

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

<https://www.stguthlac-knighton.co.uk/>



Sunday 7 March 2021

Third Sunday of Lent

A hymn for Lent: *“The perfect wisdom of our God”*

The perfect wisdom of our God,
Revealed in all the universe:
All things created by His hand,
And held together at His command.
He knows the mysteries of the seas,
The secrets of the stars are His;
He guides the planets on their way,
And turns the earth through another day.

The matchless wisdom of His ways,
That mark the path of righteousness;
His word a lamp unto my feet,
His Spirit teaching and guiding me.
And O, the mystery of the cross,
That God should suffer for the lost
So that the fool might shame the wise,
And all the glory might go to Christ!

O grant me wisdom from above,
To pray for peace and cling to love,
And teach me humbly to receive
The sun and rain of Your sovereignty.
Each strand of sorrow has a place
Within this tapestry of grace;
So through the trials I choose to say:
“Your perfect will in your perfect way.”

Stuart Townend and Keith Getty
©2010 Thankyou Music and Getty Music

Keith Getty (born 1974) and Stuart Townend (born 1963) are perhaps the most well-known modern ‘hymn’ writers. Their most popular song is doubtless *‘In Christ Alone’*, written in 2001, and which the British Hymn Society placed among the top five best hymns of all time, and BBC *Songs of Praise* among their top ten hymns.

“The Perfect Wisdom of our God” appears on the 2011 CD *‘The Journey’*, and picks up many of the key themes of Lent. Stuart Townend comments:

“We often sing about God’s power, His love, His faithfulness, His knowledge – but not His wisdom. And while we may assent to it as a fact, we may not have stopped to consider why the wisdom of God is important to us and the world in which we live. This song is an attempt to explore that....

“I was nervous about writing (the last) verse, because I didn’t want to sound dismissive of the things people go through – but to help us recognise that, although we often don’t know why we go through these things, he is working his purpose out through all these things – and I need to have the faith to say, not my will but Yours.”

You can hear the song played by clicking on this YouTube link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-22E3dWPUk>

Collect & Readings for the Third Sunday of Lent

The Collect

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered
pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

First Reading: Exodus 20.1-17

¹Then God spoke all these words: ²I am the LORD your God,
who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of
slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of
anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth
beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not
bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God
am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents,
to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me,
⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of
those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD
your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his
name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labour and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work – you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

Psalm 19

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1.18-25

Gospel Reading: John 2.13-22

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' ¹⁷His

disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' ¹⁹Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' ²⁰They then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

3rd Sunday in Lent 2021: John 2:13-22

Fiona Wingate

One day at work, after a very frustrating meeting I remember storming to my desk. Thumping my notes on the desk in rage and frustration and (yes) uttering a few choice phrases. My colleagues in the office slunk lower in their chairs. Waiting for the storm to pass before putting their heads above the partitions like the first bulbs in spring. Their nervousness largely due to the unusual nature of my outburst. I think they feared aftershocks.

What this got to do with our gospel. Imagine yourself in the temple that day. The seasons are just turning from winter to summer. It is cool, streets are muddy it rains at this time of year. People are going about their daily business. Inside the temple walls, traders are selling sheep and cattle for offerings. There's a person selling doves as well a little further back. It's noisy and smelly in this part of the temple. The money changers are hard at work. Jerusalem and the temple are full of people. Jews from all over the world back for the Passover festival. The priests, Pharisees and Saducees are milling about looking important, trying to avoid having to deal with the "ordinary people". Keeping an eye on the traders....

Suddenly the scene is shattered. A young man starts chasing out the animals and the sellers, overturning the money changers tables. Shouting at the people “Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father’s house into a market!” He gets a whip and starts flailing it around still chasing sellers, animals and money changers from this temple’s courts. You think this is not normal for the temple. You wonder what’s going on?

This account of the cleansing of the temple appears in all four gospels. Only John places it at the very start of Jesus’ public ministry. He’s gathered his disciples. He’s turned water to wine and now he’s come to Jerusalem for the Passover festival, and to the Temple. He’s come to the temple because it is his Father’s house. As a young boy he’d been found “in his Father’s house”, where else. But what he finds there enrages him. It makes his blood boil. But why?

What he sees there are religious leaders of the day leading God’s people astray. The Old Testament reading from Exodus today reminds us what those commandments are. What he sees in the temple is a nation not “having no other God besides”. But what he sees is a nation that is making for itself an idol to worship. An idol of THE LAW. The religious leaders of the day have got so caught up in the act of obedience to THE LAW. They have colluded to create the scene Jesus finds. The sellers, the money changers, the animals – the market. All to feed the obedience of THE LAW. They have failed to teach the true faith in God. They have taught only THE LAW.

