



THE ABBEY CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, PERSHORE

Sunday, 11 February, 2018

SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

SUNG EUCHARIST

Common Worship, Order One

WEEKLY SERVICE SHEET & BULLETIN

A very warm welcome to our services today.
Please stay for refreshments after the 10.30 service.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

A&M 610

(Nun Danket)

1. Christ is the world's true light,
its Captain of salvation,
the daystar clear and bright
of every land and nation;
new life, new hope awakes,
where peoples own his sway;
freedom her bondage breaks,
and night is turned to day.

2. In Christ all races meet,
their ancient feuds forgetting,
the whole round world complete,
from sunrise to its setting:
when Christ is throned as Lord,
lands shall forsake their fear,
to ploughshare bear the sword,
to pruning-hook the spear.

3. One Lord, in one great Name
unite us all who own thee;
cast out our pride and shame
that hinder to enthrone thee;
the world has waited long,
has travailed long in pain;
to heal its ancient wrong,
come, Prince of Peace, and reign!

[George Wallace Briggs, 1875-1959]

THE 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.

FIRST READING

2 Kings 2:1-12

A reading from the Book of Kings

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 continued 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.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

A reading from the Letter to the Corinthians

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.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

A&M 279

(St Albinus)

1. Jesus on the mountain peak
stands alone in glory blazing;
Let us, if we dare to speak,
join the saints and angels praising:
Alleluia!

2. Trembling at his feet we saw
Moses and Elijah speaking.
All the Prophets and the law
shout through them their joyful greeting:
Alleluia!

(Cont'd)

3. Swift the cloud of glory came,
God, proclaiming in its thunder
Jesus as the Son by name!
Nations, cry aloud in wonder:
Alleluia!

4. Jesus is the chosen One,
living hope of every nation,
hear and heed him, everyone;
sing, with earth and all creation,
Alleluia!

[Brian Wren, b.1936]

THE GOSPEL

Mark 9 : 2-9

Alleluia, alleluia. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening. You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

OFFERTORY HYMN

A&M 557

1. Beauty for brokenness,
Hope for despair,
Lord, in the suffering
This is our prayer.
Bread for the children
Justice, joy, peace,
Sunrise to sunset
Your kingdom increase.

2. Shelter for fragile lives,
Cures for their ills,
Work for the craftsman,
Trade for their skills.
Land for the dispossessed,
Rights for the weak,
Voices to plead the cause
Of those who can't speak.

*God of the poor,
Friend of the weak,
Give us compassion we pray,
Melt our cold hearts,
Let tears fall like rain,
Come, change our love
From a spark to a flame.*

3. Refuge from cruel wars,
Havens from fear,
Cities for sanctuary,
Freedoms to share.
Peace to the killing-fields,
Scorched earth to green,
Christ for the bitterness,
His cross for the pain.
God of the poor...

(Cont'd)

4. Rest for the ravaged earth,
Oceans and streams,
Plundered and poisoned,
Our future, our dreams.
Lord, end our madness,
Carelessness, greed;
Make us content with
The things that we need.

God of the poor...

5. Lighten our darkness,
Breathe on this flame,
Until your justice
Burns brightly again;
Until the nations
Learn of your ways,
Seek your salvation
And bring you their praise.

God of the poor... x 2

[Graham Kendrick b.1950]

COMMUNION MOTET

Come down O love divine - arr. *William H Harris*

COMMUNION HYMN

A&M 431

*Bread of life, hope of the world,
Jesus Christ, our brother;
feed us now, give us life,
lead us to one another.*

3. We eat this living bread,
we drink this saving cup:
sign of hope in our broken world,
source of lasting love.

1. As we proclaim your death,
as we recall your life,
we remember your promise
to return again.

4. Hold us in unity
in love for all to see;
that the world may believe in you,
God of all who live.

2. The bread we break and share
was scattered once as grain:
Just as now it is gathered,
make your people one.

[Bernadette Farrell, b.1957]

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

FINAL HYMN

A&M 719

(Shine, Jesus, Shine)

Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us,
shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
send forth your word, Lord,
and let there be light!*

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness,
search me, try me, consume all my darkness:
shine on me, shine on me.

As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory,
mirrored here may our lives tell your story:
shine on me, shine on me.

