

Sunday Worship at Home 17th January 2021 Epiphany 3

Opening Prayer:

Open our eyes to your presence Lord and open our hearts to your love. **Amen**

Invitation to confession:

Let us call to mind our sins:

God our Father: When we fail to listen to your call.

Lord have mercy

Lord Jesus: When we turn our back on others.

Christ have mercy.

Holy Spirit: When we deny your presence with us.

Lord have mercy

May almighty God cleans you from sin and restore you in his image.

Amen

The Collect (Special Prayer for the day)

Eternal God, Our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Gospel Reading: John 1: 43-end

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Reflection on the Gospel.

As we rejoice in the season of Epiphany, and the manifestation of Jesus Christ as the Son of God, we give thanks for the positive and meaningful way he can make a difference to our lives if we will only follow the example of Nathaniel who was a man prepared to open his eyes to the world around him. He was invited by Philip to "come and see" Jesus of Nazareth. The one who was written of by Moses and the Prophets. Nazareth was regarded as a backwater and we can hear the derision in Nathaniel's voice as he asks "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" His prejudice ended when he realised Jesus was the Son of God and

so a new relationship was formed that would produce new and exciting opportunities to travel, meet new people and try new things whilst doing the work of God.

Nathaniel's response to the invitation to "come and see" gave new purpose and meaning to his life, by opening his heart to Jesus, his life was changed and that gives us an example to follow. We are living through one of the most difficult periods in the nation's history.

Changes in our way of living has shaken us to the core, there is light ahead, but we are all weary. Being a Christian does not free us from the stress and strains of life, we suffer pain just like everyone else. However, our faith brings us into a relationship with God to give us strength and hope in times of trial. Psalm 39 speaks of God who has known us and loved us since before we were born, he never leaves us or forgets us. Just as he had plans for Nathaniel, so he has a plan for each of us. When we accept that there is more to life than the daily grind and stand before God in faith, we accept his greatest gift. The love that is beyond measure, the love that will never end; the love that will sustain us in all things. Amen

The Creed

We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.

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

Amen

Be still and Pray: For all countries struggling to contain Corona Virus. For peace in areas of conflict and for a fairer distribution of the world's resources. Give thanks for our families and all those we love and those who love us. Give thanks for the corona virus vaccine, those who created it and those who administer it. For the Church throughout the world, for our clergy Eddie and Irene and Reader Jenny. Her majesty the Queen, and world leaders to govern with care. Remember those have lost their jobs or confidence to go out. Those suffering from anxiety and feeling fragile that they may be comforted by knowing you love them. Remember those who have died in the past 12 months and those known only to you. May they rest in peace & rise in glory. Amen

The Lord's Prayer: 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 and 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 forever. Amen

The Blessing:

Lord God, we rejoice in your greatness and power, your gentleness and love. Enable us by your Spirit to honour you in our thoughts, words and actions and to serve you obediently in our lives; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and all those you love, this day and always. **Amen**

Reverend Irene