

# Order of Service      Feb 26<sup>th</sup> 2012

Call to Worship NIV *Matthew 4 verses 1-11* **Phil**

Hymn H&P 130 *Forty days and forty nights* (**Phil to announce**)

**1 (Marjorie and Bob)**

Reading **Matthew 4 verses 1 - 4 (using the Message)**

Drama

Vestry Prayer No 53 + Lord's Prayer

Hymn SoF 493 *Seek ye first* (**Marjorie to announce**)

\*\*\*\*\*

**2 (Margaret and Wendy)**

Reading **Matthew 4 verses 5 – 7 (using the Message)**

Reading material + **Harry**

Prayer (**Margaret**)

Hymn HP 436 *Father hear the prayer we offer.* (**Margaret to announce**)

\*\*\*\*\*

**3 (Jeanne and Phil)**

(**Matthew 4 verses 8 – 11**)

**Phil:** For the third test, the Devil took Jesus to the peak of a huge mountain. He gestured expansively, pointing out all the earth's kingdoms, how glorious they all were.

Then he said, "They're yours—lock, stock, and barrel. Just go down on your knees and worship me, and they're yours."

Jesus' refusal was curt and backed with a third quotation from Deuteronomy: "Worship the Lord your God, and only him. Serve him with absolute single-heartedness."

The Test was over. The Devil left. And in his place, angels! Angels came and took care of Jesus' needs.

Jeanne: Fall down and worship me. This last temptation is amazing in its boldness. It is almost as if the devil realized he was not winning, and would now try pretty well anything to get Jesus to change His allegiance. Satan's sole purpose now was to disrupt the work of the king, the work for which Jesus had come into the world.

He took Jesus to a high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the earth. This verse seems to suggest something mystical, something supernatural. There is no mountain in Israel high enough to see much of anything. But the idea is probably that the devil provided some vision of these kingdoms. And the promise was that he would give them to Jesus if only Jesus would fall down and worship him. Luke adds that Satan claimed he had been given these kingdoms and it was his right to give them to whomever he wished. Satan was saying to Jesus, "Look, you came as the king to inherit the nations. Here they are. Why go through the trouble of being the suffering servant to get to the crown. Give me one moment's homage and I will abdicate.

Phil: "Well, even in the words of Satan there were some clues that this was a malicious temptation. First, the offer was coming from the one who is the prince of liars. Who would knowingly do a deal with the devil? Jesus will later explain (in John 8:44) that the Devil was a liar from the beginning and the truth was not in him.

What a lie this was. Did Satan actually imagine for one moment that the Son of God would believe him? Never would Satan have given him the kingdoms; that was simply the bait for him to bow before the evil one. So Jesus' response was, "Away from me Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the LORD your God, and serve Him only.

Jeanne: How does this relate to us today? Few of us have ambitions to become rulers, even politicians, but that does not prevent us from wanting respect and social standing. It is obvious from the proliferation of personality magazines and television programmes that the temptation of celebrity status is very strong. Personalities seem to leap from obscurity and are suddenly household names; our latest princess did not belong to the nobility and if we are honest, we would quite like, at very least, to be noticed and admired. Ambition and achievement is part and parcel of working life, but the example set by Jesus in these passages shows how far apart His teaching is from that of our material world. When challenged with alleged kingship by Pilate, Jesus responded that His Kingdom was not of this world, and finally, His only earthly crown was a crown of thorns.

**Jeanne** to sing SoF 210 *I give You all the honour*

**Phil:** Let us now join in prayer:

Lord help us to be in Your holy will;  
Tell us what to do today;  
Lead us in Your righteousness;  
Make us more like You, we pray.  
Guard us against this corrupting world,  
Its perverted priorities, temptations, too.  
Direct our minds toward Your commands,  
So we can focus our lives on You.  
Fill our hearts with Your light and love,  
So we can assist those we see in need;  
With You as our role model, let us be  
Like You in thought and word and deed.

**Hymn SoF 192** *How lovely on the mountains* (**Phil to announce**)

**Psalm 91 verses 9 - 12 and 14 - 16** responsively (**Phil to do 'lead'**)

**9. If you make the Most High your dwelling - even the Lord who is my refuge -**

10. Then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent.

**11. For He will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.**

12. They will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

**14. Because he loves me, says the Lord, I will rescue him, I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.**

13. He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honour him.

**16. With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation.**

**Phil: Now let us respond to Gods love in the taking up of our offering**

**Offertory** + Lord Jesus Christ, You were offered the whole world to command and You rejected it. Give us grace to realise that our Earthly gifts come from You and may we always remember that it is our responsibility to use and share them as You would desire (**Phil**)

**Prayers Phil introduces** Now our prayers of intercession.

First we are asked this week to pray for our friends at Warlingham Church

We ask for continued blessing on the youth work at Warlingham Church and on all those who give so freely of their time to support it in so many ways. We give thanks for the recent successful circuit youth -focussed service and ask for your guidance in making their worship continually relevant to young people each week.

We give thanks for the variety of groups that operate within the church fellowship and beyond, through which people can meet together and develop their sense of community. As they meet as a church council in early March we pray for the guidance and discernment of your Holy Spirit as they make plans for 2012.

The Worship Team will now read out requests from our Prayer Board, with a moment or two

of silence between each. Some of the people and events will be familiar to you, or a few of you, others may be from the Sanderstead community and what is on the board is all we know. So let us pray.

Father, in Your great knowledge and love, you are much more aware of the concerns we lay before You. But it is Your wish that we bring our prayers to You, and we do so in the certain knowledge that You will hear and respond. Speak to our hearts with Your message, reminding us that we are Your disciples here in Sanderstead, and prompt us to serve You in our neighbourhood whenever we see the needs of others.

**Amen**

**Phil to signal to Bob to finish playing & prayer readers (below) to join Phil**

**Concluding verses** *“The World tempts us”*

Phil to read 1<sup>st</sup> verse + 4 others (2M & 2F)

This world tempts us:  
with bright lights, city streets, tempting  
sights and sounds.

This world tempts us with objects of  
desire, raises us up knocks us down.

This world tempts us to believe its lies,  
challenges us to live them.

This world tempts us to reject our God,  
accuses us and hates us.

This world tempts us  
to disbelieve the truth:  
that nothing can defeat us.

**Hymn SoF 148** *Guide me O Thou Great Jehovah* **(Phil to announce)**

**Sharing the Grace** **(Phil to announce)**

May the Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore