

## 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: 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Third Sunday of Lent

**Old Testament:** Exodus 20:1-17  
**Psalm:** Psalm 19 or (19: 7-end)  
**New Testament:** 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25  
**Gospel:** John 2: 13-22

### Reflection on the Gospel reading, by Revd. Fiona Beale

Jesus was defiantly passionate about chucking things that don't belong in the temple out, because he tells us in verse 16 'Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!'. He is quite plainly telling those who are selling the doves, and all who are around him, how he is related to God. As usual nobody reacts to this, but the religious authorities who were in charge of looking after the temple are stunned and did nothing to stop him.

In Scripture we see over and over again where Jesus was interrupting, disrupting, overturning and throwing out and highlighting to us what does not belong in the Temple. But regardless of who we are, what we've done or left undone, or how we see or judge our life, we are the temple of God today and there is one who stands in the temple of our lives who's interrupting our everyday daydreaming. This is God the Holy Spirit, who dwells and tries to keep us on track and in alignment to God's will for our lives. But our distractions, our desires, obsessions, negative thinking about neighbours and other sinful behaviour reduce and block our vision to the inner sanctuary where God is situated. They keep us in the outer courts, they prevent us from participating fully in worshipping and praising God in our hearts and minds.

So, the questions are, 'What does the temple of your life need today?' 'What are the tables in your life that need to be overturned?' 'What animals need to be driven out?' 'What elements of ourselves do we need to make friends with?' Amen.

### Collect for the Third Sunday of Lent

Almighty God,  
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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.

### Worship to enjoy at home

BBC Radio 4, 8.10am, Sunday Morning Worship BBC 1 at 11.15am, Songs of Praise BBC1 1.15pm

**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.

