

Reflection for the Sunday next before Lent

During the inauguration service for President Joe Biden, I was captivated by the powerful words and graceful gestures of Amanda Gorman as she performed her poem 'The Hill We Climb'.

It concludes:

*When day comes. we step out of the shade
afire and unafraid.*

The new dawn blooms as we free it.

*For there is always light, if only we are brave
enough to see it.*

If only we are brave enough to be it.

During the Candlemas service, David suggested that the lights of the Christingles indicate that we are not simply bearing the light, as if we carry something separate from ourselves, but that we are people of light, shining the light of Christ in our homes and community.

Last week Phil reminded us: 'Jesus shone out as a light in his life and it was his life that lit up the world, a dark place without him.' At the transfiguration, Jesus shines with this light; the glory of God the Father.

As we say together in the Creed, Jesus is 'God from God, Light from Light'. The light of God shines in Christ and shines in us, God's children. So may we let that light shine!

Revd Sarah



WARM SPACE ST THOMAS PARISH HALL



THURSDAY 3-5PM

Free refreshments in a warm
space

NEXT SUNDAY 18.02.2024 First Sunday of Lent

10.30am in the Hall

READINGS: OT Genesis 9: 8-17

NT 1 Peter 3: 18-22

GOSPEL Mark 1: 9-15



CONTACT US

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

Revd Sarah Cumming Assistant Priest 07543604115
rev.sarahcumming@gmail.com

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

Revd Mike Clark Associate Priest
mike.clark@exeter.anglican.org

Phil Baker, Reader 07970 216740
lionelbaker@outlook.com

Revd Terry Litherland 07594633195
tlitherland36@gmail.com

Ian Totterdell Church Warden 01392 848674
07536459096 ian.totterdell@cantab.net

Liz Pioneer Community Worker
pioneerstthomas@gmail.com

Email: parishoffice@stthomaschurchexeter.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sttexeter

Website: www.stthomaschurchexeter.co.uk

Twitter: @sttexeter

Office Tel: 01392 437486 Messages at any time.



St Thomas, Exeter

11th February 2024

Sunday next before Lent

10.30am in Hall

Today

10.30am in the Hall

Hymn Numbers

70 Bright the vision that delighted

53 Be still, for the presence of the Lord

522 To God be the glory

Tuesday 13th February

7.30pm House Group

Wednesday 14th February

10am Ash Wednesday Mass with Ashing

Thursday 15th February

9.30—11am St Thomas Tots

10.30-12.30pm Knit & Natter, 19 Maple Rd.

Details from Jenny 01392 498725

3-5pm Warm Space in the Hall

Friday 16th February

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting



Collect

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

2 Kings 2: 1-12

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?' And he said, 'Yes, I know; keep silent.' Elijah said to him, 'Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.' But he said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?' And he answered, 'Yes, I know; be silent.' Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.' But he said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.' As they con-

tinued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

2 Corinthians 4: 3-6

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Mark 9: 2-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Post Communion

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

Community Larder There will be a collection box in the hall on Sundays for food donations. The need remains great so please be mindful of our wider community.

Pioneering Parishes: A series of four fortnightly webinars to help parishes start to move their energy outwards and become more pioneering.

Tuesday 20th February. 14.00-15.30.

Please refer to weekly email and/or speak to Fr David or Revd Sarah.

House Group will meet weekly from 13th February until Easter in either Helen or John's house. Details from Mic, John or Ian.

Ash Wednesday 14th February. 10am Mass with Ashing. The Rector says 'are you ready for Lent this year, and please could you bring in last year's palm crosses so that they can be burnt for Ash'.

Clock Fund As reported last Sunday it's good that we now have c £500 in the Clock Fund. The entire proceeds of the refreshment money on the last Sunday of the month contributes. You will be able to see this clearly in the Annual Accounts.

World Women's Day of Prayer Advance warning 1st March, prepared by Palestinian women.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Margaret Spicer** who died recently.