



## **7th March 2021: 3rd Sunday of Lent**

During Lent 2021, Bishop Emma is leading us in an introduction to the refreshed 'God for All' vision for the diocese.

# **Jesus Clears the Temple: *Speak Boldly.***

### **Opening**

“For the message about Christ's death on the cross is nonsense to those who are being lost; but for us who are being saved it is God's power.” (1Cor 1.18 GNB)

### ***All My Hope on God is Founded***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DohxO6ytsaU>

### ***Before the Throne of God Above***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4MUNywhsZPU>

## Lenten Confession

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit,  
returned from the Jordan  
and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,  
where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.

Let us confess our sins  
remembering before God  
the times when we have fallen  
from temptation into sin.

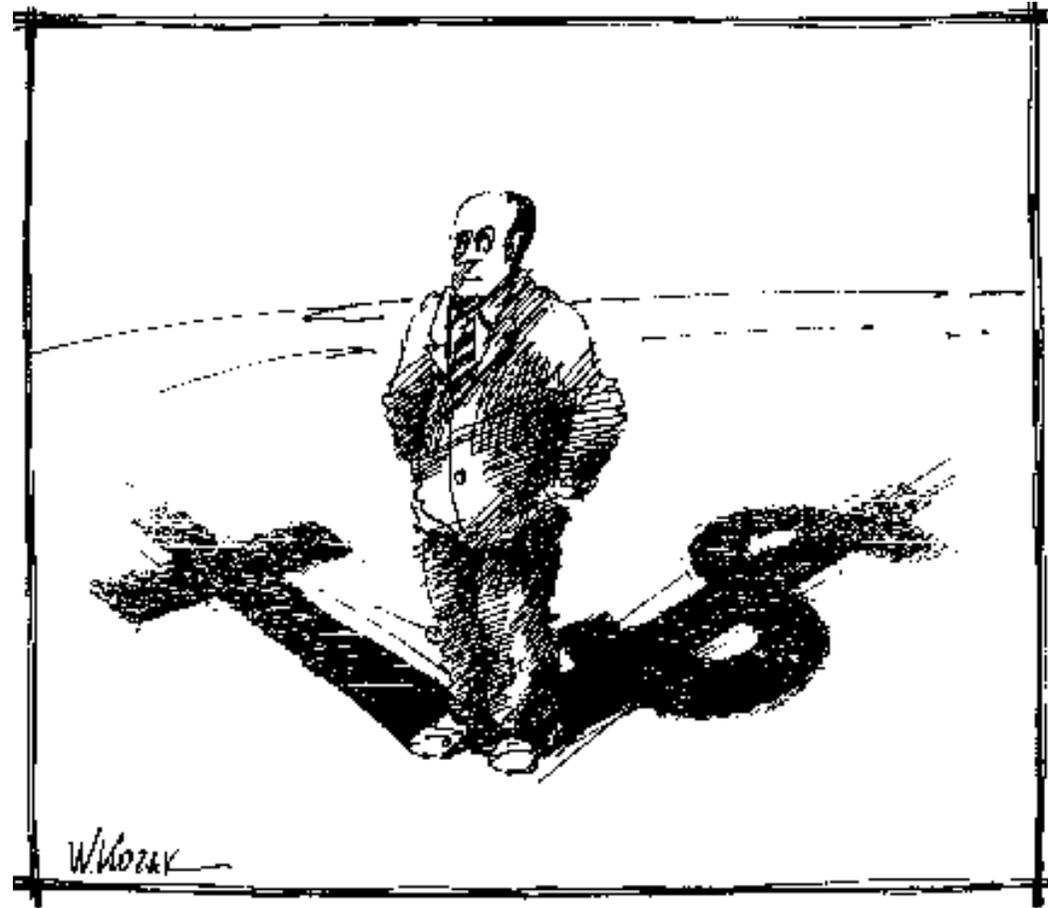
We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:  
**fill us with your Spirit.**  
**Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our  
faith:

**fill us with your Spirit.**  
**Christ, have mercy.**

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:  
**fill us with your Spirit.**  
**Lord, have mercy.**

May Almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to  
save sinners, bring *us* his pardon and peace, now and  
for ever. Amen.



