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Epiphany 2

Welcome

This is the message we have heard from the beginning:

that we should love one another.

Christ is our peace, who has made us one:

he has broken down the barriers which divided us.

We sing

Bright the vision that delighted

once the sight of Judah’s seer;

sweet the countless tongues united

to entrance the prophet’s ear.

Round the Lord in glory seated

cherubim and seraphim

filled his temple, and repeated

each to each the alternate hymn:

‘Lord, thy glory fills the heaven;

earth is with its fulness stored;

unto thee be glory given,

Holy, holy, holy, Lord.’

Heaven is still with glory ringing,

earth takes up the angels’ cry,

‘Holy, holy, holy,’ singing,

‘Lord of hosts, the Lord most high.’

With his seraph train before him,

with his holy Church below,

thus unite we to adore him,

bid we thus our anthem flow:

‘Lord, thy glory fills the heaven;

earth is with its fulness stored;

unto thee be glory given,

Holy, holy, holy, Lord.’

Richard Mant

Confession

We have come together as God’s family

to pray for the recovery of the unity of Christ’s Church and for the renewal of our common life.

The Lord is full of gentleness and compassion.

In penitence and faith let us ask his forgiveness of our sins.

God be gracious to us and bless us,

and make your face shine upon us:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May your ways be known on the earth,

your saving power among the nations:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You, Lord, have made known your salvation,

and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy

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. **Amen.**

Collect

Eternal Lord,

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.

Reading:

A reading from the First Book of Samuel

The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions. One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, ‘Here I am.’ And he ran to Eli and said, ‘Here I am; you called me. But Eli said, ‘I did not call; go back and lie down.’ So he went and lay down. Again the Lord called, ‘Samuel!’ And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, ‘Here I am; you called me.’ ‘My son,’ Eli said, ‘I did not call; go back and lie down.’ Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. A third time the Lord called, ‘Samuel!’

And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, ‘Here I am; you called me.’ Then Eli realised that the Lord was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, ‘Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”’ So Samuel went and lay down in his place. The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ Then Samuel said, ‘Speak, for your servant is listening.’ And the Lord said to Samuel: ‘See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle. At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family – from beginning to end. For I told him that I would judge his family for ever because of the sin he knew about; his sons uttered blasphemies against God, and he failed to restrain them. Therefore I swore to the house of Eli, “The guilt of Eli’s house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.”’ Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of the Lord. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision, but Eli called him and said, ‘Samuel, my son.’ Samuel answered, ‘Here I am.’ ‘What was it he said to you?’ Eli asked. ‘Do not hide it from me. May God deal with you, be it ever so severely, if you hide from me anything he told you.’ So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him. Then Eli said, ‘He is the Lord; let him do what is good in his eyes.’ The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel’s words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognised that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

We sing

You are the King of Glory,

you are the Prince of Peace,

you are the Lord of heav’n and earth,

you’re the Son of righteousness.

Angels bow down before you,

worship and adore, for

you have the words of eternal life,

you are Jesus Christ the Lord.

Hosanna to the Son of David!

Hosanna to the King of kings!

Glory in the highest heaven,

for Jesus the Messiah reigns.

Mavis Ford

Gospel Reading:

Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations and believed in throughout the world.

Alleluia

Hear the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, ‘Follow me.’ Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, ‘We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.’ ‘Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?’ Nathanael asked. ‘Come and see,’ said Philip. When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, ‘Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.’ ‘How do you know me?’ Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, ‘I saw you while you were still under the fig-tree before Philip called you.’ Then Nathanael declared, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.’ Jesus said, ‘You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig-tree. You will see greater things than that.’He then added, ‘Very truly I tell you, you will see “heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on” the Son of Man.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

We sing

In Christ alone my hope is found,

He is my light, my strength, my song;

This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,

Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace,

When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!

My Comforter, my All in All,

Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,

Fullness of God in helpless babe!

This gift of love and righteousness,

Scorned by the ones He came to save:

Till on that cross as Jesus died,

The wrath of God was satisfied –

For every sin on Him was laid;

Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,

Light of the world by darkness slain:

Then bursting forth in glorious Day

Up from the grave He rose again!

And as He stands in victory

Sin’s curse has lost its grip on me,

For I am His and He is mine –

Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,

This is the power of Christ in me;

From life’s first cry to final breath,

Jesus commands my destiny.

No power of hell, no scheme of man,

Can ever pluck me from His hand;

Till He returns or calls me home,

Here in the power of Christ I’ll stand!

Stuart Townend

Affirmation of faith

**Though he was divine,**

**he did not cling to equality with God,**

**but made himself nothing.**

**Taking the form of a slave,**

**he was born in human likeness.**

**He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross.**

**Therefore God has raised him on high,**

**and given him the name above every name:**

**that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Word was made flesh and lived among us:

and we have seen his glory.

Prayers

This form may be used

The infant Christ received gifts of gold, incense and myrrh: Father, accept the offering of our hearts and minds

[at the beginning of this year] …

Lord of glory,

hear our prayer.

The kingdoms of this world have become

the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ:

Father, grant an abundance of peace to your world …

Lord of glory,

hear our prayer.

The Holy Family lived in exile and in the shadow of death: Father, look in mercy on all who are poor and powerless,

and all who suffer …

Lord of glory,

hear our prayer.

Your Son shared the life of his home and family at Nazareth: Father, protect in your love our neighbours, our families and this community of which we are a part …

Lord of glory,

hear our prayer.

Father, we rejoice in our fellowship

with the shepherds, the angels, the magi,

the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph

and all the faithful departed.

In your unfailing love for us and for all people,

hear and answer our prayers through your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,

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.**

We sing

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,

in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,

most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,

almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,

nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;

thy justice like mountains high soaring above

thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;

in all life thou livest, the true life of all;

we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,

and wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,

thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;

all laud we would render: O help us to see

‘tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

W. Chalmers Smith

Peace

If our life in Christ means anything,

if love can persuade at all,

or the Spirit that we have in common,

or any tenderness and sympathy,

then be united in your conviction

and united in your love,

with a common purpose and a common mind.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you

We offer a sign of peace to one another

Closing prayer

Son of Mary, Son of God, we have joined the worship of the angels;

may we never lose that heavenly vision.

Like the shepherds, we have rejoiced at the news of your birth;

help us to proclaim that message in word and deed. Amen.

Blessing

May God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

three persons in one God, inspire you to live as one, that you may witness to the perfect unity of his love; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen**.

One in heart and one in mind,

and empowered by the Spirit,

go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.