

Morning Service 7th February 2021

Welcome to today's worship from Cudham and Downe, online due to covid19. I'm Rev John Musson, vicar...

You'll find the words of the service on the church website pcd.org.uk, or if watching on youtube, why not pause now and turn auto subtitles on! There are moments for you to join in with if you would like to, and a couple of worship songs you can sing along with wherever you are.

Today we'll be thinking about the first 100 days of Jesus ministry. 100 has been a focus of this week – Joe Root's 100th test scoring a double century. Capt Sir Tom Moore walked 100 laps of his garden last year, and died at the age of 100 – I know he's been remembered in prayer by many of us this week – we begin our service today with a pause to remember Tom and to give thanks for his life. (pause/pic) Our moment of silence ends with an ancient Celtic prayer...

Bless me with Thy presence when I shall make an end of living.
Help me in the darkness to find the ford.
And in my going comfort me with Thy promise that
Where Thou art, there shall Thy servant be. Amen.

The Greeting and opening prayer

Lift your eyes to gaze on God.
Hear God's Word and receive God's peace.
With all that you have been, all that you are,
and all that you hope to be,
offer yourself now to God in worship and praise.

Let's join in with this opening prayer together.

**O God, we come to you out of the week just gone –
with its successes and disappointments,**

its joys and its struggles.

**By your Holy Spirit,
help us to focus on you now,
to listen as you speak to our hearts,
so that we may be better prepared
to serve you in the week to come.**

Amen.

Thanks to David for playing our worship songs today. Feel free to sing along at home, or if not, reflect on the words which will appear on the screen.

We gather to sing praises to our God.
How pleasant and fitting to praise him.
Let us sing to the Lord with thanksgiving
and make music to our God.
Let our worship rise high on the wings of praise.

Amen.

Our first song is:- Be thou my vision (vid)
**Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.**

**Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.**

High King of Heaven, after victory is won,

**May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.**

The prayer for today, the 2nd Sunday before Lent...
Almighty God,
give us reverence for all creation
and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your likeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Before our bible reading we spend time saying sorry to God. In our reading we see Jesus at prayer – and healing others – self-care and care for others – often we get the balance wrong, as our prayer of confession invites us to reflect on. Please join in with the words on the screen....

**Dear God,
when we say we want to be more prayerful,
but don't make time to pray;
when we say we want to help others,
but don't make their needs a priority;
forgive us, and help us to make time
for things that matter most.
Amen.**

May the Father of all mercies
cleanses us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Today's bible reading is Mark chapter 1 verses 29-39. Carol is reading it in 4 parts, and I'll be offering a short reflection after each. Jesus has called a group of people to follow him, and in his first 100 days he sets out in word

and deed his priorities – to share the Good News of God – demonstrating this in healing - Words backed up with action (vid part 1)

Straightforward and simple – a need is met – Jesus heals Simon’s mother in law and she is able to offer her gift of hospitality to them. I wonder if there is a key phrase here – as soon as they knew the need, they immediately told Jesus about it. It’s great to have fixed prayer times together with other Christians and I hope you’ll take the opportunity particularly during February to join in the nationwide 6pm prayer; or with other members of our community at 9.15am and 5pm via zoom. But we can pray anytime, anywhere, simply bringing whatever need we see before us to Jesus our helper and healer. Let’s hear Carol continue our reading (vid)

Word has got around – Jesus the healer is in town! Jesus demonstrates the Kingdom of God is present by healing many. Gifts of healing are still part of the experience of Christians today – physically, spiritually and emotionally. Please let us know how we can pray for you and for others; you’re never alone – share your needs in confidence, just get in touch. Jesus still has the power to change lives for the better; being with Jesus is still a delight and a blessing. Let’s hear part 3 of our reading (vid)

I wonder if you are a lark or an owl? Evidence here is that Jesus was a lark – or maybe he was an owl too? Here we catch a glimpse of the humanness of Jesus – caring for others takes its toll, as many working in the NHS and other caring professions – yes, even clergy(!) feel at this moment – taking time apart in prayer is a way of reconnecting with the source of life – God the Holy Spirit; put simply, getting the work-life balance right is so important in these days. As we begin lent soon, you might want to think of those quieter times for you – maybe some can identify with Jesus then being interrupted by others - I know how I might have responded- maybe in words not repeatable on air – in the final part of our reading, let’s see what Jesus does (vid)

The disciples expected Jesus to return and repeat the ‘performances’ of the previous day – no, says Jesus, let’s go somewhere else – his time of

prayer has both energised him, and also enabled him to focus on his divine priority, instead of simply responding to human demands. That's a great lesson to learn. Do we expect to find Jesus just where we left him, doing the same things he did yesterday? Or can we begin to learn that the Lord is always going on ahead of us, through the joys and sorrows of this life, inviting us to share in the new things he might be calling us to do?

Let's pray.

Lord Jesus, thank you for the compassion you demonstrated to others as well as to yourself.

Help us to bring people to you in prayer and also to care for ourselves.

Thank you for the privilege of prayer; show us the new things you might be calling us to do as we listen to you. Amen.

Now let's declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Now Daren leads us in our prayers of intercession:- (vid)

Thanks Daren.

Today is the 2nd Sunday before Lent – lent will soon be upon us – look out for services and activities as we begin lent on our website and social media platforms, catching a glimpse of how we, like Jesus, can show self-care and care for others too. Here's a closing song, again played by David, the great hymn 'praise my soul, the king of Heaven'. (vid)

**Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Alleluia, alleluia,
praise the everlasting King.**

**Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same for ever,
slow to chide and swift to bless:
Alleluia, alleluia,
glorious in his faithfulness.**

**Father-like, he tends and spares us,
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:
Alleluia, alleluia,
widely as his mercy flows.**

**Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia, alleluia,
praise with us the God of grace.**

**Here's a closing prayer I invite you to join in with
Lord Jesus,
go with us into the world this week.
Help us to remain focused upon you
and to make your priorities our priorities
in all the places you are sending us.
Amen.**

Thank you for joining us in worship today. We meet for prayer 9.15am and 5pm throughout the week – why not join us? Next Sunday morning's service will again be on facebook and youtube at 10.30am. The church website is pcd.org.uk

Please also contact me, Rev John Musson or Rev Rach Archer if you need any help or just for a chat! vicar@pcd.org.uk 01959540012

Our worship ends with a closing prayer of Blessing:

May God the Father help you share and care.

May Jesus the Son inspire your prayer.

And may the Holy Spirit be your guide,
every day and everywhere.

Amen.