

**THE BRIDE VALLEY CHURCHES: Telephone Service for Sunday 21st
February 2021 – The First Sunday of Lent**

The service for today has been prepared by Liz Howlett and can be accessed by phone on Sunday morning on **01308 293062**.

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

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.
Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions, but think on me in your goodness, O Lord, according to your steadfast love. *Psalm 25: 5,6*

Invitation to Confession

By the mercies of God, let us confess our sins and present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to him, which is our spiritual worship.

Prayers of Penitence

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided:

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

Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading

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."

Gospel Reading

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 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."

Reflection

Prayers

And so let us pray to the Lord for courage to give ourselves to God this Lent and to let go of what is unhelpful and hurtful.

Give your Church the courage to give up her preoccupation with herself and to give more time to your loving mission in the world.

(Time for silent prayer)

Lord, meet us in the silence,
give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give your world the courage to give up war, bitterness and hatred, and to seek peace.

(Time for silent prayer)

Lord, meet us in the silence,
give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give us the courage to give up quarrels, strife and jealousy in our families, neighbourhoods and communities.

(Time for silent prayer)

Lord, meet us in the silence,
give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give us the courage to give up our selfishness as we live for others, and to give time, care and comfort to the sick and those in need.

(Time for silent prayer)

Lord, meet us in the silence,
Give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give us the courage to give up our fear of death and to rejoice with those who have died in faith.

(Time for silent prayer)

Lord, meet us in the silence,
give us strength and hear our prayer, here and in eternity. 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**

God's 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.**

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