

StF 55 Walter Chalmers Smith

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible, hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and
love.

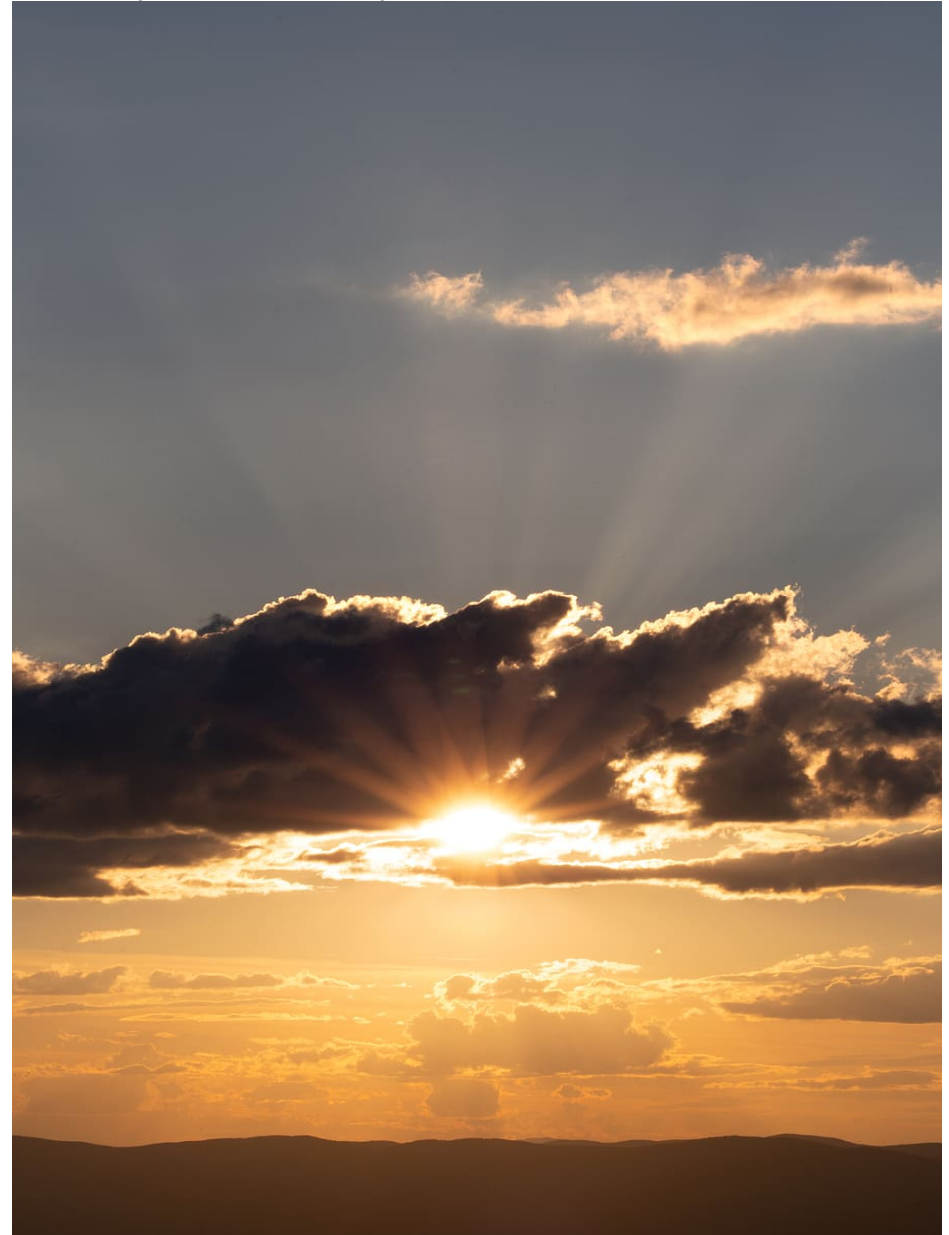
3 To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish—but naught changeth Thee.

4 Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; oh, help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee.

The Cotteridge Church

Sunday 4th February

2nd before Lent



Bible Readings

(Revised Common Lectionary/Roman Lectionary)

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalms 147:1-11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

Collect

Almighty God,
give us reverence for all creation
and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your likeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

A boy and his father were walking along a road when they came across a large stone. The boy looked at the stone and thought about it, then he asked his father, "Do you think if I use all my strength, I can move that rock?"

