



Chet Valley Churches



**Holy Communion for First Sunday of Lent
21st February 2021**

The Greeting and Welcome

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you, **and also with you.**

The Liturgy of the Candles

We have these Lenten candles to remind us of Christ the light of the World, whose light was taken from the world on the cross.

We extinguish this candle O Lord. For whenever we sin, whenever we turn from your paths, we extinguish a small part of your light in our world. Help us to fight against sin the world and the devil.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

♪ **Hymn: Lead Us, Heavenly Father, Lead Us**

**Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
O'er the world's tempestuous sea;
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
For we have no help but thee;
Yet possessing every blessing,
If our God our Father be.**



**Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:
All our weakness thou dost know;
Thou didst tread this earth before us,
Thou didst feel its keenest woe;
Lone and dreary, faint and weary,
Through the desert thou didst go.**

**Spirit of our God, descending,
Fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
Love with every passion blending,
Pleasure that can never cloy:
Thus provided, pardoned, guided,
Nothing can our peace destroy.**

The Prayers of Penitence

Let us confess our sins to Almighty God

**Lord our God, in our sin we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
Have mercy on us; deliver us from judgement;
bind up our wounds and revive us;
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and keep us in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**



The Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save;
through Jesus Christ your Son 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.'

For the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

♪ Hymn: Seek Ye First

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness,
And all these things
Shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.**

**Man shall not live by bread alone
But by every word
That proceeds
From the mouth of God.
Allelu, alleluia.**

**Ask and it shall be given unto you;
Seek and ye shall find;
Knock and the door
Shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.**



📖 Gospel Reading: Mark 1:9-15

The Lord is a great God. O that today you would listen to his voice.
Harden not your hearts.

Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you O Lord.

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 for 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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Talk [Rev Jill]

This past year has certainly shaken our foundations, we have come to realise that anything can happen at any time. As much as we would like to think we are in control of our lives, everything can quickly be turned upside down.

During these next few weeks leading up to Holy Week and Easter, it's a good time to focus our thoughts on stronger foundations, and perhaps develop some good habits. Searching our heart to find things that are there, but have been neglected. Praying for big things and little things. Being determined to go without something we like, toughening up so we don't give in at the first sight or smell of something sweet or tasty! Taking time to read some verses of the bible to remind ourselves of the story of God.

It really has been good for mind and body, to exercise outdoors when the weather allows us to do that. Lots of people have enjoyed being out in the fresh air and have noticed so much more about the natural world. It is so good to see spring flowers blooming, the activities of the birds, and see how many different animals live freely around us. Just lately, footprints in the snow have confirmed my suspicions that many rabbits, pheasants and deer make their way through our garden! It is hard for those who cannot go out because of their age or infirmity, but even for them watching wildlife through a window gives so much pleasure. On the farm, some of the cows have already had their beautiful calves. I stand there in wonder at the miracle of new life and give thanks to God for their safe birth.

You may have seen the amazing colours of the sunrise lately. The light and warmth of the sunshine makes such a difference to everything doesn't it! Then of course the glorious sunset at the end of the day, like a glimpse of

heaven! We heard in the reading from Genesis about the covenant God made, a promise with creation. A promise not just for Noah and his family but “for every living creature that is with you”. Every time the covenant is mentioned the living creatures are included. It is as though Noah’s action and care for the animals, his responsibility and stewardship of God’s creatures binds human and animal destiny together forever. Noah gives us an example by caring for what God has made. God gave the sign of the rainbow as a reminder of his promise.

Lent is a time to reflect on all of this, to rediscover the strong connection between ourselves and all that God has made. This really speaks into our time as so much of the natural world is in real danger of disappearing. Many people in the world are suffering through misuse of power and as the result of selfishness and greed. I wonder when the focus of world leaders and global business, might turn towards a healthier and fairer world, realigning decisions and actions with God’s will for his creation.

Jesus came to call us to turn back to God and trust in him. The baptism of Jesus is a defining moment, as John baptised him in the river Jordan there was divine affirmation of his life and ministry. As Jane Williams, a lecturer of theology, writes, “In that moment, Jesus accepts his destiny as the one who is to fulfil the Creator’s intention”. Jesus accepts his part, and relinquishes control acknowledging dependence on God alone. As a final preparation for his public ministry, Jesus is driven by the Spirit into the desert wilderness, there he is given the opportunity to take stock of what lies before him, both the destination and all the obstacles in between.

As we live through what seems like a wilderness, we too can take stock of what lies ahead, try to resist temptations and learn to be content with what we need, rather than consuming more and more of things we don’t. May we draw closer to God through Jesus Christ our firm foundation of life.

The Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.**

**Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.**

**Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Prayers

Let us pray.

Lord God, make your ways known upon earth,
your saving power among all peoples.

[Silence]

Renew your Church in holiness
and help us to serve you with joy.

[Silence]

Guide the leaders of this and every nation,
that justice may prevail throughout the world.

[Silence]

Let not the needy be forgotten,
nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

[Silence]

Make us instruments of your peace
and let your glory be over all the earth.

[Silence]

God of mercy
**Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Peace

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to grace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

Hymn: *Jesu, Lover of My Soul*

**Jesu, lover of my soul,
Let me to thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high:
Hide me, O my Saviour, hide,
Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last.**

**Other refuge have I none,
Hangs my helpless soul on thee;
Leave, ah, leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed,
All my help from thee I bring;
Cover my defenceless head
With the shadow of thy wing.**

**Thou, O Christ, art all I want;
More than all in thee I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name,
I am all unrighteousness;
False and full of sin I am,
Thou art full of truth and grace.**

**Plenteous grace with thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound,
Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art:
Freely let me take of thee,
Spring thou up within my heart,
Rise to all eternity.**

Preparation of the Table

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement;
draw us from hatred to love; make the frailty of our praise
a dwelling place for your glory. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to
give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal
God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

And now we give you thanks because you give us the spirit of discipline,
that we may triumph over evil and grow in grace, as we prepare to
celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus
Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by
the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us
his body and his blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took
bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave
it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new
covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Christ is the bread of life:

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
until you come in glory.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Trusting in the compassion of God, as our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Communion



Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus Christ,
we thank you for all the benefits you have won for us,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for us.

Most merciful Redeemer, friend and brother,
may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

Hymn: *From the Breaking of the Dawn*

From the breaking of the dawn
To the setting of the sun,
I will stand on ev'ry promise of your word.

Words of power, strong to save,
That will never pass away,
I will stand on ev'ry promise of your word.

For your covenant is sure,
And on this I am secure—
I can on ev'ry promise of your word.

When I stumble and I sin,
Condemnation pressing in,
I will on ev'ry promise of your word.

You are faithful to forgive
That in freedom I might live,
So I on ev'ry promise of your word.

Guilt to innocence restored,
You remember sins no more—
So I'll on ev'ry promise of your word.

When I'm faced with anguished choice,
I will listen for your voice,
And I'll on ev'ry promise of your word.

Through this dark and troubled land
You will guide me with your hand
As I on ev'ry promise of your word.

**And you've promised to complete
Ev'ry work begun in me—
So I'll on ev'ry promise of your word.**

**Hope that lifts me from despair,
Love that casts out ev'ry fear,
As I on ev'ry promise of your word.**

**Not forsaken, not alone,
For the Comforter has come,
And I on ev'ry promise of your word.**

**Grace sufficient, grace for me,
Grace for all who will believe—
We will on ev'ry promise of your word.**

The Blessing

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross and follow him;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be amongst you and remain with you
and those whom you love, now and always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

