

*Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2025  
The First Sunday in Lent*

*Minister: Rev. Ian Taylor, A.C.I.B.S., B.D., Th.M., Dip. P.S.R.P.*

*Guest Preacher: The Very Rev. David W Lacy, D.L., B.A.,  
B.D., D.Litt.*

*Musical Director: Mr. Alan Craig. B.Mus., P.G.C.E.*

*Members of the congregation who are able to stand are invited to do  
so as the Bible is brought in and taken out of the Church.*

*Greetings, Welcome and Intimations*

*Introit*

**Theme of Service: "The Way of Humility and Weakness"**

**Call to Worship – 1 Corinthians, Chapter 1, verses 18 and 25**

**Hymn 405 We sing the praise of Him who died**

- 1 We sing the praise of him who died,  
of him who died upon the cross;  
the sinner's hope though all deride -  
for this we count the world but loss.
- 2 Inscribed upon the cross we see  
in shining letters, 'God is love';  
he bears our sins upon the tree;  
he brings us mercy from above.
- 3 The cross! it takes our guilt away:  
it holds the fainting spirit up;  
it cheers with hope the gloomy day,  
and sweetens every bitter cup.
- 4 It makes the coward spirit brave  
and nerves the feeble arm for fight;  
it takes its terror from the grave,  
and gilds the bed of death with light;

5 The balm of life, the cure of woe,  
the measure and the pledge of love,  
the sinner's refuge here below,  
the angels' theme in heaven above.

Thomas Kelly (1769-1855 Copied from HymnQuest: Copyright Licence Users' Edition  
HymnQuest ID: 63530:

**Call to Prayer - 1 Corinthians, Chapter 1, verse 27**

**Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

**Children's Address - "H.A.M. the Snail"**

**St Luke 4: 1-13**

4 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."' <sup>5</sup> Then the devil<sup>[a]</sup> led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup> And the devil<sup>[b]</sup> said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup> If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' <sup>8</sup> Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' <sup>9</sup> Then the devil<sup>[c]</sup> took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup> for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", <sup>11</sup> and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' <sup>12</sup> Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' <sup>13</sup> When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

**Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn 374 From heaven you came, helpless babe,**

- 1 From heaven you came, helpless babe,  
entered our world, your glory veiled;  
not to be served but to serve,  
and give your life that we might live.  
*This is our God, the Servant King,  
he calls us now to follow him,  
to bring our lives as a daily offering  
of worship to the Servant King.*
- 2 There in the garden of tears,  
my heavy load he chose to bear;  
his heart with sorrow was torn,  
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.

**Chorus**

- 3 Come see his hands and his feet,  
the scars that speak of sacrifice,  
hands that flung stars into space  
to cruel nails surrendered.

**Chorus**

- 4 So let us learn how to serve,  
and in our lives enthrone him;  
each other's needs to prefer,  
for it is Christ we're serving.

**Chorus**

Graham Kendrick (born 1950 © 1983 Thankyou Music/Adm Used by permission.

Genesis 4: 1-16

4 Now the man knew his wife Eve, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, 'I have produced[a] a man with the help of the Lord.' 2 Next she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a

keeper of sheep, and Cain a tiller of the ground. 3 In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, 4 and Abel for his part brought of the firstlings of his flock, their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, 5 but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. 6 The Lord said to Cain, 'Why are you angry, and accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it.'

8 Cain said to his brother Abel, 'Let us go out to the field.' [b] And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. 9 Then the Lord said to Cain, 'Where is your brother Abel?' He said, 'I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?' 10 And the Lord said, 'What have you done? Listen; your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground! 11 And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. 12 When you till the ground, it will no longer yield to you its strength; you will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.' 13 Cain said to the Lord, 'My punishment is greater than I can bear! 14 Today you have driven me away from the soil, and I shall be hidden from your face; I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and anyone who meets me may kill me.' 15 Then the Lord said to him, 'Not so! [c] Whoever kills Cain will suffer a sevenfold vengeance.' And the Lord put a mark on Cain, so that no one who came upon him would kill him. 16 Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord, and settled in the land of Nod, [d] east of Eden.

Anthem

## Philippians 2: 5 -11

<sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was<sup>[a]</sup> in Christ Jesus,  
<sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.  
<sup>9</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
<sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

### **Hymn 549 How deep the Father's Love for us,**

1. How deep the father's love for us,  
how vast beyond all measure,  
that he should give his only Son  
to make a wretch his treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss;  
the Father turns his face away,  
as wounds which mar the chosen One  
bring many souls to glory.

2. Behold the man upon a cross,  
my sin upon his shoulders;  
ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held him there,  
my pardon he accomplished;  
his dying breath has brought me life -  
I know that 'it is finished'.
3. I will not boast in anything,  
no gifts, no power, no wisdom;  
but I will boast in Jesus Christ,  
his death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from all of this?  
I cannot give an answer;  
but this I know with all my heart,  
his wounds have paid my ransom.

Stuart Townend © 1995 Thankyou Music/Adm. Used By Permission. CCL Licence No.  
C702912 Copied from HymnQuest: Copyright Licence Users' Edition HymnQuest ID: 74733

### **Sermon - "The Mark of Cain"**

### **The Offering (& Sung Doxology: Hymn 807)**

### **Prayers of Dedication and Intercession**

### **Hymn 458 At the name of Jesus**

1. At the name of Jesus  
every knee shall bow,  
every tongue confess him  
King of Glory now.  
'Tis the Father's pleasure  
we should call him Lord,  
who from the beginning  
was the mighty Word.

2. Brothers, sisters, name him,  
with love as strong as death,  
but with awe and wonder,  
and with bated breath!  
He is God the Saviour,  
he is Christ the Lord,  
ever to be worshipped,  
trusted and adored.

3. In your hearts enthrone him;  
there let him subdue  
all that is not holy,  
all that is not true:  
let his grace support you  
in temptation's hour;  
and his will enfold you  
in its light and power.

4. In his Father's glory  
Christ shall come again,  
angel hosts proclaiming  
his return to reign.  
For all wreaths of empire  
meet upon his brow,  
and our hearts confess him  
King of Glory now.

Caroline Maria Noel (1817-1877)

Copied from HymnQuest: Copyright Licence Users' EditionHymnQuest ID: 41830

**Benediction**

**Choral Amen**