



Bowthorpe
Church

WHY ARE WE HERE?



21st February 2021

Mark 1:9 – 13

WELCOME AND NOTICES



- Church meeting via zoom
- Details in todays order of service



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CALL TO WORSHIP

‘Oh, that you would rend the heavens
and come down, that the mountains
would tremble before you! (Isaiah 64:1)



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THE KING OF LOVE



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OPENING PRAYER AND CONFESSION

Lord God, you who dwell in unapproachable light, we praise and worship you, for you have come down in the person of your Son Jesus Christ and in the power of your Holy Spirit. You are the God who makes himself known and opens the way of salvation.



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Lord God, we confess our sins to you in order that nothing would stand between us. We confess that at times we have forgotten your great love for us and lived as though you were not in our lives.

Lord, have mercy.



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We confess that we have failed to act with compassion, preferring to live for ourselves and not for you.

Lord, have mercy.



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We confess that we have not lived according to your Word but lived according to the ways of the world.

Lord, have mercy.



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We ask to be forgiven. By the power of your Spirit turn us from evil to good, help us to forgive ourselves and to forgive others, and keep us in your ways of righteousness and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. To all who turn to him he says 'Your sins are forgiven.' He also says, 'Follow me.' Let us receive his forgiveness and answer his call for his glory's sake.

Amen.



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OFFERTORY PRAYER

Generous Lord, we bring to you our gifts, our prayers, ourselves. Take all we have and all we are and use it all for your glory's sake. Amen.

WHO AM I?



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PRAYER

As we come before your Word today, here the cries of our hearts and the yearnings within us. We want to know you more and walk in your ways. Lord, would you open the heavens today by your Spirit, and speak your word of life that we may live to the glory of your holy name. **Amen.**

READING MARK: 1: 9 - 13



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9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. 10 Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven:



‘You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.’

12 At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, 13 and he was in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.



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This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God



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REFLECTION:

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HE WILL HOLD ME FAST



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INTERCESSIONS

Loving God, we thank and praise you, that you sent your Son to be our Saviour. In the darkness of this world he comes as our light. He has triumphed over pain, sickness and death, and opened to us the way of eternal life. He has revealed your love and



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made us your sons and daughters.

We praise you, Lord.

Lord, our strength and Redeemer

Hear our prayer



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We give thanks for all who belong to you
who have stood against evil and
temptation in the world. We remember
before you those struggling with their
faith, and all who are tempted by false
promises and bright lights.

Lord, our strength and Redeemer

Hear our prayer

We pray for those who have grown up in the faith and life of the Church but have never met the Saviour. We pray for those who have gone through the ritual of baptism but have never known your presence and love. Bless all who are baptised this day across the world, that in their baptism they may hear your words of love and affirmation.



Lord, our strength and Redeemer

Hear our prayer



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We pray also for those preparing for confirmation, that they would take seriously your call upon their lives. We pray too for all who are seeking to grow in their relationship with you, that they may be reminded of your promises. We pray too for those who have lost their way in life and feel life has no meaning and purpose.



Lord, our strength and Redeemer

Hear our prayer



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We give thanks for all who have helped us in our Christian journey. As we journey through Lent, may we be a help to others. We pray for your Church throughout the world, for new believers, mature believers, and for leaders. We pray today for the URC



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Eastern Synod as it begins the process of appointing a new Moderator. We also pray for Bishop Graham, Beth Powney and Julian Pursehouse, our denominational leaders in this area. Give them and all in positions of leadership within your Church gifts of wisdom and discernment.



Lord, our strength and Redeemer

Hear our prayer



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We thank and praise you for your love for us. We ask you to bless those who are struggling with temptation and doubt at this time. We pray for all those struggling with weakness or illness, especially those who are lonely. We pray for Robert Young in hospital, that surgery would bring him a new lease of life.



Lord, our strength and Redeemer

Hear our prayer



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Finally, we remember that through Christ we are offered eternal life. So, we remember before you the saints in glory and our loved ones departed. May they rejoice in your presence and in the fullness of your kingdom, where love never ends.



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



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THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name.

**Your kingdom come, your will be
done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.



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**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin
against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and
the glory are yours now and for
ever. Amen.**



LET THE WEAK SAY I AM
STRONG



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CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING



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God of all love and mercy, you have welcomed us into your family through baptism and faith. Help us to live for you, that the world may see you in us; in the power of your Holy Spirit, we pray. **Amen.**



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And now the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be
with you and all whom you love, now and
for evermore.

Amen



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Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ.

Amen.