24 αὐτοῖς δὲ τοῖς κλητοῖς, Ἰουδαίοις καὶ  
Χριστὸν θεοῦ δύναμιν καὶ θεοῦ σοφίαν.<sup>ο</sup>  
τοῦ θεοῦ σοφώτερον τῶν ἀνθρώπων ἐστὶν  
τοῦ θεοῦ ἰσχυρότερον τῶν ἀνθρώπων.<sup>ρ</sup>

Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 1.18-25  
**Christ the Power and the Wisdom of God**

18 For the message about Christ's death on the cross is nonsense to those who are being lost; but for us who are being saved it is God's power.

19 The scripture says,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise  
and set aside the understanding of the scholars.”

20 So then, where does that leave the wise? or the scholars? or the skillful debaters of this world? God has shown that this world's wisdom is foolishness!

21 For God in his wisdom made it impossible for people to know him by means of their own

wisdom. Instead, by means of the so-called “foolish” message we preach, God decided to save those who believe.

22 Jews want miracles for proof, and Greeks look for wisdom. 23 As for us, we proclaim the crucified Christ, a message that is offensive to the Jews and nonsense to the Gentiles;

24 but for those whom God has called, both Jews and Gentiles, this message is **Christ, who is the power of God and the wisdom of God.**

25 For what seems to be God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and what seems to be God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

***Be Thou My Vision***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Optrm7lF16s>

## John 2.13-22 - Jesus Clears the Temple

13 It was almost time for the Passover Festival, so Jesus went to Jerusalem. 14 There in the Temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and pigeons, and also the moneychangers sitting at their tables. 15 So he made a whip from cords and drove all the animals out of the Temple, both the sheep and the cattle; he overturned the tables of the moneychangers and scattered their coins; 16 and he ordered those who sold the pigeons,

“Take them out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!”

17 His disciples remembered that the scripture says,

“My devotion to your house, O God, burns in me like a fire.”

18 The Jewish authorities came back at him with a question,

“What miracle can you perform to show us that you have the right to do this?”

19 Jesus answered,

“Tear down this Temple, and in three days I will build it again.”

20 “Are you going to build it again in three days?” they asked him. “It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple!”

21 But the temple Jesus was speaking about was his body. 22 So when he was raised from death, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and what Jesus had said.

*Jesus Clears the Temple - Miracle Maker*



Expulsion of the merchants from the temple by Andrei Mironov (2012)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DiT8l4\\_hn-k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DiT8l4_hn-k)

## *Jesus Christ, I Think Upon Your Sacrifice*

**Choral:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgzVGFxurgo>

**Original:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FkK4YHy-wNg>

**Sermon from Bishop Emma (or click here:)** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NjvSLNoXuWE>

Have you ever done anything really foolish?

Like the German bank clerk who fell asleep mid transfer of 62 euros and ended up transferring 622 trillion, 222 billion, 222 million (etc etc) euros instead.

Or the record company executive who turned down a recording contract with the Beatles on the grounds that “guitar groups are on their way out.”

Or bird watcher Sophia Hadi, who drove all the way from Leeds to Washington, Tyne and Wear after a friend there reported hearing a rare thrush, only to find it was, in fact, the noise made by a fork lift truck reversing at the local Asda.

No wonder Puck says in A Midsummer Night’s Dream “Lord, what fools these mortals be!”.

Sometimes it can seem as though the Christian faith is quite foolish. I guess that’s what quite a lot of people would have said about Jesus and his disciples, as they travelled to Jerusalem. Indeed Jesus’s own family said he was out of his mind (Mark 3:21). Jesus seemed to revel in causing outrage and scandal. Eating with tax collectors and sinners. Allowing unclean women to touch his clothes and weep on his feet, telling strange stories about fig trees and wedding banquets. In his Kingdom, the last will be first and the foolish wise. It’s a topsy turvy kingdom that turns the ‘sensible’ things of the world on their heads.