Jesus cleansing of the temple is a direct challenge of their authority. It’s a direct challenge of their teaching. It condemns them for their worship of the LAW, not the LORD. The religious leaders seem to have lost sight of the fact that the temple was the place where God was “graciously present for his people”.

That He was there in their midst. That the temple was a place where people could access God's presence, by his grace, through the offering of sacrifices. The temple was where God was present to His people. It was God's house. It was not a market place.

What the disciples will come to see. What hopefully we can now see, is that Jesus is the fulfilment of God's overall plan and desire. The New Testament Scholar Richard Bauckman explains, "Jesus is the fulfilment of these features [of the temple] in being both the new "place" of God's dwelling with his people and also the sacrifice, the final once-for-all sacrifice, that enables this presence of God among his people."

God is present with us. God's wishes are that our actions flow from our love for him. Our actions should not be the reason in themselves. In the temple leaders we have an example of what not to be, what not to do. This time of Lent gives us a time to stop, to reflect, to listen. I'd encourage each of us to take this chance to do that. Let us consider for ourselves from where our actions flow. Is it from a love of the Lord? Let us try and find the idols we might have. Let us use this time to cleanse the temple courts of our lives.

I'd like to close with an extract of a poem by Desmond Tutu

...

There is a choice in every moment.

In every moment there is a chance to flourish and not to fail.

Every instance is rich with possibility.

I have not carved out the path that you must follow, we form the way together, you and I.

I have destined you for good and a field of goodness lies before you.

Listen to me, and though the way may not be easy, every step
and stone will lead to joy.
Turn aside to heed the voice of the tempter and faltering will
mark your journey.
I trust you, my child.
Even when you have fallen the road does not end.
You can rise up from the ground and turn around.
You can repent and head for your home in me.
Seek me out.
You will find me.
I have been here for eternity.
Until eternity this is where I will be.
I am waiting and you will find me.

Amen.

PRAYER

Personal

As for me, I can only fall on my knees and pray that the Lord Christ, who had died for me, might have His own way with me – that it might be worth His while to have done what He did and what He is doing now for me. To my Elder Brother, my Lord and my God, I give myself yet again, confidently, because He cares to have me and because my very breath is His. I will be what He wants, who knows all about it and has done everything that I might be His own – a living glory of gladness.

George MacDonald

Church and Community

Lord we pray for the schools reopening this week. We pray for all the young people who may be anxious and afraid. We pray that they may soon settle into the rhythms needed for their learning. We pray for the protection of their teachers, most of whom are still ineligible to receive the vaccine. We pray that you spirit may comfort them in their new found ways of working and your angels protect them from contamination in these compromised environments.

We pray for wisdom for our Church leaders as locally and nationally we discern the need to be together in worship and prayer against the high levels of risk. We thank God for our local public health and political leadership working with the faith communities to strive to safeguard Leicester from further Covid demise.

Weekly prayer for roads in the parish – **Barrington Road.**

Nation and World

Heavenly Father, we thank you for our government. We pray that they may know skilled and just leadership. We are thankful for the support given to frightened families and individuals worried about financial wellbeing. We pray too Lord for sound long term decision making, good stewardship and investment in the future of generations to come in managing the devastation of the climate emergency.

We pray for continued peace in Northern Ireland and against the will of violent people seeking to exploit the uncertainties of Brexit and border controls. We pray for just, lawful and prosperous outcomes in these continued tensions.

Those facing personal pain we name before our Lord

And those who have finished their days on this earth. We thank you for their lives and pray for their families and loved ones to be comforted

For further prayer requests which can be included in the weekly prayer list or anonymized and prayed for in private, please contact Matthew revgough@gmail.com or Jane administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

Sad news- Ann Ibbs: I'm sorry to have to tell you that our friend Ann Ibbs died two weeks ago. Ann had been living at Welford Court for the last couple of years and had become increasingly unwell. Despite the pandemic she was able to see her family during her last hours. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them. Ann's funeral will be on Friday 12th March.

Adrian

Lent 2021 in the Knighton benefice: devotions, weekly prayer and study

Sadly, we are not able to meet together during Lent this year but there are still several opportunities for everyone to use the time as good spiritual preparation for our Easter celebrations.

“God’s Story, Our Story”

Everyone should have received by post a copy of the Church of England’s ‘Live Lent’ booklet for this year, which takes as its theme “God’s Story, Our Story”. This engaging booklet has Bible readings, reflections and a prayer for each day of Lent, and we urge you to use it daily as a key part of your lenten pattern this year. It will help you understand more of the story of ‘the God we can barely grasp’ and to feel more confident about your own story of faith.

