



Where all find a welcome and are nurtured in their journey with Christ.

# The fourth Sunday of Epiphany

Sunday 30 January 2022 at 10.00 am

“Faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

*1 Corinthians 13:13*

# The Gathering

*Our worship begins at the sound of the bell, please stand as the sacred ministers enter, during which the introit hymn is sung.*

**Christ is the world's true light,  
Its captain of salvation,  
The day-star clear and bright  
Of ev'ry race and nation;  
New life, new hope awakes,  
Where'er we own his sway:  
Freedom her bondage breaks,  
And night is turned to day.**

**In Christ all races meet,  
Their ancient feuds forgetting,  
The whole round world complete,  
From sunrise to its setting:  
When Christ is throned as Lord,  
All shall forsake their fear,  
To ploughshare beat the sword,  
To pruning-hook the spear.**

**One Lord, in one great name  
Unite us all who own thee;  
Cast out our pride and shame  
That hinder to enthrone thee;  
The world has waited long,  
Has travailed long in pain;  
To heal its ancient wrong,  
Come, Prince of Peace, and reign!**

*Words: G. W. Briggs (1875-1959)*

*Music: J. Crüger (1598-1662)*

*Hymn Tune: NUN DANKET*

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **The Greeting**

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you

**and also with you.**

# Words of Welcome

## Invitation to Confession

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.

*cf Titus 2.11-14*

*Silence is kept.*

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,  
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,  
in what we have thought,  
in what we have said and done,  
through ignorance, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.**

**We have wounded your love,  
and marred your image in us.**

**We are sorry and ashamed,  
and repent of all our sins.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and lead us out from darkness  
to walk as children of light.**

**Amen.**

May the God of love and power  
forgive you and free you from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,  
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

# **Gloria in Excelsis**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.**  
**Amen.**

# The Collect

*The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray'.*

God our creator,  
who in the beginning  
commanded the light to shine out of darkness:  
we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ  
may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief,  
shine into the hearts of all your people,  
and reveal the knowledge of your glory  
in the face of 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.**

# The Liturgy of the Word

*Please sit.*

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am

nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

*I Corinthians 13.1-13*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as the gradual hymn is sung. During the hymn a procession will make*

*its way to the centre of the nave from where the Gospel for the day is read. To symbolise our desire to turn to Christ in our daily lives, at the end of the hymn we remain standing and turn to face the place where the Gospel is proclaimed.*

**Faithful vigil ended;  
Watching, waiting cease;  
Master, grant thy servant  
His discharge in peace.**

**All thy Spirit promised,  
All the Father willed,  
Now these eyes behold it  
Perfectly fulfilled.**

**This thy great deliv'rance  
Sets thy people free;  
Christ, their light, uplifted  
All the nations see.**

**Christ, thy people's glory!  
Watching, doubting, cease;  
Grant to us thy servants  
Our discharge in peace.**

Words: T. Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)  
based on Luke 2 verses 29-32  
Music: F. Silcher (1789-1860)  
Hymn Tune: PASTOR PASTORUM

# Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.

We have seen his star at its rising,  
and have come to pay him homage.

Matthew 2.2

**Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the

law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon

him.

*Luke 2.22-40*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

*Please sit after the preacher leads us in prayer.*

## **The Nicene Creed**

*Please stand with the president.*

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the  
dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and  
glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.**

**Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*Following an invitation to pray from the intercessor we kneel or sit to pray.*

*The response to the bidding*

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

*then at the end*

Merciful Father,

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

**Amen.**

# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

*Please stand with the president.*

## The Peace

Christ is our peace.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.

The old has passed away: behold, everything has become new.

*2 Corinthians 5.17*

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**and also with you.**

## Preparation of the Table

*The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

*A hymn is sung.*

**Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost,  
Taught by thee we covet most  
Of thy gifts at Pentecost,  
Holy, heav'ly love.**

**Love is kind, and suffers long,  
Love is meek, and thinks no wrong,  
Love than death itself more strong;  
Therefore, give us love.**

**Prophecy will fade away,  
Melting in the light of day,  
Love will ever with us stay;  
Therefore, give us love.**

**Faith will vanish into sight;  
Hope be emptied in delight;  
Love in heav'n will shine more bright;  
Therefore, give us love.**

