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| SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 28 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 St Andrew’s Church choir  
**Praise the Lord! ye heavens adore him;**  
praise him angels, in the height;   
sun and moon, rejoice before him;   
praise him, all ye stars of light.   
Praise the Lord! for he has spoken;   
worlds his mighty voice obeyed;   
laws which never shall be broken   
for their guidance he has made.

Praise the Lord! for he is glorious;   
never shall his promise fail;   
God has made his saints victorious;   
sin and death shall not prevail.   
Praise the God of our salvation!   
hosts on high his power proclaim;   
heaven, and earth, and all creation,   
laud and magnify his name.

Worship, honour, glory, blessing,   
Lord, we offer unto thee;  
young and old, thy praise expressing,   
in glad homage bend the knee.  
All the saints in heav'n adore thee,   
we would bow before thy throne;   
as thine angels serve before thee,   
so on earth thy will be done.

**WELCOME** – Lucinda HowardThe Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

**CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION** - led by Jan Croft  
The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.  
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,  
and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

**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** – sung by St Andrew’s Church choir

Holy, holy, holy – Franz Schubert

**READINGS** – read by Mary Cooper

***Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16*1**When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, ‘I am God Almighty walk before me faithfully and be blameless. **2**Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.’

**3**Abram fell face down, and God said to him, **4**‘As for me, this is my covenant with you: you will be the father of many nations. **5**No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. **6**I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. **7**I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

**15**God also said to Abraham, ‘As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. **16**I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.’

***John 8.51-59***  
**30**Jesus said **51**‘Very truly I tell you, whoever obeys my word will never see death.’

**52**At this they exclaimed, ‘Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that whoever obeys your word will never taste death. **53**Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?’

**54**Jesus replied, ‘If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. **55**Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and obey his word. **56**Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.’

**57**‘You are not yet fifty years old,’ they said to him, ‘and you have seen Abraham!’

**58**‘Very truly I tell you,’ Jesus answered, ‘before Abraham was born, I am!’ **59**At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

**SERMON** – Simon Taylor

**PRAYERS** – led by Jacqui Watkins

*During the prayers, this response will be used*

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

**COLLECT**

Almighty God,

by the prayer and discipline of Lent

may we enter into the mystery of Christ’s sufferings,

and by following in his Way

come to share in his glory;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**HYMN** – the choir of St Martin in the Fields

**Thou, whose almighty word**  
chaos and darkness heard,  
and took their flight;  
hear us, we humbly pray,  
and where the gospel-day  
sheds not its glorious ray,   
let there be light!

Thou, who didst come to bring  
on thy redeeming wing  
healing and sight,  
health to the troubled mind,  
sight to the inly blind:  
O now to all mankind  
let there be light!

Spirit of truth and love,  
life giving, holy dove,  
speed forth thy flight;  
move on the water's face,  
bearing the lamp of grace,  
and, in earth's darkest place,  
let there be light!

Holy and blessed Three,  
glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, Love, Might;  
boundless as ocean's tide,  
rolling in fullest pride,  
through the world, far and wide,  
let there be light!

**CONCLUSION**

The peace of God,

which passes all understanding,

keep our 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 us and remain with us always.

**Amen.**