The father thought for a moment, "I think that if you use all your strength, you can do it." That was all the boy needed. He ran over to the rock and began to push it. He pushed & he pushed, so hard did he try that beads of sweat appeared on his forehead. But the rock didn't move — not even an inch.

After a while, the boy sat down on the ground. His face fallen, his whole body seemed crumpled. "You were wrong," he told his dad. "I can't do it."

His father walked over to him, knelt beside him, and put his arm around the boy's shoulder. "You can do it," he said. "You just didn't use all your strength. You didn't ask me to help."

The world in which we live tells us that it is all up to us. It tells us that we have to be strong and independent. It tells us we can't and shouldn't count on anyone or anything else. And we have to be strong and independent. It tells us we can't and shouldn't count on anyone or anything else. And yet, what faith tells us and what Jews and Christians have known forever is that we have a ready resource in God, strength for those who ask.

StF 259

Brian Wren

Jesus on the mountain peak
Stands alone in glory blazing
Let us, if we dare to speak
Join the saints and angels praising
Alleluia, alleluia!

Trembling at His feet we saw
Moses and Elijah speaking
All the prophets and the law
Shout through them their joyful greeting
Alleluia, alleluia!

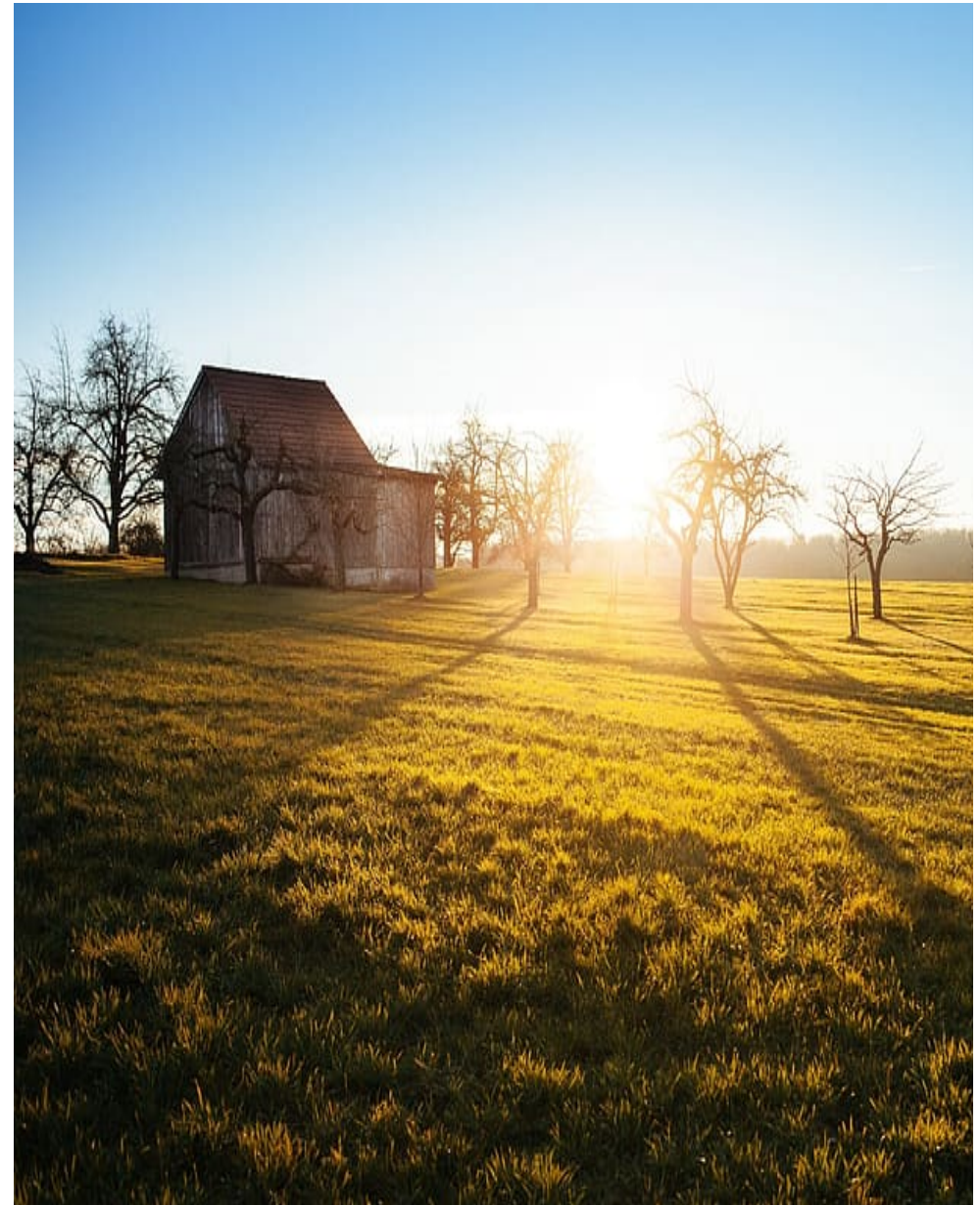
Swift the cloud of glory came
God proclaiming in its thunder
Jesus as the Son by name!
Nations, cry aloud in wonder
Alleluia, alleluia!

