



St George's Anglican Church | Malvern

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**15 March 2015**

The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

*John 3.14-15*

**Collect**

God, rich in mercy, whose light reveals  
the truth of things, the judgement we bring on ourselves:  
we thank you that you sent your Son  
to save and not condemn;  
in his self-giving love may life abundant reign;  
through Jesus Christ, who was lifted up for us. **Amen**

**A reading from the book of Numbers**

*On the forty year journey in the wilderness, the Hebrew people lost hope and blamed Moses for bringing them away from the 'comforts' of Egypt. Numbers gives us this story of an attack by poisonous serpents, interpreted as divine judgement upon the people's rebellion. It may be an explanation of the serpent image later placed in the Temple. Notice the remedy for death caused by snake bite is to contemplate its cause – doesn't this sound like 'facing the issues'?*

The Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.' Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and

whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live. *Numbers 21.4-9*

Reader For the word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 107.1-3, 17-22 at 8.00am APBA page 337**

*This psalm was sung by pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem; it is giving thanks for God's goodness in rescuing them from the desert and other troubles.*

**At 10am TiS 67**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians**

*The life we cannot have by nature (the 'old' humanity) both Jews and Gentiles may now have through God's grace at work in Christ (the 'new' humanity). We are saved through faith; Paul never says 'because of faith'! Whose faith never failed and thus saves – Christ's! Faith and the good works that flow from faith are 'the life' for which God created us.*

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

*Ephesians 2.1-10*

Reader May your word live in us.

**All And bear much fruit to your glory.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**All**           **Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

Cantor       God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son,  
that all who believe in him may have eternal life.

**All**           **Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

Reader       The Lord be with you

**ALL**         **And also with you**

Reader       A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

**ALL**         **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*The sentence "God so love the world..." is one of the most loved sentences in the Christian scriptures, showing that the purpose of Christ's coming is to bring salvation of all people. Some have refused to accept this loving action and this is their 'judgement' – they are missing the opportunity to fulfill their lives now by failing now to receive the love of God in Christ Jesus. This is not to say they may not respond in the future.*

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.' *John 3.14-21*

Reader       For the Gospel of the Lord

**ALL**         **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

**Bible Readings next week****22 March 2015**

Jeremiah 31.31-34 Psalm 119.9-16 Hebrews 5.5-14 John 12.20-33

**Prayer for the Week**

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new:  
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,  
and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Pray for the Faithful Departed**

We remember before God: Nellie King, Wilma Cuming,  
Effie MacMeikan, Patricia Wuchatsch, Leonard Dixon,  
John Brooke Scott, Arthur Emery, Jillian Gosper, and  
Alastair Reginald Stephen *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

**Commemorations of the week**

**March 18. Cyril of Jerusalem** (c.315-386). Bishop of Jerusalem and teacher. **March 19. Joseph, husband of the Virgin Mary.** All that is known of him is contained in Matthew Ch 1 & 2 and 13.35 and in Luke Ch 1 & 2 and 3.23 and 4.22. **March 20. Cuthbert, monk and bishop of Lindisfarne** (c.634-687). Born in England, became a monk in 651 and led various monasteries in England, became Prior of Lindisfarne 664 and later Bishop. A man of great charm and sanctity. **March 21.**

**Thomas Cranmer** (1489-1556). Archbishop of Canterbury. Martyred in Oxford under Queen Mary who returned the English Church to the Pope's jurisdiction during her reign, hence the nursery rhyme 'Mary, Mary quite contrary how does your garden (England) grow....' Cranmer is the principal crafter of the Book of Common Prayer which brought the clergy and laity together in one prayer book used in all dioceses instead of the various primers for laity and breviaries for clergy and 'uses' for each diocese that had been in existence. He also translated familiar Latin texts and created new prayers and simpler liturgies.

