



5<sup>th</sup> March 2023  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

St James' Church  
www.stjamesexeter.org Exeter

**Rector**

Fr Henry Pryse 01392 431297  
Day off: Thursday

**Assistant Priest**

Fr Martin Poolton 01392 477488  
Day off: Saturday

**Parish Office**

Mount Pleasant Road, Exeter. EX4 7AH.  
01392 420407. office@stjamesexeter.org  
Charity register number: 1128877

**Notices**

**Have Your Say**

Our annual meetings will take place on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March. Nominations are sought for 2 churchwardens, 3 PCC members and 3 deanery synod representatives. Forms are available at the back of the church.

**Flowers to Share**

Can you help with providing posies for distribution at the Parish Eucharist on Mothering Sunday? Please add your name to the list at the back of the church.

**Collect**

*Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.*

**Post-Communion Prayer**

*Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

10.00 am Music

Entrance hymn	518	O Praise Ye the Lord!
Offertory hymn	288	I Cannot Tell
Recessional hymn	683	To God be the Glory!

**This Week**

Morning Prayer is said at 8.30 am  
Online: Mon, Wed  
In the church: Tue, Thu, Fri

**Mon 6<sup>th</sup> March** Luke 6: 36 – 38

6.00 pm Stations of the Cross

7.00 pm Choir practice

**Tue 7<sup>th</sup> March** Matthew 23: 1 – 12

2.00 pm Lent course in the hall

**Wed 8<sup>th</sup> March** Matthew 20: 17 – 28

10.00 am Churchwardens meet

12.00 noon Holy Communion

7.30 pm Social committee meets

**Thu 9<sup>th</sup> March** Luke 16: 19 – 31

**Fri 10<sup>th</sup> March** Matt. 21: 33 – 43 & 45 – 46

**Sat 11<sup>th</sup> March** Luke 15: 1 – 3 & 11 – 32

**Next Sunday: 12<sup>th</sup> March**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent** John 4: 5 – 42

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

11.30 am Fairtrade stall in the hall

Sharing God's love through worship, fellowship and service

## First Reading: Genesis 12: 1-4a

The Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

## Second Reading: Romans 4: 1-5 & 13-17

What are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. [...] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations') – Abraham believed in the presence of the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

## Gospel Reading: John 3: 1-17

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

