

**10.30am Morning Praise - We Gather to Worship God
21st February 2021**

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of Christ.

God's grace, mercy and peace be with you **and also with you.**

Hymn 51 Be Thou My Vision

PENITENCE (*Being sorry for the wrongs we have said and done*)

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden, to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

God of mercy, we acknowledge that we are all sinners.

**We turn from the wrong that we have thought and said and done,
and are mindful of all that we have failed to do.**

**For the sake of Jesus, who died for us, forgive us for all that is past,
and help us to live each day in the light of Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We listen to God

READING: 2 Peter 1:1-11

1 From Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ. To you who have received a faith as valuable as ours, because our God and Saviour Jesus Christ does what is right.² Grace and peace be given to you more and more, because you truly know God and Jesus our Lord. God Has Given Us Blessings³ Jesus has the power of God, by which he has given us everything we need to live and to serve God. We have these things because we know him. Jesus called us by his glory and goodness.⁴ Through these he gave us the very great and precious promises. With these gifts you can share in God's nature, and the world will not ruin you with its evil desires.⁵ Because you have these blessings, do your best to add these things to your lives: to your faith, add goodness; and to your goodness, add knowledge;⁶ and to your knowledge, add self-control; and to your self-control, add patience; and to your patience, add service for God;⁷ and to your service for God, add kindness for your brothers and sisters in Christ; and to this kindness, add love.⁸ If all these things are in you and are growing, they will help you to be useful and productive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁹ But anyone who does not have these things cannot see clearly. He is blind and has forgotten that he was made clean from his past sins.¹⁰ My brothers and sisters, try hard to be certain that you really are called and chosen by God. If you do all these things, you will never fall.¹¹ And you will be given a very great welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Hymn 712 Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

READING: Matthew 14:22-33 Jesus Walks on the Water

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.' ²⁸ Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' ²⁹ He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

TALK

Hymn 999 Jesus You're My Firm Foundation

SAYING WHAT WE BELIEVE Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God, the Father
Almighty, creator of heaven
and earth.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord, who
was conceived by the Holy
Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was
buried; he descended to the
dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of
the Father, and he will come
to judge the living and the dead.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church, the
communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

We Pray to God

SPECIAL PRAYER FOR TODAY (*The First Sunday of Lent*)

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**

PRAYING FOR OTHERS followed by THE LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING & NOTICES

Hymn 49 Be Bold, Be Strong