This is God's beloved Son!
Law and prophets sing before him
First and last and only One
All creation shall adore him!
Alleluia, alleluia!

The Cotteridge Church

Sunday 11^h February

Next before Lent



Bible Readings

(Common Worship/ Revised Common Lectionary)

2 Kings 2 1-12

Psalm 50

2 Corinthians 9:4 3-6

Mark 9:2 29

Collect

Holy God,

you know the disorder of our sinful lives:

set straight our crooked hearts,

and bend our wills to love your goodness

and your glory

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Chad Varah was an Anglican priest. In 1953 he buried a girl who had killed herself. The coroner, at her inquest, suggested that she might not have done this desperate act if someone had been around who would have listened to her troubles. Chad Varah decided to use his London church and a telephone to listen to people who were in despair. He put a small advertisement in the local paper, and during the first week he had 27 calls. Soon he was listening and advising people 12 hours a day. There were so many people waiting in his outer office to see him that he asked some of his congregation to come and provide cups of tea for them.

Then he found that often people who had come into his outer office in great distress had become different people by the time they reached him, and some did not even wait to see him because one of the helpers had befriended them. So he decided to train a group of his congregation so that they could become more helpful in the way they befriended the clients.

That is how the Samaritans were formed.

StF 533

Mary R. Jensen

1 Covenant child,
water comes as a sign
of the washing and cleansing
renewing your mind.
Covenant child,
you are claimed as God's own.
You are one of his people,
his church is your home.

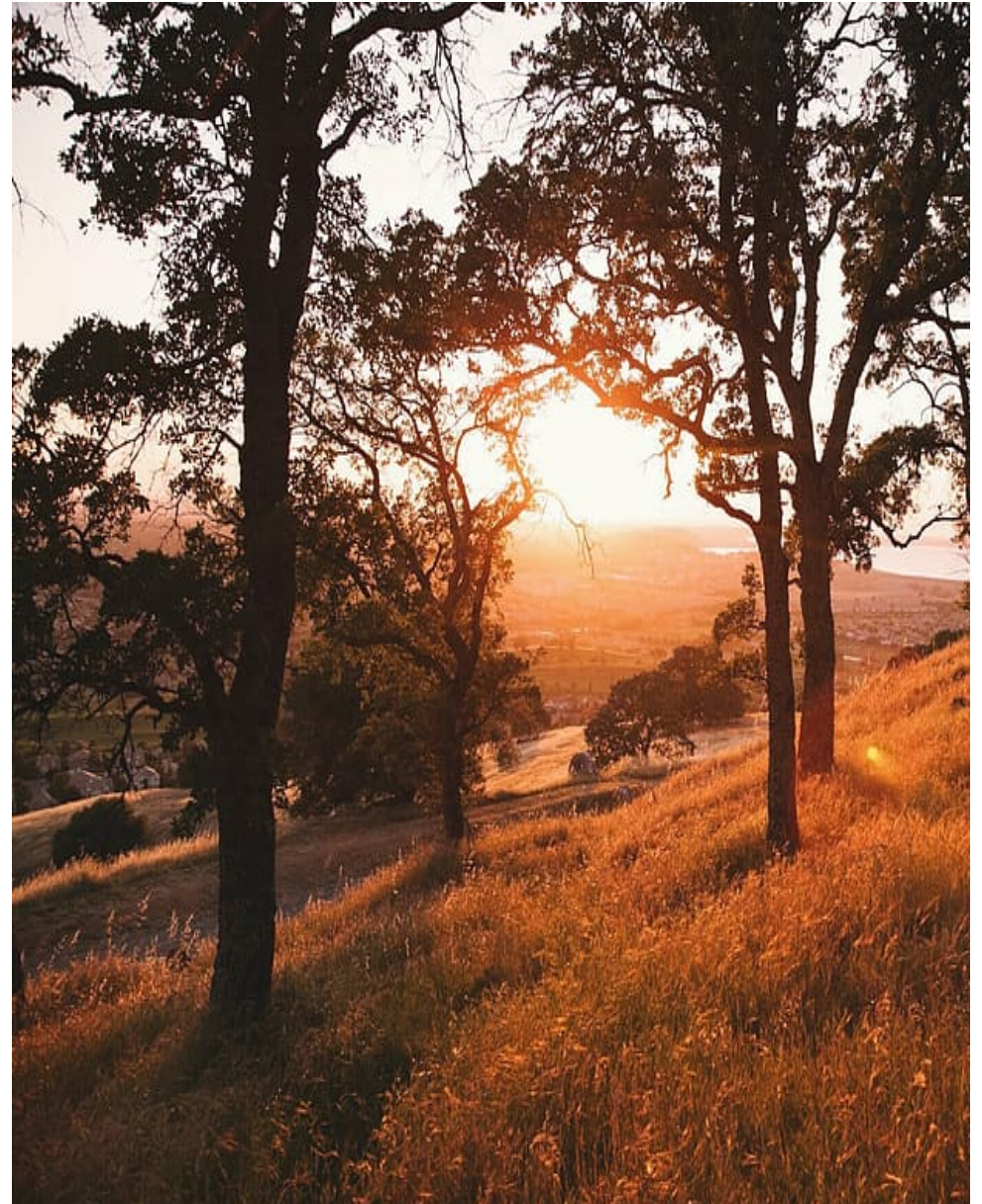
2 Covenant child,
you are here by God's grace,
by the work of our Saviour,
who died in your place.
Covenant child,
you are living in Christ.
Buried with him in suffering,
with him you will rise.

