

Worship at home

The second Sunday of Epiphany

16 January 2022

Please join us in worshipping 'together' wherever you are. However, if you can't use this material then, you can of course use it at any other time. We suggest that you prepare a suitable space for worship and have available a candle to light at the beginning and some suitable music to play at the end during the 'Offering of ourselves to God'

If you are joining in this service as a group please designate one person as the leader reading the normal print with everyone joining in the text in bold type.



Greeting

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

God in Christ has revealed his glory.
Come let us worship.

Hymn or Carol

Come people of the risen King

1 Come people of the Risen King
Who delight to bring Him praise
Come all and tune your hearts to sing
To the Morning Star of grace
From the shifting shadows of the earth
We will lift our eyes to Him
Where steady arms of mercy reach
To gather children in

Christmas Epiphany Virtual Worship

*Rejoice rejoice let ev'ry tongue rejoice
One heart one voice
O Church of Christ rejoice*

2 Come those whose joy is morning sun
And those weeping through the night
Come those who tell of battles won
And those struggling in the fight
For His perfect love will never change
And His mercies never cease
But follow us through all our days
With the certain hope of peace

*Rejoice rejoice let ev'ry tongue rejoice
One heart one voice
O Church of Christ rejoice*

3 Come young and old from ev'ry land
Men and women of the faith
Come those with full or empty hands
Find the riches of His grace
Over all the world His people sing
Shore to shore we hear them call
The truth that cries through ev'ry age
Our God is all in all

*Rejoice rejoice let ev'ry tongue rejoice
One heart one voice
O Church of Christ rejoice
Rejoice rejoice let ev'ry tongue rejoice
One heart one voice
O Church of Christ rejoice*

Prayers of Penitence

Epiphany

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own. Let us confess our sins.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

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

Carol or Canticle

From the eastern mountains

1 From the eastern mountains
Pressing on they come,
Wise men in their wisdom,
To his humble home;
Stirred by deep devotion,
Hasting from afar,
Ever journeying onward,
Guided by a star.

2 There their Lord and Saviour
As an infant lay,
Wondrous light that led them
Onward on their way,
Ever now to lighten
Nations from afar,
As they journey homeward
By that guiding star.

3 Thou who in a manger
Once hast lowly lain,
Who dost now in glory
O'er all kingdoms reign,
Gather in the peoples,
Who in lands afar
Ne'er have seen the brightness
Of thy guiding star.

4 Onward through the darkness
Of the lonely night,
Shining still before them
With thy kindly light,
Guide them Jew and Gentile,
Homeward from afar,
Young and old together,
By thy guiding star.

5 Until every nation
Whether bond or free,
'Neath thy starlit banner,
Jesu, follows thee
O'er the distant mountains
To that heavenly home,
Where nor sin nor sorrow
Evermore shall come.

The Collect

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
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.

The Epistle

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Spiritual Gifts

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the

common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Gospel Reading

John 2:1-11

The Wedding at Cana

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

2nd Sunday of Christmas 2 January, 2022

‘Sing to the Lord a new song’ (Psalm 96:1, Isaiah 42:10)

‘Sing to the Lord a new song’ the Psalmist instructs and the prophet Isaiah repeats. What is this new song and when should it be sung? Well, it is more than likely that the occasion is the ancient New Year festival when God is again acknowledged to be king of the universe and lord of the earth. The song is therefore not so much a ‘new’ song as a song rejoicing in the yearly re-newal of creation, life and above all the covenant promise between God and us. In some ways the festival is not so very different from our custom of making New Year resolutions to live renewed and better lives.

However, I have to admit that I am a bit of a Scrooge about all the New Year festivities – singing Auld Lang Syne, waiting up until midnight and general enforced jolliness. I’m even sceptical about making New Year resolutions, partly because as I read recently about 80% of resolutions end in failure by mid-February. But on reflection I realise how contradictory I am being; after all Sunday after Sunday we meet in church and through the covenant meal of the Eucharist we renew our relationship with Christ and resolve to lead new lives.

So, perhaps the New Year *is* a good time to think about how and in what way we are to sing new songs to the Lord. Not that I go to the gym, but I imagine that after all the excesses of Christmas and New Year festivities gyms must be pretty busy places at this time of year, so the following on-line advice from one gym is the result of many years of observing just how feeble and unrealistic we are keeping to our New Year resolutions.

Firstly – make your promises specific. If they are too general and subjective then they will fade away rapidly.

Secondly – be realistic. Think to yourself, ‘What can I actually achieve?’ however limited this might seem.

Thirdly – make it a habit. Small changes performed regularly are far more likely to happen and be maintained.

