

Sunday Worship at Home, 16th January 2022, 2nd Sunday of Epiphany.



Opening Prayers:

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

From the rising of the sun to its setting **the Lord's name is greatly to be praised.**

Give him praise, you servants of the Lord. **O praise the name of the Lord!**

Amen.

A Prayer of 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.

Come, let us return to the Lord and say.

Lord our God, in our sin we have avoided your call. Our love for you is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. Have mercy on us; deliver us from judgement; bind up our wounds and revive us; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to himself and cleanse us from all our sins, that we may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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. **Amen**

Reading: John 2:1-11

¹ On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' ⁴ And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' ⁵ His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' ⁶ Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. ⁹ 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 ¹⁰ 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.' ¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Reflection on the reading:

In today's Gospel we have a story of blessing and a story of new creation revealing the divinity of Jesus. It is the story of what is possibly Jesus' first miracle. If so, then it is significant that it was performed at a wedding. The image of God as the bridegroom and Israel as the bride is common in the Old Testament. In the New Testament it is replaced by the image of Jesus as the bridegroom and the church as his bride. The sacrament of marriage between a man and a woman is an earthly reflection of the love between Christ and church and I often share this miracle with couples as I prepare them for marriage. It was not the host of the wedding, the groom who asked for help. It was Mary who brought the lack of wine to Jesus' attention. This was the third day of a wedding celebration. We know the guests have had enough wine by now because the steward cannot conceal his surprise at the quality of the new wine and said to the groom that most people serve the good wine first when the guests are sober and save the rough stuff until they are drunk, but he has saved the best until now, implying that that some of them at least are at that stage. So did this party really need another 120 gallons of wine? Probably not! It is a blessing which has not been earned, is not deserved, and is not even asked for but Jesus blesses this couple anyway. It is a blessing of excess, far more than they really need, and a blessing of the highest quality. This is the blessing Jesus wants to bring to every married couple. It is also the blessing that God pours upon us. Although we may not always recognise it for what it is we are continually showered with God's blessing: unearned and not asked for, of great goodness and far more than we either deserve or can imagine. **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: Please pray for the church, the needs of the world and our local community. Particularly pray for: Areas of the world affected by War, natural disasters and man-made disasters; for peace to prevail in areas of rising international tension. and for our own nation and other nations dealing with rising COVID infection rates; for healing and peace for those who are ill; for the souls of those who have recently died, and comfort for those who are mourning their loss; ***Finish with The Lord's Prayer:***

Conclusion

God our Father, you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. **To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.**

Reverend Eddie