

St. Christopher's Church, Hinchley Wood

Sunday 24th January 2021 – 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Welcome to our "Virtual" Sunday Service. In whatever way you are joining us, via Zoom or YouTube, we pray that you may be able to experience the presence of God this morning.

Today you are invited to a "Wedding Feast". Just as God responds to our needs with generosity and blessing, so we are called to worship liberally, live charitably and bless with open hands.

Please join in with the words in **bold** print.

Gathering

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

All and also with you.

Hymn: The God of Abraham praise *(sung by St Martin's Voices)*

- 1 **The God of Abraham praise
who reigns enthroned above,
Ancient of everlasting Days,
and God of love:
To him uplift the voice,
At whose supreme command
From earth we rise and seek the joys
At his right hand.**
- 2 **There dwells the Lord our King,
the Lord our Righteousness,
triumphant o'er the world of sin,
the Prince of Peace:
on Sion's sacred height
his kingdom he maintains,
and glorious with his saints in light
for ever reigns.**
- 3 **The God who reigns on high
the great archangels sing,
and 'Holy, Holy, Holy.' cry,
'almighty King,
who was, and is the same,
and evermore shall be:
eternal Father, great I AM,
we worship thee.'**

**4 The whole triumphant host
give thanks to God on high;
'hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost',
they ever cry:
hail, Abraham's God, and mine,
(I join the heavenly lays)
all might and majesty are thine,
and endless praise.**

Yigaddel Elohim chay weyishtabach

Daniel Ben Judah (fl 14th century), Thomas Olivers (1725-1799)

Confession

We are called to be a blessing for others. Humbly, and with contrite hearts, let us confess before God our inability to live up to this calling.

For all the times we have perceived the needs of others and felt unable to respond.

Lord have mercy **All Lord, have mercy.**

For the times we have failed to be generous in our words or deeds.

Christ, have mercy. **All Christ, have mercy.**

For our reticence about sharing with others the glorious gift of the Gospel.

Lord have mercy **All Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

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

All Amen.

Gloria

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.

Collect

God of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,
release to the captives,
and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free
to praise you in Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Reading: (Genesis 14 : 17 - 20)

A reading from the Book of Genesis

When Abram came back from his victory over Chedorlaomer and the other kings, the king of Sodom went out to meet him in Shaveh Valley (also called King's Valley).

And Melchizedek, who was king of Salem and also a priest of the Most High God, brought bread and wine to Abram, blessed him, and said, "May the Most High God, who made heaven and earth, bless Abram! May the Most High God, who gave you victory over your enemies, be praised!"

And Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of all the loot he had recovered.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 128

**Happy are those who obey the Lord,
who live by his commands.
Your work will provide for your needs;
you will be happy and prosperous.
Your wife will be like a fruitful vine in your home,
and your children will be like young olive trees around your table.
A man who obeys the Lord
will surely be blessed like this.
May the Lord bless you from Zion!
May you see Jerusalem prosper
all the days of your life!
May you live to see your grandchildren!
Peace be with Israel!**

Gospel: (John 2 : 1 - 11)

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you, O Lord.

Two days later there was a wedding in the town of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine had given out, Jesus' mother said to him, "They are out of wine."

"You must not tell me what to do," Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."

Jesus' mother then told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

The Jews have rules about ritual washing, and for this purpose six stone water jars were there, each one large enough to hold between twenty and thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill these jars with water." They filled them to the brim, and then he told them, "Now draw some water out and take it to the man in charge of the feast." They took him the water, which now had turned into wine, and he tasted it. He did not know where this wine had come from (but, of course, the servants who had drawn out the water knew); so he called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone else serves the best wine first, and after the guests have drunk a lot, he serves the ordinary wine. But you have kept the best wine until now!"

Jesus performed this first miracle in Cana in Galilee; there he revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Talk

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on 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.

Intercessions

Between the prayers we say

Lord, in your mercy
All hear our prayer.

At the end of the prayers we say

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

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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. 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 and for ever.

Amen.

Reflection Hymn (Author of Life Divine – Shepherd)

(sung by St Martin's Voices)

Author of life divine,
Who hast a table spread,
Furnished with mystic wine
And everlasting bread,
Preserve the life thyself hast given,
And feed and train us up for heaven.

Our needy souls sustain
With fresh supplies of love,
Till all thy life we gain,
And all thy fullness prove,
And, strengthened by thy perfect grace,
Behold without a veil thy face.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

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.

Closing Prayer

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.

All Amen

Hymn – Christ is the King! O friends rejoice *(sung by St Martin's Voices)*

- 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!**

Blessing and Dismissal

May the Most High God,
maker of heaven and earth,
clothe you in righteous robes,
washed pure by the precious blood of the Lamb,
and gather us all into one company at the heavenly banquet.
And the blessing of God almighty
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

*Please join us for a ZOOM coffee and chat after the service.
You will be invited to share your video and unmute your microphone.
This is a great time to share news and information.*

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