

- 1 Love inspired the anger  
That cleared a temple court,  
Overturned the wisdom  
Which their greed had wrought.
- 2 Love inspired the anger  
That set the leper free  
From the legal strictures  
That brought misery.
- 3 Love inspired the anger  
That cursed a viper's brood:  
Set on domination,  
Self with God confused.
- 4 Love inspires the anger  
That curses poverty,  
Preaches life's enrichment,  
Seeks equality.
- 5 Love inspires the anger  
That still can set us free  
From the world's conventions  
Bringing liberty.



## **Bible Readings**

(Common Worship/Revised Common Lectionary)

Exodus 20 v 1 - 17

Psalms 19

1 Corinthians 1 v 18 - 25

John 2 v 13 – 22

## **Collect**

Eternal God,  
give us insight  
to discern your will for us,  
to give up what harms us,  
and to seek the perfection we are promised  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

Jesus the meek lamb and ferocious lion: C. S. Lewis illustrated the contrasting qualities of Jesus in his character Aslan, the Lion. In *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, two children, Lucy and Edmund, come to a grassy area. The field covers an area almost as far as the eye can see in greenery, except for one small white spot. The children can't figure out what the white spot is from a distance, so they hike down to it and discover that it's a lamb. This white woolly creature is not just any lamb but a lamb that can cook breakfast and have a conversation with them.

The children want to know how to get to the land of Aslan. While the lamb is giving them directions a marvellous thing happens: "His snowy white flushed into tawny gold and his size changed and he was Aslan himself towering above them and scattering light from his mane" (C.S. Lewis, *Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, as found in "What's it going to take?" a sermon by Rev. John H. Pavelko).

Lewis graphically illustrates one of the great truths of our faith: Jesus, the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world is also the Lion of Judah. In Christ we find both the meekness of the lamb and the ferocity of the lion. Jesus could be both the strong and gentle man who welcomed children and the angry man who swung a mean whip to clear the Temple.

StF 707 *Sebastian Temple*

*from the Prayer of St Francis*

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;  
where there is injury, your pardon, Lord; and  
where there's doubt, true faith in you:

*Oh Master grant that I may never seek so  
much to be consoled as to console: to be  
understood as to understand; to be loved as  
to love with all my soul.*

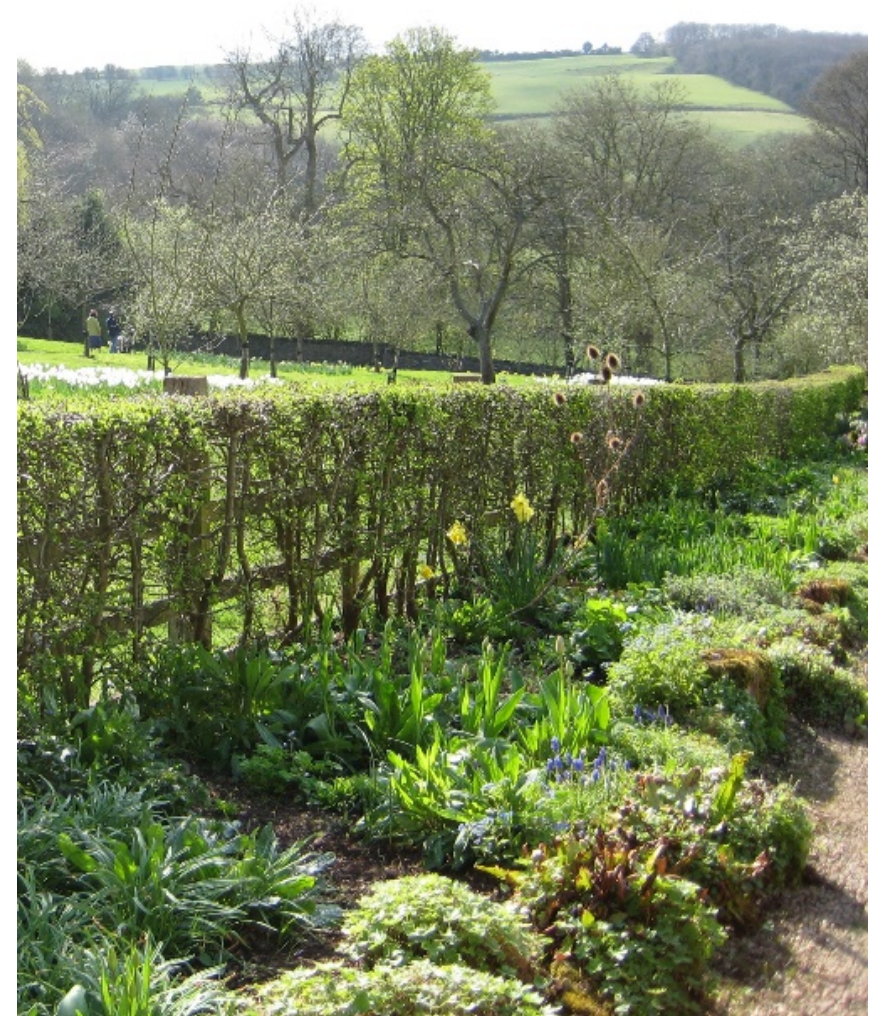
Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope,  
Where there is darkness, only light;  
And where there's sadness ever joy:

Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
In giving unto all that we receive,  
And in dying that we're born to eternal life

## **The Cotteridge Church**

10<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**Lent 4**



## **Bible Readings**

(Common Worship/Revised Common Worship)

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

## **Collect**

Merciful Lord,  
you know our struggle to serve you:  
when sin spoils our lives  
and overshadows our hearts,  
come to our aid  
and turn us back to you again;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

Sherlock Holmes, the great detective who had solved many mysteries, and Dr. Watson, his companion, went on a camping trip. After a good meal and a bottle of wine, they lay down for the night and went to sleep. Some hours later, Holmes awoke and nudged his friend. "Watson, look up and tell me what you see." Watson replied, "I see millions and millions of stars". Sherlock Holmes then said, "Well Watson, what does that tell you"? Watson pondered for a minute and then replied, "Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Chronologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, I can see that God is all-powerful and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. "Why, what does it tell you?" Holmes responded, "Watson you idiot, someone has stolen our tent". Watson had missed the most obvious. He was clever enough to notice the complexities of the stars but he missed what was plain and simple. Today's Gospel reading is about a lot of people who miss the point. In Jesus' healing of a blind man, the Pharisees missed the most evident point that it was a real miracle by divine intervention. (Rev. Gehardy).

StF 416 Frederick William Faber

There's a wideness in God's mercy,  
like the wideness of the sea.  
There's a kindness in God's justice,  
which is more than liberty.

There is welcome for the sinner,  
and more graces for the good.  
There is mercy with the Savior,  
there is healing in his blood.

But we make God's love too narrow  
by false limits of our own,  
and we magnify its strictness  
with a zeal God will not own.

