



St John the Divine
Eucharist Service
4th Sunday after Epiphany
31st January 2021

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hymn: O Christ, the healer, we have come
Frederick Pratt Green (b.1903) - tune: Winchester New
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CCL No 632290

1. **O Christ, the healer, we have come
to pray for health, to plead for friends.
How can we fail to be restored
when reached by love that never ends?**
2. **From every ailment flesh endures
our bodies clamour to be freed;
yet in our hearts we would confess
that wholeness is our deepest need.**
3. **How strong, O Lord, are our desires,
how weak our knowledge of ourselves!
Release in us those healing truths
unconscious pride resists or shelves.**
4. **In conflicts that destroy our health
we diagnose the world's disease;
our common life declares our ills:
is there no cure, O Christ, for these?**
5. **Grant that we all, made one in faith,
in your community may find
the wholeness that, enriching us,
shall reach the whole of humankind.**

Sentence

Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness.
Matthew 9.35

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

GLORIA AND COLLECT

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's 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.**

Let us pray.

God of compassion,
you have shown us in Christ
that your love is never ending:
enable us both to love you with all our heart
and to love one another as Christ loved us.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from Deuteronomy 18.15-20:

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: 'If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.' Then the Lord replied to me: 'They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.'

May your word live in us,

and bear much fruit to your glory.

Psalm 111

- 1 O praise the Lord. I will praise the Lord
with my whole heart:
in the company of the upright
and among the congregation.
- 2 **The works of the Lord are great:
and studied by all who take delight in them.**
- 3 His deeds are majestic and glorious:
and his righteousness stands for ever.
- 4 **His marvellous acts have won him a name
to be remembered:
the Lord is gracious and merciful.**
- 5 He gives food to those that fear him:
he remembers his covenant for ever.
- 6 **He showed his people the power of his acts:
in giving them the heritage of the heathen.**

- 7 The works of his hands are faithful and just:
and all his commandments are sure;
- 8 **They stand firm for ever and ever:
they are done in faithfulness and in truth.**
- 9 He sent redemption to his people,
he ordained his covenant for ever:
holy is his name and worthy to be feared.
- 10 **The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
and of good understanding are those
that keep his commandments:
his praise shall endure for ever.**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
St Mark 1.21-28

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, 'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.' But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!' And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, 'What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.' At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

This is the Gospel of the Lord,
praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Response:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

**Grant that what we have asked in faith
we may by your grace receive,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Christ the Son of God has been revealed as a light to the nations.

So let us bring our darkness to his light, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you
in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith: pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

Christ is our peace.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.

The old has passed away: behold, everything has become new.

2 Corinthians 5.17

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Hymn: One Sabbath day

John Campbell - tune: Sine Nomine ('For all the saints')

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- 1. One Sabbath day, our Jesus came to share,
at synagogue, in readings and in prayer,
to show God's love to all assembled there:
our hurting healer; our God come nearer!**
- 2. You taught with pow'r, with bold authority,
not like the scribes manoeuvring carefully;
you spoke for God, explaining gloriously:
our hurting healer; our God come nearer!**
- 3. A man burst in, by demon-power possessed;
all gathered there were troubled and distressed.
Yet by your word, you cured him and impressed:
our hurting healer; our God come nearer!**
- 4. A moth'r-in-law lay sick in Peter's home;
you healed again, her fever soon was gone;
then all the town for healing joined the throng!
Our hurting healer; our God come nearer!**

**5. You gave and gave, and then went out to pray,
to seek renewal at the break of day;
the cost to you was more than we can say:
our hurting healer; our God come nearer!**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.
Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.

You anointed him as Messiah,
the light of the nations,
and revealed him as the hope
of all who thirst for righteousness and peace.

By his death on the cross
and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Merciful God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are confident to 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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and
blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and
feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Let us pray.
God of the nations,
we thank you for nourishing us with this holy sacrament.
Guide us by your presence,
that we may bring your light to those who dwell in
darkness,
and establish your justice in the earth.

Father,
**we offer ourselves to you
as a living sacrifice
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

Hymn: Christ's is the world in which we move

John Bell (b.1949) & Graham Maule (b.1958)

tune: Dream Angus

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1. **Christ's is the world in which we move;
Christ's are the folk we're summoned to love;
Christ's is the voice which calls us to care,
and Christ is the one who meets us here.
To the lost Christ shows his face,
to the unloved he gives his embrace,
to those who cry in pain or disgrace
Christ makes, with his friends, a touching place.**
2. **Feel for the people we most avoid -
strange or bereaved or never employed.
Feel for the women and feel for the men
who fear that their living is all in vain.
To the lost ...**
3. **Feel for the parents who've lost their child,
feel for the women whom men have defiled,
feel for the baby for whom there's no breast,
and feel for the weary who find no rest.
To the lost ...**
4. **Feel for the lives by life confused,
riddled with doubt, in loving abused;
feel for the lonely heart, conscious of sin,
which longs to be pure but fears to begin.
To the lost ...**

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

May Christ the Son of God be manifest to you,
that your lives may be a light to the world;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and those whom you love and pray for,
now and always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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NOTICES

Reduced Covid regulations

These are some of the current regulations:

- The 2sqm rule applies providing electronic attendance records are being kept (eg using the QR code).
- Masks are no longer mandatory indoors but are recommended for congregational singing.
- We recommend anyone leading with a mask off to be at least 5m from other people.
- Hand sanitiser is used on arrival.
- Ensure that the 2sqm rule is maintained in entrances, narthexes, foyers and for morning tea/refreshments.
- People who have any COVID symptoms must not attend.
- Do not use shared prayerbooks. A single-use printed order of service sheet may be useful.
- Communion must be in one kind (bread).
- No food, drink, vessels, utensils or other equipment are to be shared by participants.
- Windows and doors should be open for maximum ventilation.

Services

Our usual service schedule has resumed:

- 8am Sunday (Eucharist, with no music)
- 10am Sunday (Eucharist, with hymns)
- 10am Wednesday (Eucharist, with no music)

The 10am Sunday service will continue to be live-streamed for now, but we are still considering live-streaming the 8am service instead.

We have had some response, in favour of the 8am service, but it would help if others indicated their preference. Of course, all live-streamed services are also available for later viewing.

Lent

Ash Wednesday is on 17 February, and there'll be the usual 10am and 7pm Eucharist services with the Imposition of Ashes. The 10am service will be live-streamed.

We will have a Lent course, with a group meeting on Wednesday evenings in the downstairs chapel. Also, the Focus on Faith & Friendship group meeting at Joan Sweet's home on Saturday mornings will follow the same course.

Please sign up for one of these groups - either via the sign-up sheet in the church foyer, or let the office/vicar know via email or phone.

Rosters

We are looking for people to sign up for our usual rosters as we gradually move back to 'normal' operations. We once again need people to do readings, intercessions, welcoming, offertory counters, and setting up & clearing away (the pre- and post-service duties usually done by lay readers and acolytes).

Other duties are being reviewed in the light of the reduced Covid regulations, and will be resumed when these can be appropriately managed.