

The Blofield Benefice

A Service

for the

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent



*Keeping  
a Holy Lent*

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—<sup>5</sup> you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

*1 Peter 2.4-5*

Opening prayer.

God of all our days,  
we set this time apart for you.  
Form us in the likeness of Christ  
so that our lives may glorify you.

**Amen.**

Hymn

- 1 We love the place, O God,  
wherein thine honour dwells;  
the joy of thine abode  
all earthly joy excels.
- 2 It is the house of prayer,  
wherein thy servants meet;  
and thou, O Lord, art there,  
thy chosen flock to greet.
- 3 We love the word of life,  
the word that tells of peace,  
of comfort in the strife,  
and joys that never cease.
- 4 We love to sing below  
of mercies freely given;  
but O we long to know  
the triumph-song of heaven.

5 Lord Jesus, give us grace,  
on earth to love thee more,  
in heaven to see thy face,  
and with thy saints adore.

William Bullock (1787-1874), Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877)  
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## **Prayer of Confession**

The gospel calls us to turn away from sin  
and be faithful to Christ.

As we offer ourselves to him in repentance and faith,  
we renew our confidence and trust in his mercy.

**All** **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,**  
**we have sinned against you**  
**and against our neighbour**  
**in thought and word and deed,**  
**through negligence, through weakness,**  
**through our own deliberate fault.**  
**We are truly sorry**  
**and repent of all our sins.**  
**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,**  
**who died for us,**  
**forgive us all that is past**  
**and grant that we may serve you in**  
**newness of life**  
**to the glory of your name.**  
**Amen.**

May almighty God,  
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,  
bring *you* his pardon and peace, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## The Collect Prayer

Almighty God,  
Whose son, Jesus, cleansed the temple,  
so that all nations might draw near in true worship and  
prayer.  
May our hearts be purified by his living presence  
And may your church be the abode of your glory.

**Amen**

## Jubilate – A song of joyful approach to God

- 1 O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth;  
serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.
- 2 Know that the Lord is God;  
it is he that has made us and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
- 3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and bless his name.
- 4 For the Lord is gracious; his steadfast love is  
everlasting  
and his faithfulness endures from generation to  
generation.

*Psalm 100*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

## A song

As the deer pants for the water,  
so my soul longs after You.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
and I long to worship You.

*You alone are my strength, my shield,  
to You alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
and I long to worship You.*

I want You more than gold or silver,  
only You can satisfy.  
You alone are the real joy-giver  
and the apple of my eye.  
Chorus

You're my Friend and You're my Brother,  
even though You are a king.  
I love You more than any other,  
so much more than anything.  
Chorus

## A reading from the Gospel of John

Jesus clears the temple courts.

Mark.2.13-22

When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. <sup>15</sup> So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup> To those who sold doves

he said, 'Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!' <sup>17</sup> His disciples remembered that it is written: 'Zeal for your house will consume me'

<sup>18</sup> The Jews then responded to him, 'What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?'

<sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.'

<sup>20</sup> They replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?' <sup>21</sup> But the temple he had spoken of was his body. <sup>22</sup> After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

*After the reading this response is used*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## **The Sermon**

The Affirmation of Faith

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

**All 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.**

*cf Philippians 2.6-11*

A short video presentation from the Church missionary society – ‘Imagine’

Let us pray . . .

O God we thank you for the gift of imagination.  
Inspire us to use our imagination to think of how we can  
serve you and bring your love and your message of hope  
to the communities in which we live.

Help us to use our imagination to support those who are  
working for change around the world and seeking to  
bring your justice to the marginalised and excluded.

We pray for your blessing upon the work of CMS  
partners Andy and Rose Roberts in Olinda in Brazil and  
upon the home for the girls suffering abuse.

We ask your blessing upon the many Christian homes  
that provide foster care in the uk.

We ask your blessing on Jo Howie and the ‘Bean coffee  
company’ and their work amongst those who have  
barriers to employment. Thank you for their nurture.  
and care.

Help us, Lord, as your people to share the love of Jesus in imaginative ways with our neighbours and friends.

**Amen**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**All**      **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen**

A hymn.

I            Christ is the one who calls,  
              the one who loved and came,  
              to whom by right it falls  
              to bear the highest Name:  
              and still today  
              our hearts are stirred  
              to hear his word  
              and walk his way.

- 2 Christ is the one who seeks,  
to whom our souls are known.  
The word of love he speaks  
can wake a heart of stone;  
for at that sound  
the blind can see,  
the slave is free,  
the lost are found.
- 3 Christ is the one who died,  
forsaken and betrayed;  
who mocked and crucified  
the price of pardon paid.  
Our dying Lord  
what grief and loss,  
what bitter cross,  
our souls restored.
- 4 Christ is the one who rose,  
in glory from the grave,  
to share his life with those  
whom once he died to save.  
He drew death's sting  
and broke its chains,  
who lives and reigns,  
our risen king.
- 5 Christ is the one who sends,  
his story to declare;  
who calls his servants friends  
and gives them news to share.  
His truth proclaim  
in all the earth,  
his matchless worth  
and saving Name.

Timothy Dudley Smith  
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## Concluding prayer

The almighty and merciful Lord,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless us and keep us.

**Amen.**