

## 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: 6<sup>th</sup> March 2022, First Sunday of Lent**

**Old Testament: Deuteronomy 26: 1-11**

**Psalm: Psalm 91: 1-2,9-16\***

**New Testament: Romans 10: 8b-13**

**Gospel: Luke 4: 1-13**

### **Reflection on the Gospel reading, written by Revd. Chris Luckraft**

Surprisingly I think that the Temptations of Jesus provides plenty of food for thought about the current world situation. The three temptations are about three things we would all be tempted by.

Firstly, turning a stone into a loaf of bread - hunger. Food is a basic necessity and the search for food has been the cause of many wars and tribal disputes for millennia. Your neighbor has plenty and you don't have enough Ukraine is known as the bread basket of Europe.

Secondly, worship the devil and Jesus would have authority over all the nations of the world - power. Power is the aphrodisiac of so many people in authority, it is so attractive to know that everyone else would do what you want.

Thirdly, the kamikaze leap from the temple roof - spectacular and headline grabbing. The allure of popularity and fame is widespread, but it is always short lived - it lasts until the next sensation comes along.

Jesus rejected all three ways, the way of greed to satisfy one's own desires, the way of absolute power and authority and the way of popular acclaim. He rejected them because they were short cuts; he rejected them because they were not the ways of God; he rejected them because they all rejected the primacy of love.

Food for thought, which the leaders of the world's nations would do well to ponder and follow Jesus' example.

### **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.

**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