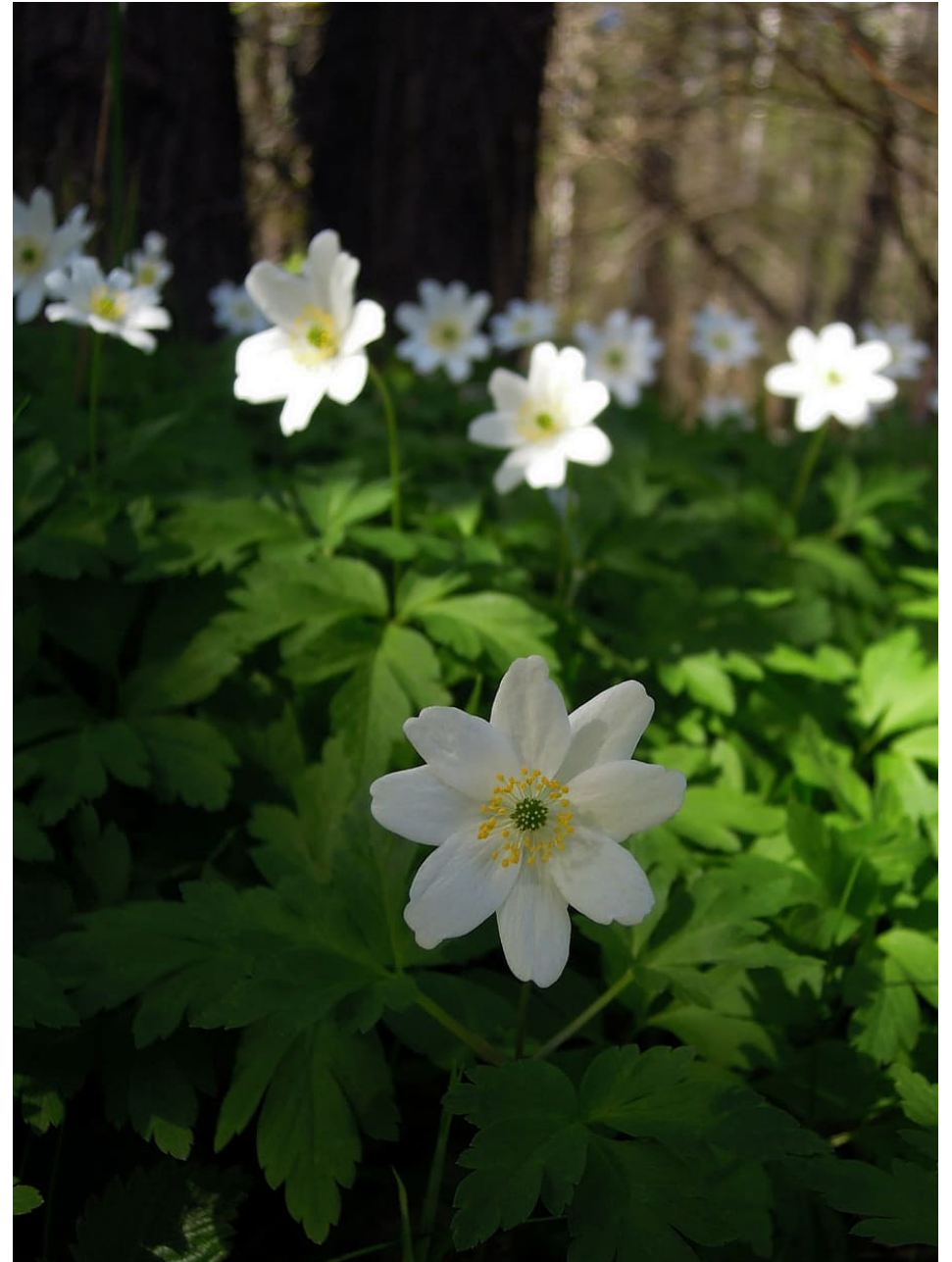
For the love of God is broader  
than the measures of the mind,  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more simple,  
we should rest upon God's word,  
and our lives would be illumined  
by the presence of our Lord.

**The Cotteridge Church**

17th March 2024

**Lent 5**



## **Bible Reading**

(Common Worship/Revised Common Lectionary)

Jeremiah 31 31-34

Psalms 51 1-13

Hebrews 5 7-9

John 20 20-30

## **Collect**

Gracious Father,  
you gave up your Son  
out of love for the world:  
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,  
that we may know eternal peace  
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

## **Dying for Another**

The story of Maximilian Kolbe is well-known. He was a Franciscan priest in Poland, and he was in a concentration camp during the Second World War. Some prisoners had escaped and the authorities were determined that this should not happen again. For every prisoner that escaped they picked a prisoner in the group, and that prisoner was condemned to die. After one young man was picked up, someone who had a wife and young family back home, Maximilian stepped forward and offered to take his place. The soldiers were shocked at this, but they took him up on his offer, and the young man returned to the group. Maximilian died in a horrible fashion, as they were all locked in cages and left there to starve to death. All during that time he encouraged others, and inspired them with his prayers. He was canonized some years ago and the prisoner whose place Maximilian took, wept through the entire ceremony. I like to think that he understood what real love is, and that death would no longer have any fear for him.

