



**The Parish of Tidenham  
together with St Briavels, Hewelsfield & Brockweir**

**Lent 2023.**

**Living the Christian Life: Being a Disciple of Jesus Christ**



**A BIBLE READING FOR EACH DAY  
OF LENT & HOLY WEEK**

In this Year of Discipleship and season of Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, we are once again invited on a journey of deepening our relationship with the Lord. The theme for Lent is 'Living the Christian Life' and we will look at 5 areas of Christian life

- 1. Living God's Way:** God's commandments, ethics and lifestyle
- 2. Serving the Lord:** Christian ministry and calling
- 3. Your money and your life:** Christian attitudes to money and possessions
- 4. Learning to Love:** Relationships and matters of forgiveness and reconciliation
- 5. Sharing the Faith:** Sharing our story

Material will be available online through the Parish Website [www.tidenhamparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.tidenhamparishchurch.co.uk) (under the News section) and on the Parish Facebook Group each day.

***As God's beloved children and as disciples of Jesus Christ let us seriously consider how we might know Jesus more clearly, love him more dearly and follow him more nearly, day by day this Lent.***

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

Matthew 28:19-20

*"So what is the engine of the church? Discipleship. I've said it many times: If you make disciples, you will always get the church. But if you try to build the church, you will rarely get disciples."*

Mike Breen, September 2011

*"Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ."*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

*"The church exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became man for no other purpose."*

C.S. Lewis

*"All who are called to salvation are called to discipleship, no exceptions, no excuses!"*

Bill Hull

*"The greatest issue facing the world today, with all its heartbreaking needs, is whether those who, by profession or culture, are identified as 'Christians' will become disciples – students, apprentices, practitioners – of Jesus Christ, steadily learning from him how to live the life of the Kingdom of the Heavens into every corner of human existence."*

Dallas Willard

*"Since making disciples is the main task of the church, every church ought to be able to answer two questions:*

*What is our plan for making disciples of Jesus?*

*Is our plan working?"*

Dallas Willard

## Living the Christian Life: Being a Disciple of Jesus Christ

### **Day 1: Ash Wednesday. *Return to me with all your heart.***

Joel 2:12-14 in the Message version of the Bible says 'Change Your Life.'<sup>12</sup> But there's also this, it's not too late— God's personal Message!— "Come back to me and really mean it! Come fasting and weeping, sorry for your sins!"<sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup>Change your life, not just your clothes. Come back to God, *your* God. And here's why: God is kind and merciful. He takes a deep breath, puts up with a lot, this most patient God, extravagant in love, always ready to cancel catastrophe. Who knows? Maybe he'll do it now, maybe he'll turn around and show pity. Maybe, when all's said and done, there'll be blessings full and robust for your God!

### **Day 2: Thursday. *Choose life! (Deuteronomy 30:19)***

Luke 9:23-25 says,<sup>23</sup> Then he said to them all, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. <sup>25</sup>What does it profit them if they gain the whole world, but lose or forfeit themselves?

### **Day 3: Friday. *Create in me a pure heart O God. Restore the joy of your salvation.***

Verses from Psalm 51 in the Message version say, Generous in love—God, give grace! Huge in mercy—wipe out my bad record. Scrub away my guilt, soak out my sins in your laundry. I know how bad I've been; my sins are staring me down.

Soak me in your laundry and I'll come out clean, scrub me and I'll have a snow-white life. Tune me in to foot-tapping songs, set these once-broken bones to dancing. Don't look too close for blemishes, give me a clean bill of health. God, make a fresh start in me, shape a Genesis week from the chaos of my life.

### **Day 4: Saturday. *If you... then you will find your joy in the Lord!***

Isaiah 58:9b onwards says, "If you get rid of unfair practices, quit blaming victims, quit gossiping about other people's sins, If you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out, Your lives will begin to glow in the darkness, your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight. I will always show you where to go. I'll give you a full life in the emptiest of

places— firm muscles, strong bones. You'll be like a well-watered garden, a gurgling spring that never runs dry.

You'll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew, rebuild the foundations from out of your past.

You'll be known as those who can fix anything, restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate, make the community liveable again. <sup>13-14</sup> "If you watch your step on the Sabbath and don't use my holy day for personal advantage, If you treat the Sabbath as a day of joy, God's holy day as a celebration, If you honour it by refusing 'business as usual,' making money, running here and there— Then you'll be free to enjoy God!

## **WEEK 1: Living God's Way: *God's commandments, ethics and lifestyle***

**DAY 5. Sunday. Lent 1. *Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.***

Matthew 4:8-10 says, <sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' "

**Day 6: Monday. *If we love God, we'll love our neighbour...***

Matthew 25:37-40 says, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup> And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" <sup>40</sup> And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.

