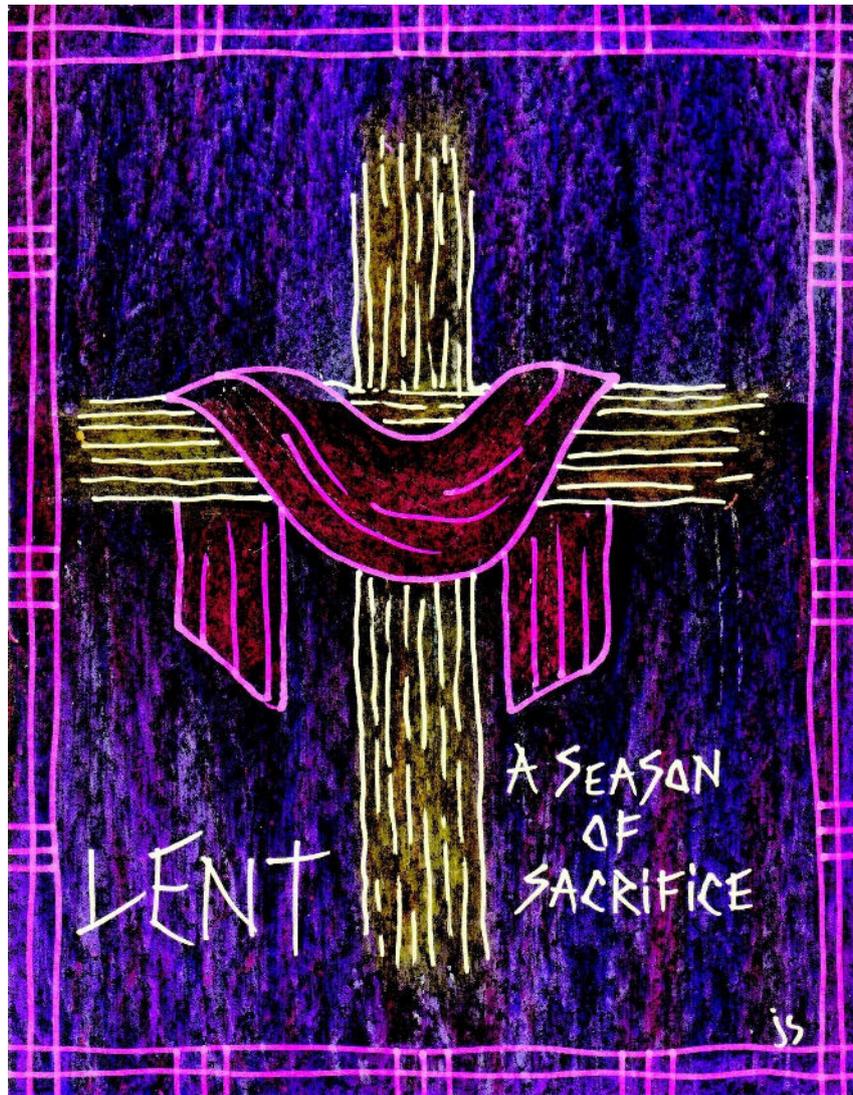


The Anglican Parish of Greater Hastings



**Order of Service for the
Second Sunday of Lent
1st March 2026
at St Matthew's Church**

Presider: This is the day which the Lord has made.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We stand

Opening Hymn: **God who sets us on a journey**

FFS32 – Words: Joy Dine © Revd Mervyn Dine - tune: HYFRYDOL

- 1 **God who sets us on a journey
to discover, dream and grow,
lead us as you led your people
in the desert long ago;
journey inward, journey outward,
stir the spirit, stretch the mind,
love for God and self and neighbour
marks the way that Christ defined.**

- 2 **Exploration brings new insights,
changes, choices we must face;
give us wisdom in deciding,
mindful always of your grace;
should we stumble,
lose our bearings,
find it hard to know what's right,
we regain our true direction
focused on the Jesus light.**

- 3 **End our longing for the old days,
grant the vision that we lack –
once we've started on this journey
there can be no turning back;
let us travel light, discarding
excess baggage from our past,
cherish only what's essential,
choosing treasure that will last.**

- 4 **When we set up camp and settle
to avoid love's risk and pain,
you disturb complacent comfort,
pull the tent pegs up again;** →

**keep us travelling in the knowledge
you are always at our side;
give us courage for the journey,
Christ our goal and Christ our guide.**

The Presider may greet the people informally before continuing

The Gathering

I runga i te Ingoa o te Atua,
te Matua, te Tama me te Wairua Tapu.

Āmine.

(In the name of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen)

Grace and peace to you from God.

God fill you with truth and joy.

Song of Praise: **Seek the Lord**

- 1 Seek the Lord who is still to be found:
call upon God who is yet at hand.
- 2 Return to the Lord, who will have compassion:
to our God, who will abundantly pardon.
- 3 ‘For my thoughts are not your thoughts:
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
- 4 ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth:
**so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.**
- 5 ‘For as the rain and snow come down from heaven:
and return not again but water the earth,
- 6 ‘causing the earth to bring forth and sprout:
giving seed to the sower and bread to the hungry;
- 7 ‘so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth:
it shall not return to me empty,
- 8 ‘but it shall accomplish that which I desire:
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.’