- 1 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Hark, all the tribes 'Hosanna!' cry;  
your humble beast pursues its road  
with palms and scattered garments  
strowed.
- 2 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die:  
O Christ, your triumphs now begin  
o'er captive death and conquered sin.
- 3 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
The wingèd squadrons of the sky  
look down with sad and wondering eyes  
to see the approaching sacrifice.
- 4 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Your last and fiercest strife is nigh;  
the Father on his sapphire throne,  
expects his own anointed Son.
- 5 Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die;  
bow your meek head to mortal pain,  
then take, O God, your power, and reign.

## The Cotteridge Church

24th March 2024

**Palm Sunday**



## **Bible Readings**

(Common Worship / Revised Common Lectionary)

Liturgy of the Palms

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Mark 11:1-11

John 12:12-16

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 14:1-15:47

Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)

## **Collect**

True and humble king,  
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:  
grant us the faith to know you and love you,  
that we may be found beside you  
on the way of the cross,  
which is the path of glory.  
Amen

Do you remember the story “The Little Engine That Could?”

A trainload of toys was being taken over the mountain to all the children in Sunshine Valley, but unfortunately the engine broke down.

One by one different engines came by, but none were willing to take the trainload of toys over the mountain.

At last a small blue switching engine happened by, and all the toys asked if it would please take them to all the boys and girls on the other side of the mountain.

The Little Engine had never been out of the switching yard before—let alone to travel over the mountain. You know the story; the little blue engine hooked itself up to the trainload of toys and began the journey over the mountain.

As the Little Engine began to pull the toys up the mountain, you could hear it saying “I think I can, I think I can. . . .”

At long last the Little engine crested the top of the mountain and as it started its decent into Sunshine Valley it could be heard singing, “I thought I could, I thought I could. Each of us daily faces a variety of different mountains to cross.



After darkness, light;  
After winter, spring;  
After dying, life:  
Alleluia!

Take his body down;  
Lay it in the tomb;  
Love has overcome:  
Alleluia!

Turn away in grief;  
Turn away in faith;  
Celebrate his death:  
Alleluia!

Come whatever may,  
God will have his way  
Welcome, Easter day  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Fred Pratt Green

**The Cotteridge Church**  
31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 **Easter Sunday**



## **Bible Readings**

(Common Worship/Revised Common Lectionary)

Isaiah 25 v6-9

Psalms 118 v1-2 & 14-24

Acts 10 v34-43

John 20 v1-18

## **Collect**

God of glory,  
by the raising of your Son  
you have broken the chains of death and  
hell:

fill your Church with faith and hope;  
for a new day has dawned  
and the way to life stands open  
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen

As a butterfly soared overhead, one caterpillar said to the other, "You'll never get me up in one of those things!" Yet for every caterpillar the time comes when the urge to eat and grow subsides and he instinctively begins to form a chrysalis around himself. The chrysalis hardens and you'd think for all the world that the caterpillar was dead. But one spring morning the life inside the chrysalis will begin to writhe, the top will crack open, and a beautifully-formed butterfly will emerge.

For hours it will stand stretching and drying its wings, moving them slowly up and down, up and down. And then, before you know it, the butterfly will glide aloft, effortlessly riding the currents of the air, alighting on flower after gorgeous flower, as if to show off its vivid colours to the bright blossoms.

Somehow, the miracle of the butterfly never loses its fascination for us. Perhaps that is because the butterfly is a living parable of the promise of Resurrection. On Easter morning, the disciples saw Jesus' grave-clothes lying on the cold slab — empty, but still lying in the wrapped folds that had gone round and round the corpse. Only the corpse was gone, leaving the grave-clothes much like an empty chrysalis deserted by a butterfly, which has left to soar free. "He is risen as He said," an angel told the incredulous disciples.