I reckon Jesus probably looked pretty foolish when he turned up at the temple and turned over the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold doves. It’s a great story, but we’ve taken the shock out of it. We call it ‘the cleansing of the temple’, which makes you think he went round with a tissue and some Dettox.

Jesus actually stormed around the place, throwing furniture, shouting at the top of his lungs, and flinging money into the air - pigeons fluttering, stampeding cattle, and small furry animals running for their lives. And Jesus in the middle of it all lunging round with a home-made whip.

It happened in the court of the Gentiles, where travellers and non-Jews could come to worship. It was meant to be a place of mission and hospitality. Yet in that place animals were being sold for sacrifice. You had to pay a temple tax, but it was preferred that it was paid in a particular temple currency. And the exchange rate in the temple courts was shocking. It’s not the business Jesus is objecting to, but ripping people off in a holy place. It was a system that excluded some people by virtue of their state.

I wonder what you feel passionate about? What gets your goat? What makes you passionate, and even angry? What is it that you would like to take your whip to?

Today we come to the second in our Lent series looking at the 4 themes of the refreshed vision. And this week it is the turn of ‘speak boldly’.

This is of course about evangelism, the commitment to “share our faith in Jesus Christ in everyday ways, seeking to connect with everyone, especially those currently unrepresented in our churches”, but it is also about speaking boldly about, and caring passionately about, the things that God cares passionately about, living for him in the world and speaking out wherever we see oppression, injustice, wrong. And sometimes that might make us look a tiny bit foolish in the eyes of a cynical world.

Jesus stands in a long line of holy fools. It’s a tradition we don’t hear a great deal about these days. I’ve been doing a bit more research. There was St Simeon - who dragged around a dead dog and threw nuts in church and blew out the candles, but who also performed miracles and great acts of kindness. Every year, until the ‘sensible’ church people outlawed it, there used to be a festival called the ‘Feast of Fools’ (which was a bit like medieval Red Nose Day) – in which a child is made bishop and a donkey brought into the cathedral. The normal, respectable things are turned on their heads – right at the heart of the church.

And what this says, I think, is that at the heart of the gospel is a foolishness, and a playfulness and comedy, and rebellion, that isn’t actually a million miles from telling the truth. Just look through the Bible and see who God used to tell the truth. Isaiah walked naked and barefoot for three years predicting captivity in Egypt; Ezekiel lay before a stone, and ate bread baked on cow dung. Jeremiah buried his underpants! The one who tells the truth and the one who is considered foolish are often one and the same.

The other reading set for today is from St Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians where he says:

“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” (1 Cor 1:17-18).

Christian faith might look at times like foolishness, but in a world that at times appears to have lost its head, the cross becomes the wisest and most powerful of things, and proclaiming Christ crucified begins to make real sense.

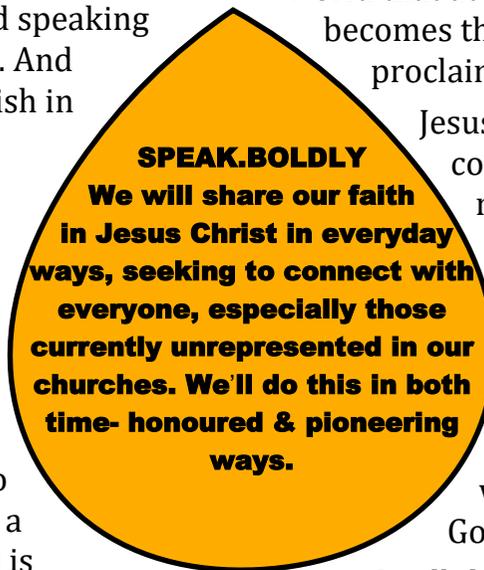
Jesus reminds his disciples that God will never be contained in buildings (how we have needed to remember that during the pandemic as our church buildings have been closed) and that the true temple is his own body, that will die and be raised again to life. We as the church are now Jesus’s body on earth - his hands and his feet, his voice and his heart, living stones, being built into a new kind of temple for him, the whole people of God living the whole mission of God.