**Day 7: Tuesday. *Love the Lord your God and keep his commandments***

Deuteronomy 6:5-6 says, <sup>5</sup> You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. <sup>6</sup> Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart.

Jesus says, <sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

<sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”  
(Matthew 22:37-39)

**Day 8: Wednesday. Lord, may your Holy Spirit live and work in me.**

Galatians 5:16-23 says, <sup>16</sup> Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, <sup>21</sup> envy, <sup>[e]</sup> drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup> By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

**Day 9: Thursday. Lord, I want to live well for you but it's a real struggle. Help me!**

Romans 7 in the Message reads, “I know that all God’s commands are spiritual, but I’m not. Isn’t this also your experience?” For if I know the law but still can’t keep it, and if the power of sin within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions, I obviously need help! I realize that I don’t have what it takes. I can will it, but I can’t *do* it. I decide to do good, but I don’t *really* do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway... Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time.

It happens so regularly that it’s predictable. The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up. I truly delight in God’s commands, but it’s pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight. Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge. I’ve tried everything and nothing helps. I’m at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn’t that the real question? The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does.

**Day 10: Friday. Lord, examine my heart and change it.**

Matthew 7:21-23 says, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in

your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

**Day 11: Saturday. *The Lord is our life! What does this look like?***

Verses from Colossians 3 say, <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup>for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

<sup>5</sup>Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry).

<sup>8</sup>But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive<sup>[d]</sup> language from your mouth. <sup>9</sup>Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup>and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator.

<sup>12</sup>As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with... *read the rest of the chapter for the details!*

## **WEEK 2: Serving the Lord: *Christian ministry and calling***

**DAY 12. Sunday. Lent 2. “Follow me”**

Matthew 9:9-12 says, <sup>9</sup>As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector’s booth. “Follow me,” he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. <sup>10</sup>While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. <sup>11</sup>When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” <sup>12</sup>On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. <sup>13</sup>But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

**Day 13: Monday. *Lord, give me an understanding of this bible passage and the courage to live it!***

Romans 12:1-2 says, <sup>12</sup>Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not conform to the pattern of

this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**Day 14: Tuesday. *Lord, what might I be called to in the Body of Christ, the Church?***

Romans 12:4-8 says, <sup>4</sup> For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; <sup>7</sup> if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

**Day 15: Wednesday. *Lord, again what part are you calling me to play?***

1 Corinthians 12 says, <sup>12</sup> Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For we were all baptized by <sup>[c]</sup> one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. <sup>14</sup> Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

**Day 16: Thursday. *If we're struggling to know God's call, the Lord has revealed how to live...***

Micah 6:8 in the Message says, <sup>8</sup> But he's already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women. It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbour, be compassionate and loyal in your love, And don't take yourself too seriously— take God seriously.

**Day 17: Friday. *We're called to live out our faith in day to day life... as salt and light.***

Matthew 5:13-16 says, <sup>13</sup> 'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

<sup>14</sup> 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your



light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

**Day 18: Saturday. *Sev'n whole days, not one in sev'n, I will praise Thee;***

The Five Marks of Mission in the Anglican Church:

The mission of the Church is the mission of Christ

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

### **WEEK 3: Your money and your life: *Christian attitudes to money and possessions***

**DAY 19. Sunday. Lent 3. *What is your financial offering to the Lord?***

Luke 21 in the Message says, <sup>1-4</sup> Just then he looked up and saw the rich people dropping offerings in the collection plate. Then he saw a poor widow put in two pennies. He said, "The plain truth is that this widow has given by far the largest offering today. All these others made offerings that they'll never miss; she gave extravagantly what she couldn't afford—she gave her all!"

**Day 20: Monday. *Life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.***

Luke 12:14-20 says, 'Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.'<sup>16</sup> Then he told them a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly.'<sup>17</sup> And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?"<sup>18</sup> Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods."<sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry."<sup>20</sup> But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?"<sup>21</sup> So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.'

**Day 21: Tuesday. *We're called to give to others, but when we give...***

Matthew 6 in the Message says, "Be especially careful when you are trying to be good so that you don't make a performance out of it. It might be good theatre, but the God who made you won't be applauding.

<sup>2-4</sup> "When you do something for someone else, don't call attention to yourself. You've seen them in action, I'm sure—'playactors' I call them—treating prayer meeting and street corner alike as a stage, acting compassionate as long as someone is watching, playing to the crowds. They get applause, true, but that's all they get. When you help someone out, don't think about how it looks. Just do it—quietly and unobtrusively. That is the way your God, who conceived you in love, working behind the scenes, helps you out.