**Faith and hope and love we see  
Joining hand in hand agree;  
But the greatest of the three,  
And the best, is love.**

**From the overshadowing  
Of thy gold and silver wing  
Shed on us, who to thee sing,  
Holy, heav'nly love.**

Words: C. Wordsworth (1807-1885)  
based on *1 Corinthians 13* & *Psalm 68* verse 13  
Music: J. Stainer (1840-1901)  
Hymn Tune: CHARITY

## Taking of the Bread and Wine

Gracious God,  
accept the offering of your Church,  
the hearts of your people  
joined in praise and thanksgiving,  
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

**Amen.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer (E)

*Please kneel or sit.*

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.**

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, ever-living God,

through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:  
for at this time we celebrate your glory  
made present in our midst.

In the coming of the magi  
the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.  
In the waters of baptism  
Jesus was revealed as the Christ,  
the Saviour sent to redeem us.

In the water made wine  
the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.  
Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven  
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name  
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.

Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,**

**Christ is risen,**

**Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with Blessed Mary and all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

**Amen.** (*Sung*)

*Silence is kept.*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

*The **Agnus Dei** is sung as the bread is broken for distribution.*

**Jesus, Lamb of God,  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
grant us peace.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink  
in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts  
by faith with thanksgiving.

*The president and people receive communion. All baptised Christians are welcome to receive the sacrament. Please follow the guidance offered by the stewards.*

*If you are not baptised, or would prefer to not receive then do still come forward for a blessing bringing this book with you so the president knows your intention.*

*The sacrament is available in both kinds, however if you wish to only receive the bread please do so and then return to your place. Receiving in one kind is still considered to be full communion by the Church of England. Please do not dip bread in the wine (sometimes called 'intincting').*

*To the words "The Body/Blood of Christ" the communicant replies "Amen".*

*For those at home it might be helpful to use this prayer during the distribution.*

**God the Father,  
help us to hear the call of Christ the King  
and to follow in his service,  
whose kingdom has no end;  
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, one glory.**  
Amen.

## Choir Anthem

### **‘A new commandment’**

A new commandment I give unto you,  
That you love one another as I have loved you.  
By this shall all men know that you are my disciples  
If you have love, if you have love for one another.

*Music: R. J. Shephard (1949-2021)*

*A Communion hymn is sung. Please remain seated.*

**Now let us from this table rise,  
Renewed in body, mind and soul;  
With Christ we die and live again,  
His selfless love hath made us whole.**

**With minds alert, upheld by grace,  
To spread the Word in speech and deed,  
We follow in the steps of Christ,  
At one with all in hope and need.**

**To fill each human house with love,  
It is the sacrament of care;  
The work that Christ began to do  
We humbly pledge ourselves to share.**

**Then give us courage, living God,  
To choose again the pilgrim way,  
And help us to accept with joy  
The challenge of tomorrow's day.**

Words: F. Kaan (1929-2009)

Music: Swiss traditional melody arr. R. H. Lloyd (1933-2021)

## **The Post Communion Prayer**

*Please stand with the president who introduces a time of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray'.*

Generous Lord,  
in word and eucharist  
we have proclaimed the mystery of your love:  
help us so to live out our days  
that we may be signs of your wonders in the world;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Amen.**

**Father of all,  
we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.**

**Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.**

**May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

*A hymn is sung.*

**Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down,  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
All thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
Pure unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation;  
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.**

**Come, almighty to deliver,  
Let us all thy grace receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve thee as thy hosts above;  
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing,  
Glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish then thy new creation,  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in thee.  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heav'n we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

Words: C. Wesley (1707-1788) alt.  
Music: W. P. Rowlands (1860-1937)  
Hymn Tune: BLAENWERN

## **The Dismissal**

### **The Blessing**

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.**

## The Dismissal

We have beheld his glory,  
glory as of the only Son of the Father,  
full of grace and truth.

*John 1.14*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Christ is the world's true light*  
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*Faithful vigil ended*  
Words © T. Dudley-Smith

Gospel procession  
© Banks Music Publications

Music after the Offertory Hymn  
© Kevin Mayhew Ltd

Great Amen  
© G H Taylor

*A new commandment*  
© The Royal School of Church Music

*Now let us from this table rise*  
Words © Stainer & Bell Ltd  
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