

Reflection Mark 1: 9-15

The subject of the temptations of Christ in the wilderness after his baptism by John is the traditional subject for the first Sunday in Lent.

It is all the more personal and sacred because there is only one possible origin and source of this story, Jesus himself.

He was alone in the wilderness at the time considering how to bring God to human beings, and human beings to God, and so we have three ideas which came to him to be considered. These he rejected, and yet they probably became the bedrock of his teaching.

The story is told in all three synoptic gospels (Mark's account is less detailed) of which probably the first temptation is the best known: Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

John White (adapted)



Codes for the Zoom worship at 10.30

These are codes for Sundays from 7 February until Easter Day

Meeting ID: 881 6251 3403

Passcode: 337962

Telephone numbers (as previously) 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0131

NEXT SUNDAY 28.02.2021 Lent 2

SERVICES 10.30 by Zoom, 12 noon in Church

READINGS



OT Genesis 17; 1-7, 15-16
NT Romans 4: 13-end
Gospel Mark 8: 31-end

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St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 21st February 2021

The First Sunday of Lent

10.30 by Zoom (phone-in available)
12 noon Mass in Church

Greetings for Lent!

I hope that everybody has given a little thought to how to mark Lent this very strange year.

One option is to attend the **Lent Group** which Revd Sarah is organising, loosely based on the diocesan materials *These are our Stories*. This will be on zoom on Thursday evenings, 7-8pm, starting on 25/2. Please let Sarah know if you want to attend.

We're very grateful for the donation of a new set of **Stations of the Cross**, which will appear in Church in due course. They will be much more visible than the previous ones. This means that we can offer the current set (minus one which was taken) to whoever wants either individual pictures or all of them. Please speak to me in the first place.

Please note the **new codes for the zoom services** which will apply now until Easter Day, all being well. The telephone numbers are the same.

Fr David



Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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**

Genesis 9: 8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.'¹⁷ God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

1 Peter 3: 18-end

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made

alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Mark 1: 9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

Post Communion

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

Community Larder The Community Larder will be collecting on **Tuesdays only** from 10am-12noon, and is allowed to continue operating during the period of lockdown. The collecting point will now be in the Church Hall. Please continue to be generous. Judith Southam has homemade chutneys and marmalade for sale on Tuesday 23rd February. The jars are labelled with a full list of ingredients. All proceeds will be given to the Community Larder.

Knit and Natter *Update for February 2021*

Huge thanks to everyone who has knitted squares (eight inch in garter stitch): they are such joy with their rainbow colours and gentle warmth. Ian will kindly receive any that are finished either at the 12noon Mass on Sundays or at the Larder collection on Tuesdays. Our natter sessions continue on Thursdays at 11.15am on Zoom, thanks to Vanessa. All details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

House Group. Tuesday evenings. Please contact Ian Totterdell for Zoom details.

Electoral Roll revision Carolyn Bryant is revising the roll this year in advance of the APCM. Because of the current restrictions, we will assume that folk wish to continue on the roll unless they specifically tell us otherwise. If you are not on the roll and wish to be, contact the Parish Office by email or phone, Fr David or Ian Totterdell.

Annual Meeting Sunday 16 May, arrangements to be confirmed

Bingo Is anyone interested in running Bingo sessions when the Hall is re-opened? Nothing is needed to start up, all the equipment and cards etc are available. Please contact Pat Mounce before the beginning of April.