We sit or kneel

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,
and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.
Spirit of God, search our hearts.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Make me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy spirit from me:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

(from Psalm 51)

God has promised forgiveness
to all who truly repent,
turn to Christ in faith
and are themselves forgiving.

In silence we call to mind our sins.

Silence

Let us confess our sins.

**Merciful God, we have sinned
in what we have thought and said,
in the wrong we have done
and in the good we have not done.
We have sinned in ignorance:
we have sinned in weakness:
we have sinned through our own deliberate fault.**

**We are truly sorry.
We repent and turn to you.
Forgive us, for our Saviour Christ's sake,
and renew our lives to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

The Absolution is declared by the presiding priest.

Through the cross of Christ,
God have mercy on you,
pardon you and set you free.
Know that you are forgiven
and be at peace.
God strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in life eternal.
Amen.

The peace of Christ rule in our hearts.
The word of Christ dwell in us richly.

Sentence: 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. *John 3: 16*

Collect: Come Holy Spirit, to all baptised in your name,
that we may turn to good whatever lies ahead.
**Give us passion, give us fire;
make us transform the world from what it is,
to what you have created it to be.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Reading: **Genesis 12: 1–4** - *The blessing of God upon Abram*

After the Reading: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121 (ANZPB)

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills:
but where shall I look for help?
- 2 **My help comes from the Lord:
who has made heaven and earth.**
- 3 The Lord will not let your foot stumble:
the one who guards you will not sleep.
- 4 **The one who keeps watch over this people:
shall neither doze nor sleep.**
- 5 The Lord is the one who will guard you:
the Lord at your right hand will be your defence,
- 6 **so that the sun shall not strike you by day:
nor yet the moon by night.**
- 7 The Lord shall preserve you from all evil:
yes it is the Lord who will keep you safe.
- 8 **The Lord shall take care of your
going out, and your coming in:
from this time forth and for ever.**

Reading: **Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17** - *The promise to those of Abraham's faith*

After the Reading: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: ***To Abraham and Sarah***

Words: Judith Fetter, © 1984 (VU634); used with permission
Tune: MORNING LIGHT

- 1 **To Abraham and Sarah
the call of God was clear:
“Go forth and I will show you
a country rich and fair.
You need not fear the journey
for I have pledged my word:
that you shall be my people,
and I will be your God.”**

- 2 **From Abraham and Sarah
arose a pilgrim race,
dependent for their journey
on God's abundant grace;
and in their heart was written
by God this saving word:
"that you shall be my people,
and I will be your God."**

- 3 **We of this generation
on whom God's hand is laid,
can journey to the future
secure and unafraid,
rejoicing in God's goodness
and trusting in this word:
that you shall be my people,
and I will be your God.**

Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path. *(Psalm 119.105)*
**Praise to you, O Christ,
King of eternal glory.**

Gospel Reading: **John 3: 1-17** - *The mission of Christ: saving the world*

The Holy Gospel according to John
chapter three, beginning at the first verse
Praise and glory to God.

After the reading: This is the Gospel of Christ.
Praise to Christ, the Word.

The Sermon

A brief period of silence and/or a musical reflection may follow

The Prayers of the People

(adapted from 'Let Us Pray' - Janet Nelson)

Let us pray for the Church and for the world,
giving thanks for God's goodness.

We sit or kneel

Loving God, in your mercy:
Hear our prayer.

In a moment of silence,
we pray for our own needs.

Silence

Your word is a lamp for our feet.
**In darkness and in light,
in trouble and in joy,
help us, heavenly Father,
to trust your love,
to serve your purpose,
and to praise your name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Ministry of the Sacrament

We stand

The Peace

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to his grace.

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

*We may share a sign of Christ's peace with those around us, by shaking hands and saying
"Peace be with you".*

*As we sing the next Hymn, the bread and wine are brought to the altar; our offerings for
the Foodbank and money to support ministry and mission are collected and presented also.*

Offertory Hymn: Spirit God of All Creation

Words: Joe Grayland - Tune: CWM RHONDDA

- 1 Spirit God of all creation,
Te Wairua welcome here.
We, your people of the mountains,
rivers, forests, and the air;
gather now to sing in honour;
in God's presence make us one;
In God's presence make us one.**
- 2 Here we gather in thanksgiving
for God-with-us in our lives.
One in joy for all you bring us;
one in hope for all the world.
Holy Spirit searching fire,
lead us in our song of praise;
Lead us in our song of praise.**
- 3 Te Wairua, gentle wisdom,
you who know the depths of God.
Having guided those before us,
lead us now to know the Way.
Make us open to the Gospel,
living witness to the Word;
Living witness to the Word.**
- 4 Holy Trinity we call you;
mighty God and source of all.
Here redeemed is your creation,
Jesus Christ our saving Lord.
Te Wairua, Holy Spirit,
fill us with your loving power;
Fill us with your loving power.**

The Preparation of the Gifts

God of mercy and compassion,
your Word calls us home to faith and love,
accept all we offer you this day;
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord is here.
God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to offer thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good
to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days
you lead us into the desert of repentance
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline
we may grow in grace
and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service
you bring us back to your generous heart.
Through study of your holy word
you open our eyes to your presence in the world
and free our hands to welcome others
into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast
with joyful hearts and minds, we bless you
for your mercy and join with saints and angels
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

All glory and thanksgiving to you, holy Father;
on the night before he died
your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread;
when he had given you thanks,
he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:
Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you;
do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup;
when he had given you thanks,
he gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the
new covenant which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins;
do this as often as you drink it,
to remember me.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ;
your death we show forth;
your resurrection we proclaim;
your coming we await;
Amen! Come Lord Jesus.**

Therefore loving God,
recalling your great goodness to us in Christ,
his suffering and death,
his resurrection and ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate our redemption
with this bread of life and this cup of salvation.
Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving
which we offer through Christ our great high priest.

Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive
may be to us the body and blood of Christ,
and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power,
may be renewed for the service of your kingdom.

United in Christ with all who stand before you
in earth and heaven, we worship you, O God,
in songs of everlasting praise.

**Blessing, honour and glory be yours,
here and everywhere, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we pray ...

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

**We who are many are one body,
for we all share the one bread.**

The Invitation to Communion

Draw near and receive the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ in remembrance that he died for us.

Let us feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*Communion will be served at standing stations at the Sanctuary steps - all are welcome to receive the bread and wine at communion, (however please note that intinction, ie dipping the wafer into the wine chalice, is **NOT** permitted); although you are welcome to receive the bread only if you prefer, or to come forward for a blessing only.*

If you need communion served to you in your seat, please indicate to the servers.

Post-Communion Sentence

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit:
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Psalm 51: 17

Prayer after Communion

Praise and glory to you, Jesus Christ our Saviour,
for you do not call the righteous
but us sinners to repentance.

You draw us away from the easy road
that would lead to our destruction.

You call us instead to seek God's kingdom,
to strive for what is right,
and to lay up our treasure in heaven.

**Faithful God, in this communion
you increase our faith and hope and love.
Lead us in the path of Christ
who is your Word of life. Amen.**

The Lenten Wreath

Our Lenten wreath reminds us of Jesus' temptations in the wilderness, and His journey towards the cross of Good Friday. Today, as we take another step in our journey through this Lenten season, we now extinguish the second candle in the Lenten wreath, and we pray ...

Loving God, keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn:

Love will be our Lenten calling

TiS684 © Elizabeth J. Smith, 1999 - Tune: PICARDY

- 1 Love will be our Lenten calling,
love to shake and shatter sin,
waking every closed, cold spirit,
stirring new life deep within,
till the quickened heart remembers
what our Easter birth can mean.**

The Blessing

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourself, and to take up your cross
and follow him;
and the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you, and remain with you for ever.
Amen.

We share any notices and news

Closing Hymn: **Hope of Abraham and Sarah**

Words: Ruth Duck © 2005 GIA Publications - Used with permission

Tune: ODE TO JOY

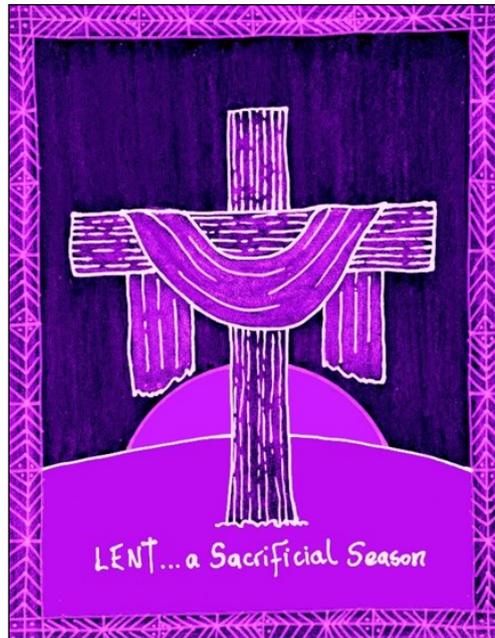
- 1 **Hope of Abraham and Sarah,
friend of Hagar, God of Ruth,
you desire that ev'ry people
worship you in spirit, truth.
Meet us in our sacred places,
mosque and synagogue and church,
Show us paths of understanding;
bless us in our common search.**

- 2 **Root us in our own tradition,
faith our forebears handed down.
Grow us in your grace and knowledge;
plant our feet on solid ground.
Cultivate the seeds of sharing
in this world of many creeds.
Keep us open, wise in learning,
bearing fruit in loving deeds.**

- 3 **Hope of Abraham and Sarah,
sov'reign God whom we adore,
form in us your new creation
free of violence, hate, and war.
So may Torah, cross and crescent,
each a sign of life made new,
point us t'ward your love and justice,
earth at peace and one in you.**

The Dismissal

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.
Amen. We go in the name of Christ.



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