

Our Service Together

January 30th 2021

An Acclamation for the Season

All: Alleluia, alleluia, Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations and believed in throughout the world. alleluia!

Preparation

All: This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Through the brokenness of Christ, we become one body
as one body we now gather in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Our Confession

The sun of righteousness has dawned with healing in his wings. Let us come to the light of Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

All: Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

Be still for a moment in confession and in receiving God's Grace in Christ

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

The opening prayer

All: The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

All: As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. Amen.

The Psalmody 71.1-6

In you, O Lord, do I seek refuge; let me never be put to shame.

In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; incline your ear to me and save me.

Be for me a stronghold to which I may ever resort; send out to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the evildoer and the oppressor.

For you are my hope, O Lord God, my confidence, even from my youth.

Upon you have I leaned from my birth, when you drew me from my mother's womb;
my praise shall be always of you.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen

Scripture Reading 1 Corinthians 13.1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

At the end of the reading we say:

All: This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gloria

All: 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.

The Gospel Luke 4.21-30

²¹ Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' ²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' ²³ He said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum."' ²⁴ And he said, 'Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town. ²⁵ But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the

time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶ yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷ There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.' ²⁸ When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

At the end of the reading we say:

All: This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

A Reflection for the day Watching, longing, hoping for the presence of God.

From the times of Ezekiel there had been a sense that the glory of the Lord had abandoned Jerusalem and the temple to their fate. There was lament amongst the people, but the people were never without hope. The prophets looked forward, talked of a time when the glory would return, when Jerusalem would once more be called 'Yahweh Shammah' – the Lord is there.

For a very long time indeed, centuries in fact, the faithful watched, waited, longed and hoped to see the glory appear once again. Through the thick and thin of the nation's journey they watched and hoped that the word of the Lord would be fulfilled in their sight. Some folks took matters into their own hands during these years and by armed force and religious government they sought to establish the kingdom and declare the glory of the Lord was with them again; for look, we have a land again, a king once more, the temple is built again.

But, we read, after a long time has passed, one old man who has nurtured a vision of the glory returned lifts his eyes in the temple, sees a young couple with a baby, all his doubt is gone; he sees, he knows. And then an old woman comes forward and begins to tell all she can that the glory has returned to Israel, to Jerusalem and to the temple. This glory, she declares, is a light to reveal Israel's God to all the world; and this will indeed be to the glory of Israel – not an armed taking back of the land, the establishing of a religious legal system. This was the glory of God; this baby was the promise for all nations, made to Abraham himself. Here was the glory of God, the presence of God, the loving and redeeming purpose of God.

In 1 Corinthians Paul is concerned about how the church orders itself and how it receives and embodies the presence of God come to us in His Spirit. All the usual concerns and arguments of human society and organisation are there for us to see in Corinth. Question about wisdom have been raised along with fame and personality cults, sex and marriage, how to live in a pagan and non-religious world; all are evident. But, says Paul, in the end all of these concerns will pass. He continues, because they will fade away the people would be better to focus on the foundation of all things, the love of God.

This love of God has come in the birth of Jesus who would be the Christ; revealing the glory of God to all the nations. Revealing how God 'so loved the world he sent His Son'. And what of this love, this glory, this hope realised, is it just for our comfort as we journey through life? We hear the words spoken to Mary, this love will be for the fall and rise of many in Israel, it will be a sign spoken against by many, and it will be like a sword through Mary's maternal soul as well.

This love of God for us should bring comfort. To know that in Christ, God is with us, should bring hope in each and all days. It is a treasure to hold in our hearts, it is the greatest of all things to be pursued above all status, wealth and power. But this is a dangerous love for as Isaac Watts reminds us this love 'Demands my soul, my life, my all'.

The Creed

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.

Prayers *We make our intercessions*

O God of peace, who has taught us that in quietness and confidence shall be our strength; help us, as we come into your presence, to be still and know that you are God.

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ let us pray to the Father.
Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

Strengthen Bishop Ruth and all laity and clergy who seek to serve you in this diocese May they be filled with the Spirit and speak with authority. Guide all involved in the search for the next Bishop of Bath and Wells.
Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

We Pray for Our Queen, Prime Minister, and all World leaders, that they may have the Spirit of wisdom to lead us through these times. We pray for all our diplomats working for peace in Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan, and The Yemen.
Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

We pray for all journalists and broadcasters that they may always report with honesty and integrity.
Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

We pray for the hungry and starving, that the available food may be used for the benefit of all.
Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

We pray for our families, friends, and neighbours that we may serve Christ in one another and seek the common good.
Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

We pray for our schools, the children, teachers, and support staff as they face further disruption.
Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

We pray for the sick, suffering and dying; especially Peter Taylor, Shirley Carter and Pat Morley. We give thanks and pray for those who use their skill and love to care for them.
Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

Hear us as we remember those who have died..... According to your promises grant them a share in your eternal kingdom.
Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all your saints, we commend ourselves and the whole creation to your unfailing love. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and for evermore. Amen.

The Collect

All: God of heaven, you send the gospel to the ends of the earth and your messengers to every nation: send your Holy Spirit to transform us by the goodness of everlasting life in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Conclusion

All: Christ, as a light illumine and guide me this day.
Christ, as a shield overshadow me.
Christ under me, Christ over me;
Christ beside me on my left and my right.
This day be within and without me. Amen.