

# Church at Home

## Second Sunday of Epiphany



DIOCESE *of*  
OXFORD

## Before the Service

Welcome as we worship God together from across the Diocese of Oxford in Church at Home on this second Sunday of Epiphany.

We are delighted that the president today is the Revd Dr William Lamb, vicar of the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford, and that our address is given by the Revd Martin Williams, co-area dean for Amersham. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed ideas, prayers and action to this week's Church at Home as we prepare to 'Come and See'.

In the western churches, the Epiphany ('manifestation') became an occasion to celebrate one element in the story of Christ's birth - the visit of the far-travelled magi, understood as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. Matthew's account speaks simply of 'wise men from the east'; later tradition fixed their number at three, made them kings and recalled their resonant names – Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. In this perspective, Epiphanytide is an apt season to pray for the worldwide mission of the Church. The feast of the Conversion of St Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, appropriately falls in the Epiphany season, as does the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

In the eastern churches, the Epiphany is, rather, the celebration of Christ's baptism at the hands of John, when the heavens were opened and a voice from heaven declared Jesus to be God's beloved Son. The miracle of Cana in Galilee, where Jesus 'first manifested his glory', follows immediately:

Manifest at Jordan's stream,  
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;  
and at Cana wedding-guest  
in thy Godhead manifest.

*Christopher Wordsworth*

Today, we focus on the invitation to 'Come and See', made by Philip to Nathanael as he invites him to follow Jesus, just as we are offered that invitation today to encounter Christ and be welcomed.

Thank you to everyone from across the diocese who has made this service possible, including clergy and people from Oxford, Dorchester, