



St John the Divine
Eucharist Service
5th Sunday after Epiphany
7th February 2021

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hymn: The voice of God goes out to all the world
Luke Connaughton (1907-79) - tune: Woodlands
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CCL No 632290

1. **The voice of God goes out to all the world;
his glory speaks across the universe.
The great King's herald cries from star to star:
'With power, with justice, he will walk his way.'**
2. **The Lord has said, 'Receive my messenger,
my promise to the world, my pledge made flesh,
a lamp to every nation, light from light':
with power, with justice, he will walk his way.**
3. **The broken reed he will not trample down,
nor set his heel upon the dying flame.
He binds the wounds, and health is in his hand:
with power, with justice, he will walk his way.**
4. **Anointed with the Spirit and with power,
he comes to crown with comfort all the weak,
to show the face of justice to the poor:
with power, with justice, he will walk his way.**
5. **His touch will bless the eyes that darkness held,
the lame shall run, the halting tongue shall sing,
and prisoners laugh in light and liberty:
with power, with justice, he will walk his way.**

Sentence

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles.

Isaiah 40.31

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.

Saving God,
whose Son, Jesus Christ, healed the sick
and brought them wholeness of body and mind:
inspire us, his disciples,
so that we may constantly proclaim his gospel
by our words
and by the dedication and integrity of our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from Isaiah 40.21-31:

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the
earth?

It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

Lift up your eyes on high and see:

Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,

'My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God'?
Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary,

and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

May your word live in us,
and bear much fruit to your glory.

Psalm 147.1-11

- ¹ O praise the Lord,
for it is good to sing praises to our God:
and to praise him is joyful and right.
- ² **The Lord is rebuilding Jerusalem:
he is gathering together
the scattered outcasts of Israel.**
- ³ He heals the broken in spirit:
and binds up their wounds.
- ⁴ **He counts the number of the stars:
and calls them all by name.**
- ⁵ Great is our Lord, and great is his power:
there is no measuring his understanding.
- ⁶ **The Lord restores the humble:
but he brings down the wicked to the dust.**
- ⁷ O sing to the Lord a song of thanksgiving:
sing praises to our God upon the harp.
- ⁸ **He covers the heavens with cloud,
and prepares rain for the earth:
and makes the grass
to sprout upon the mountains.**
- ⁹ He gives the cattle their food:
and feeds the young ravens that call to him.
- ¹⁰ **He takes no pleasure in the strength of a horse:
nor does he delight in a man's legs,**
- ¹¹ But the Lord's delight is in those that fear him:
who wait in hope for his mercy.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
St Mark 1.29-39

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

As soon as Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they

found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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.

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: Lay your healing hand upon us

Alan Gaunt (b.1935) - tune: Susan

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1. **Lay your healing hand upon us,
Jesus, when we cry with pain;
bind our wounds with your compassion;
bring us back to health again.**
2. **Hold us like a gentle mother,
heal the hurt we feel inside,
set us on our feet and make us
strong to take life in our stride.**
3. **With the confidence you give us,
give us your compassion too,
so that we may offer others
comfort, healing, strength from you.**
4. **Then, whatever grief awaits,
as we learn your gentle ways
we will share your joyful Spirit
and for ever sing God's praise.**

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: Praise the One who breaks the darkness
Rusty Edwards (b.1955) - tune: Nettleton
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- 1. Praise the One who breaks the darkness
with a liberating light.
Praise the One who frees the prisoners,
turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the Gospel,
healing every dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands
with the very bread of peace.**
- 2. Praise the One who blessed the children
with a strong yet gentle word.
Praise the One who drove out demons
with a piercing two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water
to the desert's burning sand;
from this well comes living water,
quenching thirst in every land.**
- 3. Praise the one true love incarnate:
Christ who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose for many
that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory,
praise the One who makes us one.**

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

Latest Covid regulation update

Masks are mandatory for services again - other than for anyone leading, who must be at least 5m from others.

Services

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.