

Sunday 6th March 2022 (1st Sunday of Lent)

Three Common Temptations

Derrick Hill, Baptist Minister (Retired)

We believe in God the Father

We believe in God the Father,
God almighty, by whose plan
Earth and heaven sprang to being,
All created things began.
We believe in Christ the Saviour,
Son of God in human frame,
Virgin born, the child of Mary
Upon whom the Spirit came.

Christ who on the cross forsaken,
Like a lamb to slaughter led,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
He descended to the dead.
We believe in Jesus risen,
Heaven's king to rule and reign,
To the Father's side ascended
Till as judge he comes again.

We believe in God the Spirit;
In one church, below, above:
Saints of God in one communion,
One in holiness and love.
So by faith, our sins forgiven,
Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,
We shall rise with him in glory
To the life that knows no end.

PRAYERS FOR UKRAINE AND SURROUNDING NATIONS

- For those who live in fear
- For those keeping vigil that peace may come
- For those who identify with the oppressed

- For those who enable the sufferers to be heard
- For those who campaign for justice
- For the peacemakers
- That all may find true peace

My hope is built on nothing less

My hope is built on nothing less
 Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
 I dare not trust the sweetest frame
 But wholly lean on Jesus' name

*On Christ the solid rock I stand
 All other ground is sinking sand
 All other ground is sinking sand*

When darkness veils his lovely face
 I rest on His unchanging grace
 In every high and stormy gale
 My anchor holds within the veil

His oath, his covenant, his blood
 Supports me in the 'whelming flood
 When all around my soul gives way
 He then is all my hope and stay

When He shall come with trumpet sound
 Oh may I then in Him be found
 Dressed in his righteousness alone
 Faultless to stand before the throne

Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 6.4-19

⁴ Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the door-frames of your houses and on your gates.

¹⁰ When the Lord your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you – a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, ¹¹ houses filled

with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant – then when you eat and are satisfied, ¹² be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

¹³ Fear the Lord your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name. ¹⁴ Do not follow other gods, the gods of the peoples around you; ¹⁵ for the Lord your God, who is among you, is a jealous God and his anger will burn against you, and he will destroy you from the face of the land. ¹⁶ Do not put the Lord your God to the test as you did at Massah. ¹⁷ Be sure to keep the commands of the Lord your God and the stipulations and decrees he has given you. ¹⁸ Do what is right and good in the Lord's sight, so that it may go well with you and you may go in and take over the good land that the Lord promised on oath to your ancestors, ¹⁹ thrusting out all your enemies before you, as the Lord said.

New Testament Reading: Luke 4.1-13

⁴ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

³ The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.'

⁴ Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man shall not live on bread alone."'

⁵ The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And he said to him, 'I will give you all their authority and splendour; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. ⁷ If you worship me, it will all be yours.'

⁸ Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Worship the Lord your God and serve him only."'

⁹ The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down from here. ¹⁰ For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you

to guard you carefully;

¹¹ they will lift you up in their hands,

so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

¹² Jesus answered, 'It is said: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."'

¹³ When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

Collect for the First Sunday of Lent

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves
in obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness
so may we know your power to save;
through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
one God, now and for ever. Amen

Sermon

The Perfect Wisdom of our God

The perfect wisdom of our God,
Revealed in all the universe:
All things created by His hand,
And held together at His command.
He knows the mysteries of the seas,
The secrets of the stars are His;
He guides the planets on their way,
And turns the earth through another day.

The matchless wisdom of His ways,
That mark the path of righteousness;
His word a lamp unto my feet,
His Spirit teaching and guiding me.
And oh, the mystery of the cross,
That God should suffer for the lost
So that the fool might shame the wise,
And all the glory might go to Christ!

Oh grant me wisdom from above,
To pray for peace and cling to love,
And teach me humbly to receive
The sun and rain of Your sovereignty.
Each strand of sorrow has a place
Within this tapestry of grace;
So through the trials I choose to say:
"Your perfect will in Your perfect way."

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A Time of Confession

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord,
we come to You in sorrow for our sins

and confess to You our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength,
and not by the power of Your resurrection.

In Your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,
as faithless and not believing.

In Your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone,
and doubted our home in heaven.

In Your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, Hear us and help us.

An Assurance of Pardon

May the God of love
bring us back to Himself,
forgive us our sins,
and assure us of His eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

We draw our prayers together in the words that Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name.
Your Kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,**

**the power and glory are yours
now and forever.
Amen.**

Let Your Living Water Flow

Let Your living water flow over my soul
Let your Holy Spirit come and take control
Of every situation that has troubled my mind
All my cares and burdens on to you I roll

*Jesus, Jesus, Jesus
Father, Father, Father
Spirit, Spirit, Spirit*

Let your living water flow over my soul
Let your Holy Spirit come and take control
Of every situation that has troubled my mind
All my cares and burdens onto you I roll

Come now Holy Spirit and take control
Hold me in your loving arms and make me whole
Wipe away all doubt and fear and take my pride
Draw me to your love and keep me by your side

Give your life to Jesus, let Him fill your soul
Let Him take you in His arms and make you whole
As you give your life to Him, He'll set you free
You will live and reign with Him eternally

A Northumbrian Community Blessing

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,
wherever He may send you.
May He guide you through the wilderness,
protect you through the storm.
May He bring you home rejoicing
at the wonders He has shown you.
May he bring you home rejoicing
once again into our doors

From Celtic Daily Prayer