**Day 22: Wednesday. *Choose to use what we have for good***

1 Timothy 6:17-19 says, "As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life."

**Day 23: Thursday. *What is my heart truly set on?***

Matthew 6:19-21 says, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**Day 24: Friday. *Blessed are you who are poor, but watch out if you're rich***

Luke 6 says, "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. <sup>21</sup> Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. <sup>22</sup> Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.

<sup>24</sup> "But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort.

<sup>25</sup> Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. <sup>26</sup> Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

**Day 25: Saturday. Consider your financial giving to your church**

2 Corinthians Chapter 9 in the Message says, <sup>6-7</sup> Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop. I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving.

**WEEK 4: Learning to Love:**

***Relationships and matters of forgiveness and reconciliation***

**DAY 26. Sunday. Lent 4. Love!**

Romans 12:9-18 says, <sup>9</sup> Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves. <sup>11</sup> Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. <sup>17</sup> Do not be conceited.

<sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

**Day 27: Monday. Jesus says love your neighbour and your enemies.**

***Sometimes they are the some people!***

Matthew 5:33-34 says, <sup>43</sup> 'You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy." <sup>44</sup> But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

**Day 28: Tuesday. Love is for giving. Lord, help me to forgive.**

Mark 11:25 says, And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."

**Day 29: Wednesday. Love in action**

1 John 3:11&18 say, <sup>11</sup> For this is the message you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. <sup>18</sup> Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action

**Day 30: Thursday. *What is love?***

“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

**Day 31: Friday. *Forgiveness is giving up all hope of a better past. Here is a little of Corrie Ten Boom’s testimony of forgiveness which may resonate with those who have been deeply wounded***

The man approached her after the service saying, "How good is it to know that, as you say, all our sins are at the bottom of the sea! You mentioned Ravensbrück in your talk. I was a guard there, but since that time I have become a Christian. I know that God has forgiven me for the cruel things I did there, but I would like to hear it from your lips as well - will you forgive me?" How could Corrie extend forgiveness after seeing her sister die at the hands of such cruel injustice? But after preaching about God's forgiveness - how could she not? Corrie records the experience in her book 'Tramp For The Lord'. She writes:

"I stood there - I whose sins had again and again to be forgiven - and could not forgive. Betsie had died in that place - could he erase her slow terrible death simply for the asking? I wrestled with the most difficult thing I ever had to do. For I had to do it - I knew that. The message that God forgives has a prior condition: that we forgive those who have injured us."

The man had put out his hand to shake hers, to which she prayed: "Jesus help me! I can lift my hand. I can do that much. You supply the feeling!"

As Corrie put out her hand, she remembers: "(I felt) a current started in my shoulder, raced down my arm and sprang into our joined hands. And then this healing warmth seemed to flood my whole being, bringing tears to my eyes." "I forgive you brother!" Corrie cried. "With all my heart." "I had never known God's love so intensely as I did then." She wrote, "I realized it was not my love. I had tried, and did not have the power. It was the power of the Holy Spirit."

**Day 32: Saturday. *Neither do I condemn you!***

John 8:4-11 says, <sup>4</sup> they said to him, ‘Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. <sup>5</sup> Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?’ <sup>6</sup> They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. <sup>7</sup> When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, ‘Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.’ <sup>8</sup> And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. <sup>9</sup> When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. <sup>10</sup> Jesus straightened up and said to her, ‘Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?’ <sup>11</sup> She said, ‘No one, sir.’ And Jesus said, ‘Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.’

## **WEEK 5: Sharing the Faith:** ***Sharing our story***

### **DAY 33. Sunday. Lent 5. *Tell others what God has done***

John 9 in the Message says, His parents said, “We know he is our son, and we know he was born blind. But we don’t know how he came to see—haven’t a clue about who opened his eyes. Why don’t you ask him? He’s a grown man and can speak for himself.” <sup>24</sup> They called the man back a second time—the man who had been blind—and told him, “Give credit to God. We know this man is an impostor.” <sup>25</sup> He replied, “I know nothing about that one way or the other. But I know one thing for sure: I was blind . . . I now see.”

### **Day 34: Monday. *Lord, may I be ready to share my hope in you***

1 Peter 3:15 says, Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you.

### **Day 35: Tuesday. *Passing on the batten of faith from one generation to another***

Psalms 145:4 says, One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

2 Timothy 1 says, I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you.

### **Day 36: Wednesday. *I will tell of your goodness***

Verses from Psalm 71, <sup>15</sup> My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all day long, though their number is past my knowledge. <sup>16</sup> I will come praising the mighty deeds of the Lord God, I will praise your righteousness, yours alone. <sup>17</sup> O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. <sup>18</sup> So even to old age and grey hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to all the generations to come. Your power <sup>19</sup> and your righteousness, O God, reach the high heavens. You who have done great things, O God, who is like you? <sup>20</sup> You who have made me see many troubles and calamities will revive me again; from the depths of the earth you will bring me up again.

