**Morning Praise @ Home 6th March 2022**

**Opening prayer**

Blessed are you, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have blessed us with every spiritual blessing; enable us by your power to be true to our calling and live holy and blameless lives before you all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen**

**Confession** Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us.

**Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and**

**repent.** **Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us**

**from our sin.** **Renew a right spirit within us** **and restore us to the joy of your salvation,** **through**

**Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen** cf Psalm 51

**Absolution** May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image

to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Bible Readings Deuteronomy 26:1 – 11 Luke 4:1 – 13

**Reflection from Ruth**

In our reading today, Jesus responds to the devil, not by attempting to argue (arguing with temptation is often a way of playing with the idea until it becomes too attractive to resist), but by quoting scripture. The passages he draws on come from the story of Israel in the wilderness: he is going to succeed where Israel failed. Physical needs and wants are important, but loyalty to God is more important still. Jesus is indeed to become the world’s true lord, but the path to that status, and the mode of it when it arrives, is humble service, not a devilish seeking after status and power. Trust in God doesn’t mean acting stupidly to force God into doing a spectacular rescue. The power that Jesus already has, which he will shortly display in healings in particular, is to be used for restoring others to life and strength, not for cheap stunts. His status as God’s son commits him, not to showy prestige, but to the strange path of humility, service and finally death. The enemy will return to test this resolve again. For the moment, an initial victory is won, and Jesus can begin his public career knowing that though struggles lie ahead the foe has been beaten on the first field that really matters.

We are unlikely to be tempted in exactly the same way as Jesus was, but every Christian will be tested at the points which matter most in her or his life and vocation. It is a central part of Christian vocation to learn to recognize the voices that whisper attractive lies, to distinguish them from the voice of God, and to use the simple but direct weapons provided in scripture to rebut the lies with truth. The Christian discipline of fighting temptation is not about self-hatred, or rejecting parts of our God-given humanity. It is about celebrating God’s gift of full humanity and, like someone learning a musical instrument, discovering how to tune it and play it to its best possibility.
At the heart of our resistance to temptation is love and loyalty to the God who has already called us his beloved children in Christ, and who holds out before us the calling to follow him in the path which leads to the true glory. In that glory lies the true happiness, the true fulfilment, which neither world, nor flesh, nor devil can begin to imitate.

**Affirmation of faith**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ

known in the world? **We believe and trust in him. This is the faith of the Church.**

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Prayers of intercession led by Tony**

We pray for the leaders of the nations, that you will guide them in the ways of freedom, justice and truth.

We pray for those who bear arms, that they may have discipline and discernment, courage and compassion.

We pray for our enemies, and those who wish us harm, that you will turn the hearts of all to kindness and friendship.

We pray especially for the situation in Ukraine: for the wounded and the captive, the grieving and the homeless, that in all their trials they may know your love and support.

Most holy God and Father, hear our prayers for all who strive for peace and all who fight for justice.
Help us, who today remember the cost of war, to work for a better tomorrow; and, as we commend to you lives lost in terror and conflict, bring us all, in the end, to the peace of your presence.

Almighty God, give us strength to stand against all that is evil: keep us firm in the times of trial and temptation; make us resolute in obeying your will and in seeking your kingdom.

Loving God, throughout all ages you have rescued and restored your people; we come to you for refreshment and renewal. Lord, protect us from the terrors of the night and the dangers of the day.

We pray for all who are seeking to know their vocation, and all who are trying to sort out their priorities. We pray for all who are called to minister to others, for spiritual counsellors and advisers.

We pray for all who are suffering in body, mind or spirit. We remember especially those known personally to us.

We remember those who mourn at this time and pray for the family and friends of Sue Church, John Smith, Janet Stephens and Sheila Kennedy.

We give thanks for those who have provided for us and protected us over the years, and for those who have ministered to us and inspired or encouraged us. We pray that in turn we may be sensitive to your call and ready to do your will, and we ask you to bless and protect all those whom we hold dear.

Lord, in you we trust, our refuge and our strength.

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen**

**The Lord’s Prayer** As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

***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 today our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen***

**Closing prayer**

God give you grace to become the people He has called you to be,

that you may live and work to his praise and glory,

and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

be with us and remain with us always.  **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen**