

Reflections

*A quiet contemplative service
lasting about 40 minutes*

Walking in the Wilderness Together



**Sunday 1 March
6pm**

**The Parish Church of
St Andrew and St Cuthman,
Steyning**

Please do not feel the need to wait until the concluding music has finished before leaving.

Please leave quietly.

If you would like someone to pray privately with you, please walk round to one of the side aisles.

Please take this sheet home with you.

Please join us for our next Reflections on 5 April (Easter Sunday) at 6pm, which will have the theme of 'Resurrection'

If you would like to be part of the Reflections team – please let one of us know.

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REFLECTIONS

Sunday 1 March

WALKING IN THE WILDERNESS TOGETHER

ENTRY MUSIC

Miserere Me Deus
(based on Psalm 51)

Miserere mei, Deus: secundum magnam
misericordiam tuam

(Have mercy upon me, O God: after thy great
goodness)

Gregorio Allegri (1582-1652)
Performed by VOCES8

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

OPENING PRAYER

God of the wilderness,
You led your people by cloud and fire,
And you walked the desert paths in
Jesus.

Be with us now
As we name the places of uncertainty
in our lives.

Where the way feels unclear,
Walk beside us.

Where we feel alone,
Remind us we are held.

All **Amen.**

BIBLE READING

Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where he was tempted by the devil for forty days. Jesus ate nothing all that time and became very hungry.

Then the devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become a loaf of bread."

BLESSING

May God who goes before you prepare
the way.

May Christ who walks beside you give you
courage.

May the Spirit who dwells within you be
your strength and peace.

And may you know, in this wilderness
season and beyond,
that you do not walk alone.

And the blessing of God Almighty...

CLOSING MUSIC

The King of Love my Shepherd is

The King of love my shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his,
And he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul he leadeth,
And, where the verdant pastures grow,
With food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love he sought me,
And on his shoulder gently laid,
And home rejoicing brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy Cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
Thy unction grace bestoweth;
And oh, what transport of delight
From thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
Within thy house forever.

John Rutter (b 1945)
Performed by the Cambridge Singers
Conducted by John Rutter
Music: Irish traditional, arr. John Rutter
Words: H.W. Baker, based on Psalm 23

BIBLE VERSES FOR MEDITATION

Deuteronomy 31:8 - It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you."

Isaiah 43:19 - I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness.

Psalms 139:23-24 - Search me, O God, and know my heart...

2 Corinthians 13:5 - Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith...

Romans 12:2 - Be transformed by the renewing of your mind...

James 4:8 - Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you...

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 - Two are better than one... if one falls, the other helps them up.

PRAYER

Faithful God,
you know the landscapes we are
walking —
the places of loss, waiting, and change.

When we feel tired, give us rest.
When we feel afraid, give us courage.
When we feel alone,
place companions alongside us —
human and divine.

Help us to trust that even here,
you are at work,
shaping hope from uncertainty
and life from dust.

All **Amen.**

But Jesus told him, "No. The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil took him up and revealed to him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. "I will give you the glory of these kingdoms and authority over them," the devil said, "because they are mine to give to anyone I please. I will give it all to you if you will worship me."

Jesus replied, "The Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'"

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, 'He will order his angels to protect and guard you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'"

Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'"

When the devil had finished tempting Jesus, he left him until the next opportunity came.

Luke 4:1-13 (NLT)

POEM

Blessing for the Wilderness

When you come to the edge of all you
know
And you are stepping into what you do
not know,
May God give you the courage to go on.
When the path disappears beneath your
feet
And the destination is hidden from view,
May God grant you trust in the next step.
When you feel alone in the vastness,
unsure of your direction,
May you sense the quiet companionship
Of those who have walked this way
before you.
And when you wonder whether God has
forgotten you,
May you discover that God has been
walking beside you
All along.

Jan Richardson

MUSIC INTO REFLECTIVE SILENCE

The Summons

(Will You Come and Follow Me)

Will you come and follow me if I but call
your name?

Will you go where you don't know and
never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown? Will you
let my name be known,

Will you let my life be grown in you and
you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call
your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind and never
be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare should your
life attract or scare?

Will you let me answer prayer in you and
you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call
your name?

Will you set the prisoners free and never
be the same?

Will you kiss the leper clean and do such
as this unseen,

And admit to what I mean in you and you
in me?

Lord your summons echoes true when
you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you and never be
the same.

In your company I'll go where your love
and footsteps show.

Thus I'll move and live and grow in you
and you in me.

*by John L. Bell (b 1949) and
Graham Maule (1958-2019)*

Performed by Robert Kochis

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Music: The Jubilate Group

PERIOD OF SILENT REFLECTION (10-15 minutes)

Please feel free to move to different areas
of the church, if you wish, to reflect and
pray.

MUSIC OUT OF REFLECTION

Lord, I Need You

Lord I come, I confess

Bowing here, I find my rest

Without you, I fall apart

You're the one that guides my heart

Chorus:

Lord, I need you, oh, I need you

Every hour, I need you

My one defence, my righteousness

Oh God, how I need you

Where sin runs deep, your grace is more

Where grace is found is where you are

And where you are, Lord, I am free

Holiness is Christ in me

So teach my song to rise to you

When temptation comes my way

And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on you

Jesus, You're my hope and stay

by Matt Maher / Daniel Carson /

Jesse Pryor Reeves / Kristian Paul Stanfill /

Christy L. Nockels

Performed by Matt Maher

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POEM

Lost

Stand still.

The trees ahead and bushes beside you
are not lost.

Wherever you are is called Here,

And you must treat it as a powerful
stranger,

Must ask permission to know it and be
known.

The forest breathes. Listen. It answers,
I have made this place around you.

If you leave it, you may come back again,
saying, Here.

No two trees are the same to Raven.

No two branches are the same to Wren.

by David Wagoner