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Weekly Letter – 18 February 2024

1st Sunday of Lent

Psalm 25.1-10 and Mark 1.9-15

Perhaps you would like to begin by saying Psalm 25.1-10 as a prayer? Now let us look on a part of Jesus' life which you know oh so well, his baptism.

As Jesus is baptised by John the Baptist you have those wonderful words from heaven, "You are my Son. I love you. You are my delight". Only a doting parent would say such words?!

Perhaps you can recall your baptism? If not, it doesn't matter, but like you, Jesus was baptised because he publically is turning to God in a ritual, that openly says, "I wash away all that I am – I am dead to myself. I am now filled with your divine life."

In this act we are beginning to see what Mark meant by saying Jesus is, "The Son of God". For Jesus (and you) are saying in the act of baptism – I do not wish to follow my purely human will, for it's a million times more enjoyable to turn to and trust God".

From now on you will see that Jesus Christ will be continually encouraging you to put your growing trust in God's mercy and love. How are we to do this?

Well you know only too well, by attentively listening to God, who will speak to our hearts and nourish your desire to trust Him. That is why Psalm 25.1-10 is so good to say as a prayer. Perhaps you would like to begin each day during Lent with this prayer, and then you can tuck into your three weetabixes!

Stephen

Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Lewis Rees

Bible Readings: Mark 1.9-15: Genesis 9.8-17

Cycle of Prayer in the Region – we will pray for Hall Street, Llanelli

Tea and Chat – Tuesday 20th - 2-4 pm Local knowledge quiz

Minister's Movements

Simon is leading worship at Hall Street this Sunday.

Lent on-line discussions

We will be having on line conversations through Lent at 7 pm on some of the Tuesday evenings (finishing by 8.30 pm). They will be on 27th February, 12th and 26th March. Further information and link will be in the news sheet.

God's Covenant of Love (Genesis 9.8-17: Psalm 25.1-10: 1 Peter 3.18-22: Mark 1.9-15)

Accompanying God, as we begin the season of Lent, we are reminded of your unwavering L O V E and the covenant you made with Noah and all living creatures. Just as you placed the rainbow in the sky as a sign of your promise, we come before you with hearts full of gratitude for your faithfulness and mercy.

We seek your guidance and wisdom to show us your paths, and help us to find hope and deliverance in you. We pray for a deepening and understanding of the gift of Jesus Christ and endeavour to live in the light of this sacrifice walking in righteousness and the overflow of grace.

During this season, we ask for the strength to resist temptation, comfort in life's challenges, and a closer relationship with you in times of trial. As we journey with Jesus through his suffering, death and resurrection may your Holy Spirit transform us into a people of hope and grace, sharing your love with others and walking in righteousness.

May your presence, nourishment and guidance be with us throughout Lent and beyond. Amen.

Stephen Ansa-Addo (URC Prayer Handbook 2024)

