

3rd Sunday of Epiphany 24th January 2021
and the Sunday of Christian Unity

Welcome to Praying Together but Separately

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

HYMN: SONGS OF THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE SUNG BY SMF SINGERS

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 addressed
God in Man made manifest.

2 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 addressed,
God in Man made manifest.

3 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 addressed,
God in Man made manifest.

4 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), and Compilers of 'Rejoice and Sing'

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

I am in the presence of the Living God, Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM: 128

R: How abundant is your goodness O Lord

Blessed are all those who fear the Lord,
and walk in his ways.

You shall eat the fruit of the toil of your hands;
it shall go well with you, and happy shall you be. R

Your wife within your house
shall be like a fruitful vine;
your children round your table,
like fresh olive branches.

Thus shall the one be blest
who fears the Lord. R

The Lord from out of Zion bless you
That you may see Jerusalem in prosperity
all the days of your life.

May you see your children's children,
and may there be peace upon Israel!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION FOR EPIPHANY SEASON:

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,

With all your soul, with all your mind,

And with all your strength.’

The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Amen, Lord, have mercy.

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, through our own fault, in thought and word and deed, and in what we have left undone.

We are heartily sorry and repent of all our sins.

For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ’s sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen

ABSOLUTION: The Lord enrich you with his grace,
and nourish you with his blessing;
the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil;
The Lord accept your prayers,
And absolve you from your offences,
For the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **Amen**

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. Amen**

BIBLE READINGS:

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 thunderpeals, 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.”

HYMN: CHRIST IS THE KING! O FRIENDS REJOICE (SMF SINGERS)

1 Christ is the King! O friends rejoice;
brothers and sisters, with one voice
tell all the world he is your choice.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 O magnify the Lord, and raise

anthems of joy and holy praise
for Christ's brave saints of ancient days.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 O Christian women, Christian men,
all the world over, seek again
the way disciples followed then.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 Let love's unconquerable might
your scattered companies unite
in service to the Lord of light.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

5 So shall God's will on earth be done,
new lamps be lit, new tasks begun,
and the whole Church at last be one.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

George K A Bell (1883-1958). © Oxford University Press

JOHN 2.1-11 The Wedding at Cana

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

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.

SERMON

HYMN: WE SHALL DRAW WATER JOYFULLY (SMF SINGERS)

*We shall draw water joyfully, singing joyfully, singing joyfully;
we shall draw water joyfully from the wellsprings of salvation.*

1 Truly God is our salvation;
we trust, we shall not fear.
For the Lord is our strength,
the Lord is our song;
he became our Saviour.

Chorus

2 Give thanks, O give thanks to the Lord;
give praise to his holy name!
Make his mighty deeds known to all of the nations;
proclaim his greatness.

Chorus

Paul Inwood (born 1947) © 1988 Paul Inwood, published by OCP Publications

OUR PRAYERS

We pray for the Church
that it may know its true resources and power are from you;
that it may be enabled
to proclaim your saving power and your love.
Give your Church the ability to be a healing instrument in the world, to bring
peace, and to proclaim your presence.

Silence

Almighty God, **we know all power comes from you.**

We remember all who struggle for survival,
the poor and the oppressed, the hungry and the homeless,
all who feel powerless.
We ask you to bless all who strive to bring justice and peace to our world.

Silence

Almighty God, **we know all power comes from you.**

We give thanks for all who have enriched our lives
by their love and goodness.

We ask that your love may be experienced in our homes
and among our loved ones and friends.

We pray for homes where there is conflict, violence or abuse,
especially for any who live in fear or feel unable to change.

Silence

Almighty God, **we know all power comes from you.**

Give strength to the weak,
refresh the weary,
encourage the fearful
and protect all who are endangered.

We remember friends and loved ones
who are ill or in need of comfort and refreshment.

Silence

Almighty God, **we know all power comes from you.**

We rejoice that you give us life in all its abundance and life eternal.
We pray for all our loved ones departed that
they may have the fullness of life in your kingdom.

Silence

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

A PRAYER CONCERNING THE CORONAVIRUS

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
in their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A MUSICAL INTERLUDE

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE BLESSING

May God the Father who led the wise men by the shining of a star to find Christ,
the Light from light,
Lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord. **Amen**

May God the Son, who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana,
transform your lives and make glad your hearts. **Amen**

May God the Holy Spirit, who came upon the beloved Son at his baptism in the
river Jordan, pour out his gifts on you who have come to the waters of new birth.
Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you, and those you love, today and for ever more. **Amen**

FINAL HYMN: I WANT TO WALK WITH JESUS CHRIST

I want to walk with Jesus Christ
All the days I live of this life on earth;
To give to Him complete control
of body and of soul.

Refrain

*Follow Him, follow Him, yield your life to Him,
He has conquered death, He is King of kings;
Accept the joy which He gives to those
Who yield their lives to Him.*

I want to learn to speak to Him,
To pray to Him, confess my sin;
To open my life and let Him in,
for joy will then be mine:

Refrain

I want to learn to speak of Him,
My life must show that He lives in me;
My deeds, my thoughts, my words must speak
all of His love for me.

Refrain

I want to learn to read His word,
For this is how I know the way
to live my life as pleases Him,
in holiness and joy.

Refrain

O Holy Spirit of the Lord,
Enter now into this heart of mine;
Take full control of my selfish will
And make me wholly Thine!

Refrain