[Graham Kendrick b. 1950]

**PLEASE TAKE THIS SERVICE SHEET & THE PEW BULLETIN HOME WITH YOU
PLEASE LEAVE THE SERVICE BOOKLET WHEN YOU LEAVE**

As a Kingdom People we are a church that seeks to:

- Worship God
- Welcome All
- Reach out to the world

Priest-in-Charge: The Revd Claire Lording
Email: vicar@pershoreabbey.org.uk

The Benefice Office of Pershore with Pinvin, Wick & Birlingham
Email: office@pershoreabbey.org.uk Website: www.pershoreabbey.org.uk
Telephone: 01386-552071

The Abbey Office is open to visitors Monday - Friday from 1100 to 1300 only
Notices for next Bulletin no later than Thursday at 1200 noon please.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

THOSE IN NEED: Maureen Read, Anne, John and Sheila Grantham, John Champion, Matthew Baynes, Alison Roy, Jasmine Sheppard, Ann Garrod, Mike and Hilary Roffey

THOSE WHO HAVE DIED: Richard Sutcliffe, Sylvia Campbell, Brian Male, Joan Russell (JR), Mike Pearson, Violet Jones, Harvey Hilliard

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH OCCURS TODAY OR IN THE COMING WEEK: Olive Summers, Emily Smith

NOTICES AND EVENTS

ASH WEDNESDAY 14 FEBRUARY: Attending a service on Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent. Everyone is invited to come forward and have a cross made out of ash marked on their forehead, as a sign of our penitence and God's forgiveness.

Services will take place in the Abbey in the Apse at 0830 Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes & 1930 - Sung Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes.

Pray One for Me: Once again a group from Churches Together in Pershore will be sharing in this initiative, along with many other people in the diocese. We will spend an hour on the streets in town simply asking people if they would like us to write down the names of people or situations that they would like us to pray for on their behalf. These prayers will be silently offered at our Ash Wednesday service. If you would like to join us please meet in the Apse at 1100 on Ash Wednesday. Thank you.

LENT 2018

Please pick up one of our Lent Flyers for full information on all Lent events

- LENT HOUSE GROUP LAUNCH: Come and find out what it's all about on 19 February at 19:00 at the Baptist Church
- LENT GROUPS: we will be having Ecumenical House Groups again - please sign up for a house group. Sign up sheets at the back of the church. *Claire*
- LENTEN LUNCHESES: (soup & a roll) will be held every Friday from 16 February to 23 March, 1200 - 1330 at the Baptist Church. The Abbey will need to provide soups and helpers on 16 Feb and 16 March - please sign the lists for offers of help. Contact Sara Speed (710776)

BIRLINGHAM SNOWDROPS & BULB SUNDAY SERVICE: Teas will be available every weekend during February. Group or weekday enquiries 01386-751748. If you visit St James' Church to admire the snowdrops and crocus's do go into the church as well, which is open every day, and admire the beautiful flower arrangements on display throughout February. The Bulb Sunday Service will take place on 18 February at 1500 at St James' Church, Birlingham. All welcome to the service there will be refreshments in the village hall afterwards.

CHURCHWARDEN VACANCY: After six years Judy is stepping down as Churchwarden. At the Abbey the Churchwardens work with me and with the PCC to fulfil the mission of the church, sharing in responsibility for worship, care of the buildings, some administration, and the vision of the church. This important leadership position involves working alongside the PCC, Standing Committee, Finance Committee, Fabric Committee, Sidespeople, and the St Andrew's Team - but is not about doing it all! We have a great team working for the Abbey – if you feel that you have the gifts to be a Churchwarden alongside Bill, who is seeking re-election at this year's Annual Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens, please contact Bill, Judy or me. Thank you. *Claire*

ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT REQUIRED FOR ABBEY FINANCE TEAM: After many years of invaluable service to the Abbey, Chris Wood has indicated that he will be giving up his role recording the financial transactions. His role also entailed keeping the files of paid invoices and records of monies received and working closely with the treasurer when quarterly and annual accounts are being prepared. The Abbey is now seeking a volunteer to take on this role which does mean working with a computer accounts program but does not necessarily require previous bookkeeping experience. Anyone wishing to find out more about this position should contact Garth Raymer 01386-554026 (*Treasurer*).

