

**Wednesday in Holy Week**  
**Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021**



Dear Friends,

***'Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me'*** (John 13: 21)

Palm Sunday heralds Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and marks the beginning of Holy Week. We are reaching the climax of the Church's year as we commemorate what our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, did for us.

Each day of this 'great week,' you will receive a meditation from a member of our Ministry Team. Their thoughts allow us to reflect on this sacred time - remembering what it means for humankind to have allowed God's greatest gift to the world to be betrayed, humiliated, falsely accused and left to die on a cross by those who professed to love Him. It is a time for us to think deeply about where each of us are in this bleak reality of God's created people and our capacity to ignore the weak, the vulnerable and the poor whom Jesus came to liberate.

Today we hear from Andrew Kent, DL, who points us to Judas Iscariot, whose betrayal of Jesus sets in motion the events of His crucifixion.

Yours, in the Passion of Christ,

Jax

**Rev'd Jax Machin**, Rector, The Downs Benefice

## **Wednesday in Holy Week – Judas Betrays Christ** **Andrew Kent, DL**

We are now well into Holy Week, following Jesus on this final part of His journey which started with His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We know, because we have the Gospels before us as well as the benefit of 2000 years of hindsight, that very shortly the journey would end with His death on Golgotha.

We find Jesus particularly focussing on His disciples, telling them many things about what was to come, although at that time they understood little of it. Much of it was simply beyond their comprehension – and who can blame them? Would we have done any better? But it was vitally important for Jesus to leave the disciples with clear directives as He sent them out into the world to carry His message - even though it would take His death for them to properly understand all He had said, and put everything into perspective.



***'The Kiss of Judas' by Giotto di Bondone***

Today we read about the betrayal of Jesus by Judas. Instinctively we see him as evil and treacherous, but surely we must also feel compassion for him. Undoubtedly weak and susceptible to temptation - but Judas was being used by Satan as an instrument to try to bring down Jesus. Of course Jesus knew that – and indeed welcomed it as an inevitable part of the jigsaw that would only be completed after His Resurrection. But what a jigsaw! This story of Judas is not really a story of betrayal, it is a story of promise and hope and fulfilment in eternal life. Jesus told the disciples, 'I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world ... the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken ... his command leads to eternal life.'

Each of us can have that eternal life, with the forgiveness of all our sins, if we believe in Jesus, and know Jesus as our Saviour and offer our lives to Him. In return Jesus offers us His unconditional love.

When Jesus gave up His life on the cross He paid once and for all for all our sins. He opened a door through which we can step, if we want to. Each one of us will one day come to that door, and when we do - and if we dare to step through it - we can be sure that Jesus will be there on the other side to take our hand and lead us to the end of our journey, into His glorious Kingdom.



***'Light of the World' by Holman Hunt***

We will have pain and worries and troubles on our journeys in this life, which may often seem unbearable. But we can take strength from Jesus's own journey, knowing that the door Jesus opened will be always be there for us at the end.

*Father God,  
We remember Jesus' prayer from the cross  
for forgiveness for those who placed Him there.  
Thank you for bearing our sins and forgiving us every day.  
May we forgive the people who have sinned against us.  
Fill our hearts with the love, mercy, and grace that held You on that cross for us.  
In Jesus' name. Amen.*

### **John 13: 21-32 - Jesus Foretells His Betrayal**

After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, 'Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me.' The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking.

So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, 'Lord, who is it?' Jesus answered, 'It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.' So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot.

After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, 'Do quickly what you are going to do.' Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, 'Buy what we need for the festival'; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

### **The New Commandment**

When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.'



***'The Last Supper' by Carl Bloch***