You are invited! To help deepen your faith in anticipation of Easter do try and commit to at least one of the following each week in Lent as well:

Wednesday Compline and Discussion for Lent

Our regular Wednesday Compline (Night Prayer) will continue but with an extra dimension. From February 24th we will have a half-hour discussion starting at 7.30pm, based around the theme and readings of ‘God’s Story, Our Story’. There will be plenty of chance to listen and talk, before seasonal Compline at 8pm (without the usual breakout rooms).

Sunday Evening Lent Course from 7pm - 8pm every Sunday, until 21st March. Using the York Lent Course written by Leicester’s Brian Davis: “Caring for Creation”, and hosted by Matthew and the Living Waters Group. **This course is now full.**

Weekly Prayer - by Zoom or Phone-in.

Daily Prayer Common Worship: every Monday starting 22nd February at midday;

Morning Prayer Common Worship: every Friday starting 26th February at 8am.

For all of the above events each week the below Zoom link and telephone code is the same which will also be emailed out.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://leccofe.zoom.us/j/7467674408?pwd=T3pHbW5XRvh2b29rV3plOTZlRm1SZz09>

Meeting ID: 746 767 4408

Passcode: lent

To Phone in-

Dial by: 0131 460 1196 (standard call charge)

Input Meeting ID when prompted: 746 767 4408

Do join us this Lent. *The Ministry Team*

Can you help?

Monday midday, we are now being joined by care home residents for our short time of prayer. It would be a great encouragement for more of us to be present to pray with these residents who have been stuck in the home with minimal outside contact. Do come if you can. Thanks, Matthew

WORSHIP INFORMATION

BBC1 Lent Worship 3: 11.30am Sunday 7th March

BBC Radio 4 Sunday Worship 8.10am

BBC Radio 4 Daily Service each weekday 9.45am on long wave only

Catch up available for all these on the BBC iPlayer and Sounds apps.

Virtual Sunday Service for the Knighton Benefice.

Each week we will now usually upload a recording of the Sunday service from St Mary's or St Guthlac's onto the Knighton Benefice You Tube channel. This should happen by 1pm each Sunday. Please go direct to https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChYDSfNmiB2Zamsaz_EdZSg? or via the website or Facebook page.

Virtual Compline/ Night Prayer at 8pm on a Wednesday.

You can join by just phoning up and inputting the code or using 'Zoom' online. If you would like to participate with a speaking part, please do contact Matthew by 4pm each Wednesday (revgough@gmail.com).

For Phone only: telephone this number 0131 460 1196

When promoted input Meeting ID: 746 767 4408



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

0800 804 8044

Are you in need of some daily hope during this lockdown?

We have a new FREE telephone line for you to ring to hear comforting hymns, daily prayers and reflections.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND Let's all come into CONNECTIONS

For internet using Zoom:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://leccofe.zoom.us/j/7467674408>

Input Meeting ID: 746 767 4408

Don't forget to visit the St. Guthlac's Facebook page and website

<https://www.stguthlac-knighton.co.uk>

CONTACT DETAILS

Vicar: Revd. Adrian Jones 0116 2704268
adrian.jones@zoho.com

Associate Priest- St Guthlac's: Revd Canon Dr Stephen Foster
safpta6@gmail.com 07966 376905

Assistant Curate: Revd Matthew Gough
revgough@gmail.com 07754 961997

Revd Aphro McCullough

Revd Janet Gasper

Reader: Fiona Wingate

Churchwardens:

David Hunt

Tina Jarvis

churchwardens@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

Knighton Benefice Magazine: Nigel Siesage
stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com

FOR THE NEWSLETTER Please send material to be included in the next newsletter by **noon Thursday** to administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

PLANNED GIVING SCHEME

Regular giving is an integral part of our church life supporting our day to day costs, ministry and mission. A good way to achieve this is through a weekly envelope or a monthly bank standing order as part of our Planned Giving Scheme. Scheme details can be obtained from David Hunt. If you are a taxpayer and gift aid your giving, our church can claim an additional 25%.

During the current Coronavirus pandemic please put aside your weekly offerings ready to bring to church when things return to something like normal. The costs of the church are largely unchanged even though we cannot meet, so your regular giving is extremely important to our collective 'health' and the mission of God here.

STONEYGATE BAPTIST CHURCH WELLBEING CAFE

The Zoom link for the Stoneygate Baptist Church wellbeing cafe, which you are welcome to join any Wednesday at 11am is:

us02web.zoom.us/j/86350559902?pwd=TEwyOWxUZTE0bjhWZFA1Smplbk1YUT09

Meeting ID: 863 5055 9902

Passcode: 216265