



January 24th, 2021 10.30am.
The Third Sunday of Epiphany
Service of Spiritual Communion
via Brookdean Benefice Facebook page
or link on www.forestchurch.org.uk

The Gathering

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.

Hymn

Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesu, Lord, to thee we raise,
manifested by the star
to the sages from afar;
branch of royal David's stem
in thy birth at Bethlehem:
anthems be to thee address,
God in man made manifest.

Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
and at Cana wedding-guest
in thy Godhead manifest;
manifest in power divine,
changing water into wine:
anthems be to thee address,
God in man made manifest.

Manifest in making whole
 palsied limbs and fainting soul;
 manifest in valiant fight,
 quelling all the devil's might;
 manifest in gracious will,
 ever bringing good from ill:
 anthems be to thee address,
 God in man made manifest.

Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,
 mirrored in thy holy word;
 may we imitate thee now,
 and be pure, as pure art thou;
 that we like to thee may be
 at thy great Epiphany;
 and may praise thee, ever blest,
 God in man made manifest.

CHRISTOPHER WORDSWORTH (1807-1885)

T St Edmund

Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord.
 Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

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

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault.

We are truly sorry 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 grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name.

Amen.

Prayer of Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus 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

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; 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.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

A reading from the book of Revelation. (19.6–10)

I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out, 'Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready; to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure' – for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'

And he said to me, 'These are true words of God.'

Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, 'You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

'Glory to God!' all heav'n with joy is ringing;
angels proclaim the gospel of Christ's birth,
'Glory to God!', and still their song is bringing
good news of God incarnate here on earth

Lowly in wonder shepherds kneel before him,
no gift to bring save love of heart and mind:
come like those shepherds, sing his praise, adore him,
a babe so weak, yet Saviour of mankind.

Humble, yet regal, wise men kneel before him,
gold, incense, myrrh, their gifts to Christ they bring:
come like those wise men, sing his praise, adore him
a babe so poor and modest, yet a King.

Though now no crib or cradle is concealing
Jesus our Lord in that far-distant shrine, Christ at each eucharist
is still revealing
his very self in forms of bread and wine.

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

Alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. (2.1-11)

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Address

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

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.

Hymn

Jesus, come! for we invite you,
 Guest and Master, Friend and Lord;
 now, as once at Cana's wedding,
 speak, and let us hear your word:
 lead us through our need or doubting,
 hope be born and joy restored.

Jesus, come! transform our pleasures,
 guide us into paths unknown;
 bring your gifts, command your servants,
 let us trust in you alone:
 though your hand may work in secret,
 all shall see what you have done.

Jesus, come in new creation,
 heaven brought near in power divine;
 give your unexpected glory
 changing water into wine:
 rouse the faith of your disciples
 come, our first and greatest Sign!

Jesus, come! surprise our dullness,
 make us willing to receive
 more than we can yet imagine,
 all the best you have to give:
 let us find your hidden riches,
 taste your love, believe, and live!

CHRISTOPHER IDLE (*b.* 1938) based on John 2.1-4 T Neander

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

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 recall the Last Supper,
and acclaim the mystery of our faith.*

Great is the mystery of faith,
Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again:

*The prayer continues and leads into the doxology,
to which we respond, **Amen***

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

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.

**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.**



*Open to God's loving presence around us and within us we keep
silence for our own act of spiritual communion.*

**Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples,
'I am with you always'.
Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.
Hear my prayers for others and for myself,
and keep me in your care. Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.

**Eternal Father, we thank you for nourishing us,
 may our communion strengthen us in faith,
 build us up in hope,
 and make us grow in love;
 for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Amen.**

Hymn

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
 there is no shadow of turning with thee;
 thou changest not, thy compassion they fail not,
 as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be.
*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
 Morning by morning new mercies I see;
 all I have needed thy hand hath provided,
 great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,
 sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
 join with all nature in manifold witness
 to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.
*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
 Morning by morning new mercies I see;
 all I have needed thy hand hath provided,
 great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
 thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
 strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
 blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
 Morning by morning new mercies I see;
 all I have needed thy hand hath provided,
 great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

THOMAS O. CHISHOLM (1866-1960) T Faithfulness

The Dismissal

Blessing

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen

Common Worship: Holy communion Order One

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