

## Reflection for the Second Sunday of Lent

### The man with the bag of nails

And then came a man, with his hammer and his bag of nails.

And he nailed the shining sun to the heavens, in case it should leave him cold.

And he nailed the bright moon fast to the silent sky, for fear of being left in the darkness.

And he nailed the clouds to the shifting wind so they would not gather above him.

And he nailed down the salt sea and each fish fast within it.

And he nailed the bright birds to the empty air, and every creature that flew or walked or crawled or slithered, he nailed hard in its allotted place.

And then he came to a carpenter's son. And man, afraid, took him and nailed him tight to a tree, for this man's tongue could loosen nails.

*(John Ballard)*



*Fr David*

### Sunday Evening Worship Information

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83814909573?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83814909573?pwd=MDdzQWkwZWt4cUZPdUR0WjdTNkRFUT09)  
[pwd=MDdzQWkwZWt4cUZPdUR0WjdTNkRFUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83814909573?pwd=MDdzQWkwZWt4cUZPdUR0WjdTNkRFUT09)

Meeting ID: 838 1490 9573, Passcode: 357687

Tel: 0131 460 1196, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240

### NEXT SUNDAY 12.03.2023 Third Sunday of Lent

**SERVICES:** 10.30am Sung Eucharist in the Hall  
5.00pm Evening Worship by Zoom

**READINGS:** OT Exodus 17: 1-7  
NT Romans 5: 1-11  
GOSPEL John 4: 5-42



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# St Thomas, Exeter

5th March 2023

## Second Sunday of Lent

10.30am in the Hall

### Today

10.30am Sung Eucharist

*Hymn Numbers*

81 Christ triumphant, ever reigning

56 Be thou my vision

194 Hallelujah, my Father

5pm Evening Worship by Zoom

### Tuesday 7th March

7.30pm Lent Group. The raising of Lazarus.  
See Ian for details.

### Wednesday 8th March

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

### Thursday 9th March

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots.

9.30-10.30am Community Larder

10.30am-12noon Knit & Natter

3-5pm Warm Space (Hall)

### Friday 10th March

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting

11.30am Stations of the Cross (Church)

### Saturday 11th March

9am Men's Breakfast in the Sawyers.



## Collect

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## Genesis 12: 1-4a

Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

## Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the

adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

## John 3: 1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

## Post 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 Lord. **Amen**

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## NOTICES

There will be a **retiring collection** this Sunday and following Sundays for those affected by the recent earthquakes in Turkey/Syria.

**Knit and Natter.** On Thursdays from 10.30am-12noon at 19 Maple Road. Details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

**Community Larder** is receiving donations on Thursdays between 9.30 and 10.30am. Please note new day and time. On Sundays there will also be an opportunity to bring donations to the 10.30 service.

**House Group** Weekly throughout Lent. New people are always welcome; see Ian for Zoom details.

**Food Fight** (Food for Sundays) are looking for donations of warm clothing, such as hats, gloves, jackets and socks. They are also happy to receive individual-serving bottles/tetra packs of water or juices. **Volunteers are outside Nat West bank on Sunday mornings from 11am-1pm** so any donations can be dropped off there.

Simon James, social prescriber at St Thomas Medical Centre, is asking for volunteers on behalf of the **ExwickTwo's Company Befriending Service**. His telephone number is 01392 676638 For more information see <https://linkinglives.uk/project/exwick/>

We need a volunteer urgently to be responsible for **Hall party and regular users bookings** from Easter onwards and someone to be responsible for a team opening and closing the Hall after parties. These roles can be combined or split We mostly operate this system through emails. If you are interested please see Ian for details. It is important that these roles are filled **as the Hall is a significant source of income for the Church.**