So all this leads me to think again about how I feel about being foolish. Perhaps as the world gets more and more crazy, people who ‘speak boldly’ about what is right and true will begin to sound more and more sensible.

Maybe in a world where money is everything, freedom to choose is valued above all else, and worship happens at the altars of consumerism, the really wise person is the one who turns the tables on all that and chooses to live in a different way.

So what kind of fool are you?

Perhaps you’re the kind of fool who really does actually believe that God is so wildly in love with the world that he gave his only Son to die on a cross, and be raised to life, so that all could come close and know him.



And maybe you're even foolish enough to consider speaking boldly about it.

### A prayer of St Augustine

'You awaken us to delight in Your praises, for You made us for Yourself, and our heart is restless, until it finds its rest in You'

### The Vision Refresh prayer

Living Lord,  
as we offer to you our common life,  
refresh our vision  
that we may know your will  
and seek to follow in all your ways.  
May we:  
**follow daily** as your disciples,  
**care deeply** for one another in community,  
**speak boldly** your gospel words of love, and  
**tread gently** as faithful stewards of your goodness.  
We ask this in the power of your holy name,  
as Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of our lives,  
today and for ever.  
Amen.

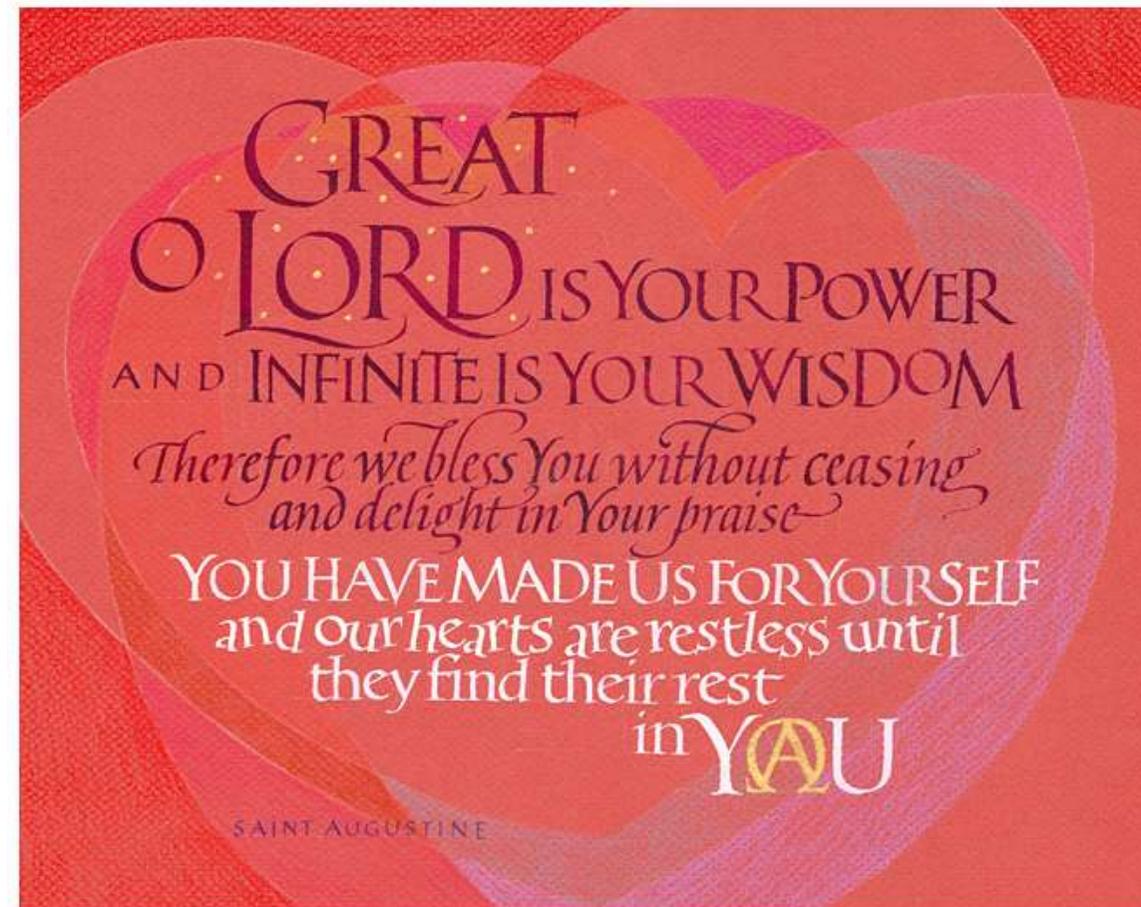


Follow Daily Care Deeply  
Speak Boldly Tread Gently

### *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpzPg9BERaQ>  
*... (Getty's)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZbaHBmxckC8>



## Collect

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. Amen

(or)

Eternal God,  
give us insight  
to discern your will for us,  
to give up what harms us,  
and to seek the perfection we are promised  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*Restless - Audrey Assad*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nNWOC4qJeZA>



## Intercessions –

2 Timothy 1: For this reason fan into flame the gift of God which is in you... for God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power, love and authority.

### [Click to view intercessory prayers.](#)

We pray to You Lord for courage to give up other things and to give ourselves to You this Lent. Give Your Church the courage to give up her preoccupation with herself and to give more time to Your mission in the world.

*[We pray for ...]*

May the blood and water flowing from the side of Jesus bring forgiveness to Your people and help us to face the cost of proclaiming Your salvation.

Lord, meet us in the silence,  
**give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give Your world the courage to give up war, bitterness and hatred, and to seek peace.

*[We pray for ...]*