**Day 37: Thursday. *Let us bring good news!***

Isaiah 52:7 says, How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'

**Day 38: Friday. *People can read us like a book!***

2 Corinthians 3 in the Message says, Your very lives are a letter that anyone can read by just looking at you. Christ himself wrote it—not with ink, but with God's living Spirit; not chiselled into stone, but carved into human lives—and we publish it.

**Day 39: Saturday: *I will sing the wondrous story***

I will sing the wondrous story, of the Christ who died for me. How He left the realms of glory, for the cross of Calvary. Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story, of the Christ who died for me. Sing it with the saints in glory, gathered by the crystal sea.

I was lost, but Jesus found me, found the sheep that went astray. Raised me up and gently led me, back into the narrow way. Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story, of the Christ who died for me. Sing it with the saints in glory, gathered by the crystal sea.

He will keep me 'til the river, rolls its waters at my feet. Then at last He'll bring me over, saved by grace and victory. Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story, of the Christ who died for me. Sing it with the saints in glory, gathered by the crystal sea.

## HOLY WEEK

### **DAY 40. Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week. *O Disciple... what is your attitude like?***

Philippians 2:5-11 says in the Message, <sup>5-8</sup>Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became *human!* Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion.

<sup>9-11</sup> Because of that obedience, God lifted him high and honoured him far beyond anyone or anything, ever, so that all created beings in heaven and on earth—even those long ago dead and buried—will bow in worship before this Jesus Christ, and call out in praise that he is the Master of all, to the glorious honour of God the Father.

### **Monday in Holy Week. *O Disciple... Worship the Lord with your whole heart***

John 12:3 says, Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

### **Tuesday in Holy Week. *O Disciple... you are in Christ Jesus***

1 Corinthians 1 says, <sup>18</sup>For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

<sup>26</sup> Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

<sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

**Wednesday in Holy Week. *O Disciple... do not grow weary and do not lose heart.***

Hebrews 12:1-3 says, Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of <sup>[b]</sup> the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

<sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, <sup>[c]</sup> so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

**Maundy Thursday. *O Disciple... Jesus is our example. He has shown us the way to live***

John 13 says, <sup>12</sup> After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? <sup>13</sup> You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.

<sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

**Good Friday. *Take time to read John Chapter 18&19.***

As well as reflecting on the road to death Jesus walked for us, notice the reactions and responses of disciples.

**Holy Saturday. *O Disciple... you have been crucified with Christ and you are raised with Christ!***

Romans 6 in the Message reads, <sup>3-5</sup> That's what baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus. Each of us is raised into a light-filled world by our Father so that we can see where we're going in our new grace-sovereign country.

<sup>6-11</sup> Could it be any clearer? Our old way of life was nailed to the cross with Christ, a decisive end to that sin-miserable life—no longer captive to sin's demands! What we believe is this: If we get included in Christ's sin-conquering death, we also get included in his life-saving resurrection. We



know that when Jesus was raised from the dead it was a signal of the end of death-as-the-end. Never again will death have the last word. When Jesus died, he took sin down with him, but alive he brings God down to us. From now on, think of it this way: Sin speaks a dead language that means nothing to you; God speaks your mother tongue, and you hang on every word. You are dead to sin and alive to God. That's what Jesus did.

**EASTER SUNDAY. *O Disciple... Jesus is risen! ALLELUIA!!! You have a Gospel to proclaim. Good news for all the earth.***

Matthew 28 in the Message read, <sup>1-4</sup> After the Sabbath, as the first light of the new week dawned, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to keep vigil at the tomb. Suddenly the earth reeled and rocked under their feet as God's angel came down from heaven, came right up to where they were standing. He rolled back the stone and then sat on it. Shafts of lightning blazed from him. His garments shimmered snow-white. The guards at the tomb were scared to death. They were so frightened, they couldn't move.

<sup>5-6</sup> The angel spoke to the women: "There is nothing to fear here. I know you're looking for Jesus, the One they nailed to the cross. He is not here. He was raised, just as he said. Come and look at the place where he was placed. <sup>7</sup> "Now, get on your way quickly and tell his disciples, 'He is risen from the dead. He is going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.' That's the message."

<sup>8-10</sup> The women, deep in wonder and full of joy, lost no time in leaving the tomb. They ran to tell the disciples. Then Jesus met them, stopping them in their tracks. "Good morning!" he said. They fell to their knees, embraced his feet, and worshiped him. Jesus said, "You're holding on to me for dear life! Don't be frightened like that. Go tell my brothers that they are to go to Galilee, and that I'll meet them there."