

Reflection 2nd Sunday before Lent, Psalm 65

The Book of Psalms in the Old Testament is a great resource for prayer, liturgy, and above all challenge. They do not even pay lip service either to being 'nice' to one another or to the sensitivities of modern eyes and ears. They say it as it is, and therefore help us to see ourselves more realistically, and help us speak more truthfully to God.

Here are some lines from the psalm given for this Sunday, quite gentle by comparison to some:

In your strength you set fast the mountains
and are girded about with might.

You still the raging of the seas,
the roaring of their waves
and the clamour of the peoples.

Those who dwell at the ends of the earth
tremble at your marvels;
the gates of the morning and evening sing
your praise..

May the pastures of the wilderness flow with
goodness
and the hills be girded with joy.
May the meadows be clothed with flocks of
sheep and the valleys stand so thick with corn
that they shall laugh and sing.

We are encouraged here to imagine the creator God, the cosmic God, where the very elements of the earth bow to God's command – this is not a God limited by our domestic trivialities. But here is also a God concerned with our well-being, with the provision of flocks of sheep and abundant corn, so much so that even the valleys rejoice at such generosity.

Fr David

Codes for Zoom Evening Prayer tbc

Meeting ID:
Passcode:

Telephone numbers: 0203 481 5237,
0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196

NEXT SUNDAY 27.02.22 Sunday next before Lent

SERVICES: 10.30am in Church.

READINGS: OT Exodus 34: 29-35
NT 2 Corinthians 3: 12-4: 2
GOSPEL Luke 9: 28-36 (37-43a)



CONTACT US

Fr David Nixon 01392 667192. Day off: Mondays
rev.dave@virgin.net

Revd Sarah Cumming Curate 07543604115
rev.sarahcumming@gmail.com

Revd Alison Whiting Associate Priest
rev.alisonwhiting@gmail.com

Phil Baker, Reader 07970 216740
lionelbaker@outlook.com

Revd Terry Litherland 07594633195
tlitherland36@gmail.com

Ian Totterdell Church Warden 01392 848674
07961621001 ian.totterdell@cantab.net

Email: parishoffice@stthomaschurhexeter.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sttexeter

Website: www.stthomaschurhexeter.co.uk

Twitter: @sttexeter

Office Tel: 01392 437486 Messages at any time.



St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 20th February 2022

2nd Sunday before Lent

10.30am in Church

Advance warning about Lent—beginning with **Ash Wednesday** on 2nd March. We are preparing a Lent/Holy Week programme. What are you planning on doing or not doing this Lent?

If you would like to suggest and volunteer ideas and inspiration for the **Queen's Jubilee** in June, do please speak to me, Ian or Judith.

My hope is that during Lent we can gradually **open up our Sunday mornings** to more people participating, especially doing readings and intercessions. If you remember, we were discouraged from having more than a very minimum number of people moving round, especially if we were giving out communion at the altar rail. Some people have already volunteered for this, but we need more. Ian, Judith or myself are waiting to hear from you!

23rd February is the feast day of **St Polycarp** of Smyrna, a very early bishop of the Church, author of a letter to the Philipians, and martyr.

Fr David



Collect

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. **Amen**

Genesis 2.4b–9,15–25

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, ‘You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.’ Then the LORD God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.’ So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, ‘This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.’ Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife,

and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

Revelation 4

After this I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, ‘Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.’ At once I was in the spirit, and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne! And the one seated there looks like jasper and cornelian, and around the throne is a rainbow that looks like an emerald. Around the throne are twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones are twenty-four elders, dressed in white robes, with golden crowns on their heads. Coming from the throne are flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and in front of the throne burn seven flaming torches, which are the seven spirits of God; and in front of the throne there is something like a sea of glass, like crystal. Around the throne, and on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with a face like a human face, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing, ‘Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come.’ And whenever the living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives for ever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing, ‘You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.’

Luke 8.22–25

One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, ‘Let us go across to the other side of the lake.’ So they put out, and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A gale swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, ‘Master, Master, we are perishing!’ And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they

ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, ‘Where is your faith?’ They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, ‘Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?’

Post Communion

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour’s cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

For our services in Church, **mask wearing** is not now compulsory but we would still advise it while infection numbers remain high. If you are coming to coffee, we also recommend wearing a mask until you are seated in the Hall.

Knit and Natter February 2022 We shall be meeting every Thursday from 10.30 to midday at 19 Maple Road. Details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

House Group. Next Meeting on **Tuesday 22nd February 2022.** New people very welcome!

Street Pastors are starting their training sessions on 7th March 2022. If anyone is interested in joining the Street Pastors please see the website below.
www.streetpastors.org/locations/exeter

Community Larder is receiving donations on Tuesdays from 10am-12noon. **The Methodists** are looking for car driving volunteers to distribute the donations in the local area on Friday mornings from 11am for an hour or so. If you are interested please contact Julian Albrow, Methodist Minister, or Ian.

Young At Hearts Wednesday 23rd February in the Hall. All Welcome

Ladies Lunch Saturday 26th February at 12.30pm at the Royal Oak, Okehampton Street. All welcome.