



CHESTER
CATHEDRAL

Cathedral Eucharist
1st Sunday of Epiphany

Sunday 10th January, 2021, 10.00am

President: Canon Jane Brooke

Preacher: The Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford

WELCOME

We welcome you to this beautiful church in the heart of the city for a celebration of the Holy Eucharist. This cathedral is the seat of the Bishop of Chester and the core of a Christian community that has worshipped here and worked together for over 1100 years. It is a place where the mission of the church is to proclaim God's love is central, and your welcome presence here for worship helps to strengthen this vital act of witness.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Material from *Common Worship* included in this service is copyright © *The Archbishop's Council 2000* Scripture quotations are from *New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicized Edition*, copyright © 1989, 1995 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. CCLI Licence Number: 177097

SEASON OF EPIPHANY

The word Epiphany comes from the Greek *epiphaneia* meaning 'manifestation' or 'revelation', and we use it to focus attention on the manifestation of God to the world in the person of Jesus Christ. In many ways the season of Epiphany is a continuation and extension of our Christmas celebration of the Incarnation – of the Word made flesh.

It is the first of these stories that is the most familiar, as the visit of the wise men to the Holy Family in Bethlehem is often told as part of the Christmas narrative: yet its familiarity can easily mask its power. 'Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?' (Matthew 2. 1-12) This question was originally posed by the Magi as they searched for the Holy Child, but it has become a motif for us during the season of Epiphany as we consider where we might find Christ in the world today. The feast of the Conversion of St Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, also falls in Epiphanytide and gives us the opportunity to reflect on how we may need to change our lives in order to reveal God's light and love through the mission of the Church. The period of Epiphany also includes the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

In the Eastern churches the Epiphany has a different emphasis centring around the celebration of Christ's baptism by John in the River Jordan; when the heavens were opened and a voice from heaven declared Jesus to be God's beloved Son. Jesus' baptism is immediately followed by the miracle at Cana in Galilee, where Jesus 'first manifested his glory'.

The season of joyful celebration that began at Christmas continues through the successive Sundays of Epiphany, and the festal cycle only ends at Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas). The child who has been manifested to the Magi at his birth is now recognised by Simeon and Anna when he comes to be presented in the Temple according to the Law of Israel. He is both 'a light to lighten the Gentiles' and 'the glory of God's people Israel'; but we must understand that the redemption he will bring must be won through suffering. It is already becoming clear that the Incarnation is directed towards the Passion as Simeon's final words move our attention away from the celebration of Christmas and towards the mysteries of Easter.

THE GATHERING

HYMN

- 1 **O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!**
- 2 **Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.**
- 3 **Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.**
- 4 **O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!**

John S B Monsell (1811-75)

WAS LEBET
From Rheinhardt MS (1754)

GREETING

The President says

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

OPENING RESPONSES

On this day we celebrate that Jesus is revealed as the Christ
in the waters of baptism.

I will take you from the nations:
and gather you from all countries.
I will sprinkle clean water upon you:
and purify you from all defilement.
A new heart I will give you:
and put a new spirit within you.
You shall be my people:
and I shall be your God.

cf Ezekiel 36.24-28

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

The Deacon introduces the 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.

cf Titus 2.11-14

Let us confess our sins.

After a short silence all say

**God our Father,
long-suffering, full of grace and truth,
you create us from nothing and give us life.
You give your faithful people
new life in the water of baptism.
You do not turn your face from us, nor cast us aside.
We confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbour.
We have wounded your love and marred your image in us.
Restore us for the sake of your Son,
and bring us to heavenly joy,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ABSOLUTION

The President says

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive you your sins,
open your eyes to God's truth, strengthen you to do God's will
and give you the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

GLORIA

Glory be to God on high,
and in earth peace, good will towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee,
we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COLLECT

The President says

Let us pray.

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;
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.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE NEW TESTAMENT

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

19. 1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptised?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' Paul said, 'John baptised with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' On hearing this, they were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied - altogether there were about twelve of them.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

- 1 **When Jesus comes to be baptised,
He leaves the hidden years behind,
the years of safety and of peace,
to bear the sins of humankind.**
- 2 **The Spirit of the Lord comes down,
anoints the Christ to suffering,
to preach the word, to free the bound,
and to the mourner comfort bring.**
- 3 **He will not quench the dying flame,
and what is bruised he will not break,
but heal the wound injustice dealt,
and out of death his triumph make.**
- 4 **Our everlasting Father praise
with Christ, his well-beloved Son,
who with the Spirit reigns serene,
Eternal Trinity in One.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

HOLY GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

I. 4-11

Glory to you, O Lord.

John the baptiser appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptised you with water; but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

After the sermon, a short silence is observed

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us all affirm our common faith in Jesus Christ:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God,
and makes Christ known in the world?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

After each petition the following response may be used

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

At the end

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

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

PEACE

The President says

We are the body of Christ.
In the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body.
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR

Open the heavens, Lord our God,
and send your transforming Spirit on us and on these gifts.
May we who are baptised into Christ
be ready to share his cup of suffering and strengthened
to serve him for ever. **Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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 thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
You celebrated your new gift of baptism
in signs and wonders at the Jordan.
Your voice was heard from heaven
to awaken faith in the presence among us of your Word made flesh.
Your Spirit was seen as a dove,
revealing Jesus as your servant,
and anointing him with the oil of gladness
to preach the good news to the poor.
Therefore, as we celebrate the union of earth and heaven,
we rejoice to echo the song of the angels in heaven
for ever praising you and singing:

The choir sings

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most High.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The President continues

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.
On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.
When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.
So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours,
O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Believing the promises of God,
let us pray as our Saviour has taught us:

**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.**

BREAKING OF BREAD

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

The President says

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

AGNUS DEI

The choir sings

○ Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world;
have mercy on us.
○ Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world;
have mercy on us.
○ Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world;
grant us thy peace.

COMMUNION MOTET

The Adoration of the Magi

Josef Rheinberger

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

The President says

Let us pray.

Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:
by the power of your Spirit
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth
through the waters of the new creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

BLESSING

The President says

May God, who in Christ gives us a spring of water
welling up to eternal life, perfect in you the image of his glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Deacon says

May God the creator, the rock of our salvation,
who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit
and forgiven all our sins
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
keep us faithful to our calling, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

HYMN

- 1 **O Lord of every shining constellation
that wheels in splendour through the midnight sky,
grant us your Spirit's true illumination
to read the secrets of your work on high.**
- 2 **O Life, awaking life in cell and tissue,
from flower to bird, from beast to humankind;
help us to trace, from birth to final issue,
the sure unfolding purpose of your mind.**
- 3 **You, Lord, have stamped your image on your creatures,
and, though they mar that image, love them still;
lift up our eyes to Christ, that in his features
we may discern the beauty of your will.**
- 4 **Great Lord of nature, shaping and renewing,
you made us more than nature's child to be;
you help us tread, with grace our souls enduring,
the road to life and immortality.**

Albert F. Bayly (1901-84)
© Oxford University Press

HIGHWOOD
Richard Runciman Terry (1865-1938)

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