PARENT & TODDLER HELP NEEDED: Help is needed with the *clearing away* a few tables and chairs on the 1st Friday of every month during term time for Parent and Toddlers in St Andrews. It would take about 20 minutes at 1120. If you think you could help please speak to Jean Pritchard (01386 556574)

ABBAY SPRING CLEAN: It would be much appreciated if those who are able would please pencil 24 February in their diary for an Abbey Spring Clean - please have dusters at the ready! *Graham Norris*.

ECO CHURCH CONFERENCE - SATURDAY 24 FEBRUARY: The first conference for the ground breaking award scheme for churches is in Leicester from 1000 - 1600 on Saturday 24 February. The award scheme recognises and promotes development in churches in the areas of: care for God's world in worship and teaching, how building and land are cared for and used, engagement with local community and global campaigns, and the choices we face personally. Local churches such as Evesham Methodists have joined the scheme. Further information can be found on the website <https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/> The conference theme is 'God's Earth: Our Mission' and is packed with practical ideas of what is happening in churches. The conference is free but needs booking. We will be going, so if you would like to find out more or travel with us, please ring me on 561 027 - Helen Oldham.

APCM REPORTS PLEASE: (Annual Parochial Church Meeting). Please note that the APCM for 2018 will be held in St Andrew's Centre on Thursday 12 April, at 1900. Please email reports if possible to office@pershoreabbey.org.uk or give a hard copy to the office as soon as possible. Thank you.

CHRISTIAN AID LENT 2018: If anyone is interested in the "Count Your Blessings" Lent and Easter leaflet for 2018 there are some copies available at the back of the Abbey. *Sarah Thomson*.

VISIT TO SALZWEDEL: There is still some availability for this trip. Enquiries welcome. *Claire*

ABBEY & BENEFICE DIARY

(A) Abbey, (B) Birlingham, (P) Pinvin, (W) Wick,
(St A) St Andrew's, (V) New Vicarage, (CTIP) Churches Together in Pershore

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES TAKE PLACE EVERY MONDAY TO SATURDAY IN THE ABBEY

0800 Silent Prayer 0830 Matins and Eucharist 1700 Evening Prayer

Everyone is very welcome to attend these services

Sunday 11 February 2018 - Next Before Lent

08:00 Eucharist Service (A)

10:30 Sung Eucharist with Junior Church & Upper Room Group (A)

17:00 Wholeness and Healing (A)

17:30 Youth Group with S Clarke (St A)

Mon 12 Feb 09:15 Musical Explorers (St A)

15:00 Funeral Service for Mr Brian Male RIP (A)

18:30 Weight Watchers (St A)

19:30 Bells (A)

Tue 13 Feb - Shrove Tuesday

11:00 Food Bank (St A)

14:00 Service of Thanksgiving for Richard Sutcliffe RIP (A)

16:30 Set up for Lent Launch (St A)

19:00 CTIP Lent Launch & Pancake supper (St A)

Wed 14 Feb - Ash Wednesday

08:00 Silent Prayer (A)

08:30 Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes (A - in the Apse)

11:00 Pray One for Me (A)

11:00 Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes (W)

19:30 Sung Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes (A)

20:00 Vale Harmony (St A)

Thu 15 Feb 09:15 Weight Watchers (St A)

09:30 Vicar & Wardens' meeting (St A upstairs)

19:00 Guitar Class (St A)

Fri 16 Feb 09:00 Parent and Toddlers (St A)

11:00 Eucharist (St A)

12:00 Lenten Lunch (Baptist Church)

13:00 Food Bank (St A)

18:00 Choir Practice (A)

19:30 Bells (St A)

Sat 17 Feb 09:30 Marriage Preparation Course (St A)

15:00 Play rehearsal (St A)

Sunday 18 Feb - The First Sunday of Lent

08:00 Eucharist Service (A)

10:30 Sung Eucharist with Laying on of Hands
Junior Church & Traidcraft Stall (A)

15:00 Bulb Sunday Service at St James' Church, Birlingham (B)

A LOOP SYSTEM is installed throughout the Abbey. If the T setting does not work, please use the ordinary setting for our PA system.