3 Covenant child,
we are praying for you.
May you stay close to Jesus
in all that you do.
Covenant child,
grow strong in the faith.
Seek after God's kingdom
and walk in his way.

The Cotteridge Church

Sunday 18th February

Lent 1



Bible Readings

(Common Worship/ Revised Common Lectionary)

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalms 25:1-10 1

Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

Collect

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and
prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

“I only want to get my nose in:”

An Arab fable tells of a miller who was startled by seeing a camel’s nose thrust in at the door of the tent where he was sleeping. “It’s very cold outside,” said the camel, “I only want to get my nose in.”

The nose was allowed in, then the neck, finally the whole body. Soon the miller began to be inconvenienced by such an ungainly companion in a space not large enough for both.

“If you are inconvenienced,” said the camel, “you may leave; as for myself I shall stay where I am.”

“Give but an inch,” says Lancelot Andrews, “and the devil will take an ell; if he can get in an arm, he will makeshift to shove in his whole body.”

Today’s Gospel warns us against compromising with the devil by allowing him to tempt us.

StF 340 Charles Wesley

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad his wonderful Name;
the Name all-victorious of Jesus extol:
his kingdom is glorious; he rules over all.

God ruleth on high, almighty to save;
and still he is nigh: his presence we have.
The great congregation his triumph shall sing,
ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.

Salvation to God who sits on the throne!
Let all cry aloud, and honour the Son.
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.

Then let us adore, and give him his right:
All glory and power, all wisdom and might,
all honour and blessing, with angels above,
and thanks never ceasing and infinite love.

The Cotteridge Church

Sunday 25th February

Lent 2



Bible Readings

(Common Worship/ Revised Common Lectionary)

Genesis 17 1-7 15-16

Psalms 22 23-31

Mark 8 31-38

Collect

Almighty God,
by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's
sufferings,
and by following in his Way
come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

"I'll fight, I'll fight, I'll fight to the very end."
William Booth. He was a Methodist preacher,
too, you know. "Willful Will" they called him, but
Booth became disillusioned with the political
wrangling of the Methodists. So he left the
church and started a Christian mission in the
poverty-stricken East Side of London that
reached out to the worst.
That Christian mission became the Salvation
Army, which declared war on poverty and
homelessness. Or, as William Booth said: "While
women weep, as they do now. I'll fight. While
children go hungry, as they do now, I'll fight.
While there remains one dark soul without the
light of God, I'll fight, I'll fight, I'll fight to the very
end." That was one hundred years ago. It seems
like the kind of war all of us could get behind, the
war on poverty, the war on homelessness.
Maybe it's time for another William Booth. If you
have a heart, help us. Discipleship is a matter of
your heart. "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full
in His wonderful face" as Peter did on the mount
of transfiguration. He'll give you a lift. He'll give
you a life.