May the shoulders of the risen Jesus, once scourged by soldiers, bear the burden of political and military conflict in our world.

Lord, meet us in the silence,

**give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give us the courage to give up quarrels, strife and jealousy in our families, neighbourhoods and communities.

*[We pray for ...]*

May the presence of the risen Jesus,

his body once broken and now made whole, bring peace and direction as we live with one another.

Lord, meet us in the silence,

**give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give us the courage

to give up our selfishness as we live for others, and to give time, care and comfort to the sick.

*[We pray for ...]*

May Your wounded hands Lord Jesus bring Your healing touch, and the light of Your presence fill their rooms.

Lord, meet us in the silence,

**give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give us the courage to give up our fear of death and to rejoice with those who have died in faith.

*[Especially we hold ... in our prayers.]*

May Your feet, risen Lord Jesus, once nailed to the cross, walk alongside the dying and bereaved in their

agony,

and walk with us and all your Church through death to the gate of glory.

Lord, meet us in the silence,

**give us strength and hear our prayer, here and in eternity.  
Amen.**



## Blessing

May God the Father,  
who does not despise the broken spirit,  
give to you a contrite heart.

**Amen.**

May Christ,  
who bore our sins in his body on the tree,  
heal you by his wounds.

**Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit,  
who leads us into all truth,  
speak to you words of pardon and peace.

**Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty:  
Father, Son and Spirit  
Be with us all  
Today and always, Amen.

## Closing worship:

***Jesus Christ is Waiting***

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CSzEviUc\\_o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CSzEviUc_o)

***Be Still My Soul - Kari Jobe***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mq59iE3MhXM>





STOP MAKING  
MY FATHER'S  
HOUSE  
A MARKETPLACE

John 2:16

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## Extrabits

### ***Be Thou My Vision - Elenyi***

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_VpSqAcLrDI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_VpSqAcLrDI)

### ***Tom Wright on Cleansing the Temple***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1rTG9MMWN4>

### ***Jesus Christ is Waiting, 'Mountain Hop' version!***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bRATR6qep5U>

### ***Restless...***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QP8frLrqBM>

### ***Still, Peace - Hillsong***

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6f6YJp\\_wqvE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6f6YJp_wqvE)

### ***Restless - Audrey Assad Piano tutorial!!***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bgGV-E7sMW0>