clothes the soul, which is but thin,
with fleshly garments, which the Fates do spin;
And when those garments are grown old and bare,
with sickness torn, Death takes them off with care,
and folds them up in peace and quiet rest,
and lays them safe within an earthly chest:
then scours them well and makes them sweet and clean,
fit for the soul to wear those clothes again.