Fourthly – stay flexible. Allow that circumstances change and sometimes it may not be possible to carry out your resolution, but you can return to it.

Fifthly – write it down. By writing down your resolution or promise, putting it on the fridge or a post-it-note on the computer screen you make it public and more likely to keep it.

All five points translate very neatly into the Christian sacramental way of life. We may wish to write down our resolutions, but actually the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion are themselves outward and visible signs of the covenant promise God makes with us and we with Him. The baptismal outward signs of water, light and oil signify our rejection of evil and our desire to embrace life lived in the Spirit – as Paul says in our reading from Ephesians today:

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 1:13 NIV)

What does it mean to be marked by the seal of the Holy Spirit? It means resolving to live according to the fruits of the Spirit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23) -not necessarily all at the same time, but by being specific, perhaps just choosing one to focus on this year, and making it a daily habit, and through prayer and worship reviewing and learning to adapt it to new circumstances.

I can't let this moment pass without paying a brief tribute to one of our outstanding Christian leaders whose whole adult life was dedicated to singing a new song loudly and powerfully in the transformation of South African society, that of Archbishop Desmond Tutu who died exactly a week ago aged 90. We can't all be Desmond Tutus, but his life as prophet and priest shows how one person truly devoted to living God's covenant and our baptismal promise to combat evil and to walk in the Spirit, was instrumental in abolishing apartheid and creating what he called a 'rainbow people', where people of all races and sexualities might live peaceably alongside each other.

In his tribute to Desmond Tutu, Cyril Ramaphosa, the President of South Africa said, 'From the pavements of resistance in South Africa to

the pulpits of the world's great cathedrals and places of worship, and the prestigious setting of the Nobel peace prize ceremony, the Archbishop distinguished himself as a non-sectarian, inclusive champion of universal human rights.'

Tutu will perhaps be best remembered as the chair of the 'Truth and Reconciliation Commission' whose task it was to bring to justice those in the apartheid era who had been responsible for human rights abuses. The role did not make him friends but Nelson Mandela, with whom he had a quite stormy friendship at times, described him as a person 'sometimes strident, often tender, never afraid, seldom without humour... Desmond Tutu's voice will always be the voice of the voiceless.'

So, as we set off on our 2022 journey, let us use the time now as we participate in the sacrament of Holy Communion to consider and name what specific and realistic New Year covenant promises we wish to make as our 2022 new song of spiritual and moral renewal.

Michael Wilcockson

Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?
We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?
We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?
We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Prayers of Intercession

*Please pray in the way that comes most naturally to you, either in
silence or out loud we end with the Lord's Prayer*

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

And at the end

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God
here among us let us pray as our
saviour taught us to pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin
against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Hymn or Carol

Once, only once, and once for all

1 Once, only once, and once for all,
his precious life he gave;
before the Cross our spirits fall,
and own it strong to save.

2 'One off'ring, single and complete,'
with lips and hearts we say;
but what he never can repeat
he shows forth day by day.

3 For, as the priest of Aaron's line
within the holiest stood,
and sprinkled all the mercy-shrine
with sacrificial blood;

4 So he who once atonement wrought,
our Priest of endless pow'r,
presents himself for those he bought
in that dark noontide hour.

5 And so we show thy death, O Lord,
till thou again appear;
and feel, when we approach thy board,
we have an altar here.

6 All glory to the Father be,
all glory to the Son,
all glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,
while endless ages run.

Thanksgiving for Epiphany

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right,
it is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places
to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, heavenly King,
almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
And now we give you thanks
because you have revealed your eternal plan of salvation,
and have shown your Son Jesus Christ
to be the light of the nations.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and *saying*:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Offering ourselves to receive Christ's presence

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

After the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

Epiphany Season

**You have called us to be a light in the world,
so that those in darkness come to you.
May our lives shine as a witness
to the saving grace you have given for all.
Jesus, Light of the world, hear us. Amen.**

Hymn or Carol

1 We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain moor and mountain
Following yonder star

*Chorus - O star of wonder star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light*

2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again
King forever ceasing never
Over us all to reign

Chorus

3 Frankincense to offer have I
Incense owns a Deity nigh
Prayer and praising gladly raising
Worship Him God most high

Chorus

4 Myrrh is mine its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom
Sorrowing sighing bleeding dying
Sealed in the stone cold tomb

Chorus

5 Glorious now behold Him arise
King and God and sacrifice
Alleluia alleluia
Peals through the earth and skies

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Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen

Or

Christ our Lord,
to whom kings bowed down in worship and offered gifts,
reveal to you his glory
and pour upon you the riches of his grace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen

