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| SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT14 February 2021 |
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*Light a candle as a symbol of Christ’s presence with you, and to remind us that we are praying as a church family.*

**HYMN** – sung by the choir of St Martin in the Fields
**Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,**
whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy,
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

**WELCOME** – Simon TaylorThe Lord be with you
**and also with you.**

**CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION** - led by John Bryden

God shows his love for us
in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Let us then show our love for him
by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Come, let us return to the Lord and say:

**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.**

May the God of love

bring us back to himself,

forgive us our sins,

and assure us of his eternal love

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**ANTHEM**

Christ as a light – *Margaret Rizza*

**READING** – read by Jackie Nettleton

***Mark 9.30-50***
**30**They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, **31**because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, ‘The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise.’ **32**But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

**33**They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, ‘What were you arguing about on the road?’ **34**But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

**35**Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, ‘Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.’

**36**He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, **37**‘Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.’

**38**‘Teacher,’ said John, ‘we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.’

**39**‘Do not stop him,’ Jesus said. ‘For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, **40**for whoever is not against us is for us. **41**Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward.

**42**‘If anyone causes one of these little ones – those who believe in me – to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung round their neck and they were thrown into the sea. **43**If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=mark+9.30-50&version=NIVUK#fen-NIVUK-24583a)] **45**And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=mark+9.30-50&version=NIVUK#fen-NIVUK-24585b)] **47**And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, **48**where

‘“the worms that eat them do not die,
    and the fire is not quenched.”

**49**Everyone will be salted with fire.

**50**‘Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with each other.’

**SERMON** – Simon Taylor

**PRAYERS** – led by Mary Cooper

*During the prayers, this response will be used*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**COLLECT**

Holy God,

you know the disorder of our sinful lives:

set straight our crooked hearts,

and bend our wills to love your goodness

and your glory

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**HYMN** – Jacqui Watkins

*Ubi caritas et amor,
ubi caritas Deus ibi est.*[Where there is charity and love,
there is God.]

Your love, O Jesus Christ,
has gathered us together.

May your love, O Jesus Christ,
be foremost in our lives.

Let us love one another
as God has loved us.

The love of God in Jesus Christ
will never have an end.**CONCLUSION**

The peace of God,

which passes all understanding,

keep your hearts and minds

in the knowledge and love of God,

and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**