



Following Jesus

Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering
'Growing God's Kingdom'



Sunday worship and weekly news
17 January 2021

EPIPHANY 2

Welcome everyone



Another definition of Epiphany is a moment of sudden and great revelation or a realisation. Both readings and our Psalm for today contain "Epiphany" moments. The picture of Jesus in Revelation who, whilst looking like "The lamb that was slain" is revealed as "The lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David", and "The one who is worthy". The revelation of the Psalmist, who having counted his innumerable blessings, stands in awe in the constant presence of God, his maker. The realisation of Nathanael that not only can something, or someone, good come out of Nazareth but Jesus, son of Joseph, is truly the son of God, King of Israel, and someone worth following.

Lorraine Best

TODAY'S SERVICE ON YOUTUBE

The Service can be accessed from the church website www.glos-stm-stg.org.uk

Once into the church website click on the blue banner at the bottom of the page. Enjoy, and sing aloud to your hearts content.

DESERT ISLAND HYMNS

What are your 3 favourite hymns?

Over the next few months, we are seeking to include 'favourite hymns' selected by members of the congregation in our services. Contact Jonathan, or Helen (See '**Contacting us**' for phone numbers) and Let them know which 3 hymns, along with your bible, you would take to a desert island.

FOOD PARCELS

St George's Church, Grange Rd, is now open for Food Parcel collections every Tuesday from 10 00am until 12.00noon. Each parcel includes tinned soup, pasta or rice, tea bags, cereal and other tinned or dry goods. Parcels are FREE OF CHARGE. Please observe social distancing rules.

Processional Hymn

Crown him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of him
Who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love,
Behold his hands and side,
Those wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye
At mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace,
Whose power a sceptre sways
From pole to pole, that wars may
cease,
And all be prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end,
And round his pierced feet
Fair flowers of paradise extend
Their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years,
The Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
Ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou has died for me;
Thy praise shall never never end
Throughout eternity.

Prayer for Today

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

Revelation 5 The Scroll and the Lamb

Read by Helen McGeoch

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; ² and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?' ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁴ And I began to weep bitterly



because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals' ⁶ Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. ⁸ When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ They sing a new song:



'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; ¹⁰ you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth.'

Prayer: Lord, Lamb of God, who conquered death with life, You alone are worthy to judge and to reign. Hear and use our prayers for Your Kingdom. Amen

Psalm 139

Read by Darrell & Glenda Stevens

1 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me; **you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.**
 2 You mark out my journeys and my resting place **and are acquainted with all my ways.**
 3 For there is not a word on my tongue, **but you, O Lord, know it altogether.**
 4 You encompass me behind and before **and lay your hand upon me.**
 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, **so high that I cannot attain it.**
 12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; **you knit me together in my mother's womb.**
 13 I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; **marvellous are your works, my soul knows well.**
 14 My frame was not hidden from you, **when I was made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.**
 15 Your eyes beheld my form, as yet unfinished; **already in your book were all my members written,**
 16 As day by day they were fashioned **when as yet there was none of them.**
 17 How deep are your counsels to me, O God! **How great is the sum of them!**
 18 If I count them, they are more in number than the sand, **and at the end, I am still in your presence.**

Prayer: Creator God, may every breath we take be for your glory, my every footstep show you as our way, that, trusting in your presence in this world, we may, beyond this life, still be with you where you are alive and reign forever and ever. Amen

John 1 Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

Read by Linda Medwell

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' ⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' ⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' ⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' ⁵⁰ Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' ⁵¹ And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'



Prayer: Lord thank you for calling each of us to follow You, and for a vision of things to come. Amen

Reflection from Rev Canon Mike Parsons

Epiphany is a difficult season for the lectionary. It starts with a bang, with the visit of the Magi and the proclamation that salvation is now revealed to all nations, moves to the baptism of Jesus (last week) where the Father commissions the Son and the Holy Spirit descends to transform baptism from forgiveness of sin to the filling with the Spirit and then rather ambles along until the presentation of Christ in the Temple which gets a sentimental and rather anachronistic make-over into 'Candlemas'. At last Lent shows up and gives the readings a bit more focus (and a defined number of Sundays).

Which is all a pity as those Magi needed rather more attention than that one Sunday. We do their role a disservice with the rather trite carol "We three Kings of Orient are" (which I must admit, I rather like), domesticating them into adoring courtiers to the newborn Saviour of all.



They were professional experts in seeking to read and determine the future so as to extract the maximum benefit for their clients.

They claimed, and practised, magical arts totally forbidden to the Jewish people (not that some didn't try). They were experts in reading the stars and gaining a handle of the future. And they had their world turned upside down. All the known world was turned upside down and at the end of it all they had to find another way home – and another way of life.

Which challenges us as to what our 'guiding star' is and confronted by the cataclysm of Epiphany what our 'other way home' needs to be. Faced with the Covid-19 cataclysm; does the Christian have 'another way' to walk?

We declare together our commitment to faith:

We believe in one God the Father, the Almighty maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.

For our sakes he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again, in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory, to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life who proceeds from the Father and the Son who with the Father and Son are worshipped and glorified who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

Intercessions from Susan Scothern

Lord of the World,

As we look into the coming weeks, with all the problems and difficulties they will bring, we pray for those who need to make decisions for the country. May they weigh up the conflicting needs with humility and a desire to serve all those within the country, and may they act with wisdom and thought. And we think not just of our country, both those in other countries, and especially at

this time pray for the United States that the inauguration of the new president may be enacted peaceably and safely.

