

Bulletin for Sunday 6 March 2022

Good morning, friends. I apologise that there was no Bulletin last week, due to the storm, which caused the Manse to be without power for more than four days. Sorry!

Let's pause as we prepare to worship... and then praise God as we sing:

Hymn: Let all the world in every corner sing (R&S 114)

Prayer: Living God, creator of the hills and the sky,
we consider your world with wonder...
Loving God, creator of our hearts and minds,
teach us how to care.
As we look to Jesus for guidance
may we learn to make time for prayer,
and space to be open to the Holy Spirit,
worshipping you, and only you, always.
We ask your blessing on everything we do,
and on everything we give in your service,
today and every day. In Jesus 'name. Amen

followed by The Lord's Prayer

Reading: Luke 4: 1-13

Reflection: This is the first Sunday in Lent, the season when we remember Jesus going into the wilderness to fast and pray, to take time to reflect and understand what God was calling him to. His thoughts and temptations seemed to focus on issues of power - particularly the misuse of power. Jesus' response was one of humility, and his words pointed beyond himself: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'

As we have watched the situation in Ukraine descend into war, our TV screens filled with death and destruction, heart-break and fear, many of us have wanted to know what we can do to help. We can give, of course, and we will; but we can also pray. And as we pray we become aware that God is with us, here in the difficulties, confusions and pain of life; and that God cares passionately for us all. Prayer connects us with God, and with the millions of others around the world who are also praying - in different countries, cultures

and religions; in different words and languages; but always from the heart. Lent is a time for prayer, and this year more so than ever. So let us pray....

Hymn: Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us (R&S 543)

Prayers: Starting with a prayer for Ukraine from the Joint Public Issues Team

God of all, with alarm and concern we bring before you
the military intervention in Ukraine.
In a world you made for peace and flourishing,
we lament the use of armed force.
We mourn every casualty of this conflict,
every precious life extinguished by war.
We pray comfort for those who grieve
and those who are fearful.
Hear our longing that leaders and nations
will honour the worth of all people
by having the courage
to resolve conflict through dialogue.
May all our human failings be transformed
by your wonderful grace and goodness.
We ask this in the name of Christ,
the author of peace and sustainer of Creation. Amen.
God of all, we hold before you our communities,
those we love and worry about,
especially those known to us in pain, sickness or loss.
In Jesus 'name we ask all our prayers
including the unspoken prayers of our hearts... Amen

Hymn: God is love: let heaven adore him (R&S 95)

Blessing: May we follow Jesus, in prayer and humility,
and may the blessing of God
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with us and with all those we love,
this week, and always. Amen

There will be a ' Sunday at Six 'Zoom at 6pm this Sunday - all welcome.

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