

Beaminster Area Team

God our Father, renew our hope. By the Holy Spirit's power, strengthen us to pray readily serve joyfully and grow abundantly rejoicing in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Week: 7th February 2021, 2nd Sunday before Lent

Old Testament: Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31

Psalm: Psalm 104: 26-end

New Testament: Colossians 1: 15-20

Gospel: John 1: 1-14

Reflection on the Gospel reading, by Revd. Chris Luckraft

It is no accident that St John opens with the same words that open the book of Genesis, the first creation story - "in the beginning".

And in Genesis two things follow on - the spirit of God moving across the face of the deep and then the spoken word. Here in John we have the word made flesh - the actual physical presence of God in this world - without a baby! And that is why this reading is so appropriate now. With the terrors of the pandemic, the economic disaster that is evolving, the lack of education for our children and the mental stress so many now suffer from, it is only too easy to think that God has deserted us - the virtual cancellation of Christmas, no Emmanuel, no God with us. But the real truth is enshrined in that majestic and mysterious reading: the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

No matter what we think we are deprived of, no matter how lonely we may feel, despite the fears surrounding us - this reading assures us that the word has become flesh - God is with us. Emmanuel, Alleluia! And if we spend some time in reflecting on that eternal truth then we can join with St John in proclaiming, "We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Collect for the 2nd Sunday before Lent

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

A Useful Telephone Link from The Church of England. This is a free number where you can listen to prayers, reflections and hymns and join in worship with others.



Worship to enjoy at home

BBC Radio 4, 8.10am Sunday Morning Worship, Songs of Praise BBC1 1.15pm