

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: 21st February 2021, First Sunday of Lent

Old Testament: Genesis 9: 8-17

Psalm: Psalm 25: 1-9

New Testament: 1 Peter 3: 18-end

Gospel: Mark 1: 9-15

Reflection on the Gospel reading, by Barbara Simmonds



In the last verse of our gospel today, when Jesus came to Galilee after his time in the wilderness, he said 'The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God has come near, repent, and believe in the good news'.

Repent literally means to change your mind, or your mindset; in other words, to change your attitudes, the way you look at things.

This year, the focus of Fairtrade Fortnight, which starts tomorrow, is the growing challenges that climate change brings to the communities Fairtrade works with. Despite contributing the least to the climate crisis, smallholders in developing countries are disproportionately affected, and have fewer resources to adapt to changes in climate. For us as individuals, the way that we can help to improve the livelihoods of these farmers is to choose Fairtrade. Fairtrade tries to provide farmers with a decent standard of living – enough to cover their farming costs, and their basic human rights, like a nutritious diet, education for their children, and healthcare. Maybe during Lent we might try to be more mindful and aware of where the things we enjoy come from? Of how they are grown and produced? To make sure the tea, coffee and chocolate we enjoy are Fairtrade? To make sure that our enjoyment doesn't come at the cost of those who produce it?

In what ways do we need to repent, to change our attitudes and our actions, so that the Kingdom of God can break in?

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

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