Lord of our Lives,

We pray for all those who continue to serve. We remember nurses, doctors, paramedics, and care staff who often feel tired and over-stretched and ask for your strength for them. We remember others who serve the community, those in retail, the power services, postal and delivery workers, and many others asking for your peace for them as they continue with their daily work. We remember all those who volunteer, asking for continued enthusiasm when sometimes keeping going can seem hard. May we continue to offer our service in whatever ways we can, being open to your calling.

Lord of our Hearts,

We pray for ourselves. When we feel lonely, remind us you love and care for us. When we are sad, may we be conscious of your presence. When we feel fearful, may we remember that you are accompanying us on our way. When we feel tired, may we rest in your presence. And if we feel as though the darkness is all around us, may your light burst forth anew, showing us the true radiance of your face and reminding us once again that you have conquered death and there is no longer anything to fear.



Offertory Hymn

Will you come and follow me

if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown,
Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown,
in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
And do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

*John L Bell (born 1949) and Graham Maule (1958-2019) ©
1987 WGRG*

Preparing to receive Holy Communion

Rev Dr Sandra Millar receives communion on our behalf

Final Hymn

Lift high the cross

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

Come, let us follow where our Captain trod,
Our King victorious, Christ the Son of God.

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As thou hast promised, draw us unto thee.

Let every race and every language tell
Of him who saves our souls from death and hell.

Set up thy throne, that earth's despair may cease
Beneath the shadow of its healing peace.

For thy blest cross which doth for all atone
Creation's praises rise before thy throne.

WHAT TO DO for THIS WEEK:

❖ Keep bringing items for the **Foodbank**; **new collection point is the Church Centre hallway on a Friday morning between 9.30am and 11.30am Please note the Centre doors will be locked so please ring the bell.**

Toiletries are now accepted at the foodbank.

Thank you!

Know someone who:

- ❖ is stuck at home without support?
- ❖ can't make ends meet?
- ❖ Just wants to talk?

Then **Contact Gloucestershire Community Help Hub on 01452 583519**

Keep picking up the phone!

People are finding phone calls with friends invaluable to combat loneliness. Thank you everyone; please keep up the good work!



CONTACTING US:

Vicar: Vacancy (please pray for new appointment)

Reader: Jonathan MacKechnie-Jarvis 01452 502174

Pioneer: Helen McGeoch 07729 615993

Email: tuffleypioneer@gmail.com

Website: www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk

Facebook: St. George's, Tuffley and St Margaret's Whaddon

Administrator: Glenda Stevens 01452 307456

Email: stgeorgeschurch1@gmail.com

The Administration office is open on Friday mornings from 9.30am until 11.30am until further notice. Please contact the Church Administrator by email or leave a message on the office telephone and our Administrator will get back to you.

We are part of the **Church in Tuffley**, working in partnership with English Martyrs (Roman Catholic), Grange (Baptist) and St Barnabas (Anglican).



NEWS – 17 – 24 January

In Memoriam:

Brian Woodruff, Marjorie Cotterill, Kyle Howell, Margaret Dee, Joy Mellor, William Tweed RIP

We pray for all who are ill or in need at this time mentioning by name:

Margaret, Angela, Susan, Mike and Laura, Lynne, Sarah, Pat, Sarah M, Christine, June, Daphne, Darren and family, Hedley and Rosemary, Ann, Christopher and Christine, Carina and Graham, Jan and family, Michelle and Bart.

Anniversaries of death:

Joan Middlecote, Sheila Criddy, Andrew Winter, Ada Brown, Mervyn Evans, Sheila Bell, John Webb, David Gillard, Linda Edwards, Yvonne Halling, Edith Wilkinson, Bill Lane, Violet Badham, Eve Stephens, Zacary Evans, Rachel Smith.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

None that we know of.

DIARY DATES 17 – 24 January

Sun 17			No services today
Mon 18	11.30am	C	Funeral for the late Joy Mellor RIP
Tue 19	4.00pm	Z	Standing Committee
Wed 20	8.15am	Z	Morning Prayer
Thu 21			No service today
	11.30am	C	Funeral for the late Marjorie Cotterill RIP
Sun 24			No service today

C = Crematorium, Z = Zoom

ELECTORAL ROLL: The 2021 Annual meetings of St George's and St Margaret's will be held at some point in 2021. If your name does not appear on the current Electoral Roll you will not be eligible to vote at the APCMs or be elected to either PCC.

The Electoral Roll for St George's and St Margaret's would normally be displayed on the notice board from **Sunday 6 March 2021** until the **27 March 2021** but neither church may be open during that period.

If you wish your name to be added to the list, forms can be obtained from Margaret Barber, for St George's or Jill Ponter, for St Margaret's (see contact details at the front of Crossroads).

Completed forms should be returned by no later than **Sunday 27 March 2021**.

ANNUAL REPORTS: If you normally write a report for St George's APCM, would you please prepare it NOW and send it to Glenda as soon as possible. Emailed documents are preferred; but if your report has to be handwritten please let Glenda have it immediately, in order that she can process it in time for the Annual Report and Accounts pack.

Remember your report covers the period
1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2020 only

The deadline for ALL reports is **SUNDAY 6 MARCH**; your report will not appear in the report pack if it is received after this date.

VACANCY STANDING COMMITTEE on ZOOM



4.00pm Tuesday 19 January

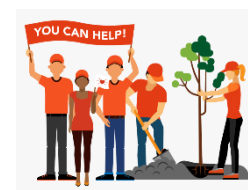
4.00pm Tuesday 2 February

4.00pm Tuesday 23 February

JOINT PCC ON ZOOM



7.00PM TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY



Tree planting in Randwick Park postponed until the 27 February