

# HAEBEA Home Worship - No.52 - The Third Sunday of Lent

## 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – Mr John Ellis

### Opening Prayer

Our Father help us to see our communities as you see them.

Remind us that we are sustained by you and sent out in your power and authority.

As we journey through a “Covid Lent”,

Remind us of your faithfulness and presence in these challenging days.

Remind us that we can do all things through Christ who lives in us and through us. Amen.

### Hymn: Be still, for the presence of the Lord

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vep\\_Ty4Zx1o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vep_Ty4Zx1o)

1 Be still, for the presence of the Lord,  
the Holy One, is here ;  
come bow before him now  
with reverence and fear :  
in him no sin is found —  
we stand on holy ground.  
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,  
the Holy One, is here.

2 Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around ;  
he burns with holy fire,  
with splendour he is crowned :  
how awesome is the sight —  
our radiant King of light !  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord,  
is shining all around.

3 Be still, for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place ;  
he comes to cleanse and heal,  
to minister his grace :  
no work too hard for him —  
in faith receive from him.  
Be still, for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place.

David J. Evans (b. 1957)

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### Reading: John 2.13 – 22

**Reflection:** The opening verses of today’s reading, paints what was probably a very noisy and busy picture with some 5000 people plus animals in and around the temple courts. This is what Jesus saw going on in the temple, which is what caused him to react as he did, turning the animal sellers and money changers away.

During the Passover two things a family must do before they could worship:

Temple tax: Temple tax about two days wages and must be paid with temple coins. Other coins had pictures of foreign gods on them. They must change the money, and of course the money changers got a commission.

Sacrifice: Every family offered a sacrifice. But according to the law it must be without defect; must be certified clean, if you didn’t want to bring one you could purchase one at the temple, or if the priest said yours was not good enough, you could purchase one at the temple that had been approved by the priest.

We do not want distractions that fill our minds and stop us focusing on coming to worship. As we enter a church, we want to leave the distractions of the day outside so we can be immersed in the service we are taking part in.

We see Jesus rejecting the temple system as being too much like a market. Then the authorities ask, what miracle can you perform to show that you have the right to do this? The authorities were looking for proof. The people asked for a miracle, and Jesus delivered the greatest proof of God's love. Jesus said tear down this temple, and in 3 days I will build this again.

Jesus was speaking about his body and as we arrive at Easter in a few weeks we will be reminded of this.



*Stop turning my Father's house into a market place*

## Prayers Of Intercession

In the name of the one who came to cleanse the Temple, we pray for the institutions by which we organise our society:

- for churches and chapels and house groups...
- for educational establishments...
- for places of healing, law and order, commerce and recreation...

**May they serve the greater good,  
and adapt to the changing needs of the time.**

In the name of the one who came to redeem the world, we pray for those institutions by which we regulate global relations:

- for governments and rulers, democracies...
- monarchies and dictatorships...
- for bodies that regulate trade, diplomacy, and the balance of peace...
- for environmental, development and welfare organisations...

**May they serve the greater good,  
and adapt to the changing needs of the time.**

In the name of the one who came to save us from ourselves, we pray for those institutions we have in our lives:

- for our friends, families, and colleagues...
- for our local communities...
- for the church communities to which we belong...

**May they serve the greater good,  
and adapt to the changing needs of the time. Amen**

## Closing Prayer

We give our lips, our hearts, our minds, our strength,  
To serve you, O God, and to love our neighbours,  
In the name of Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

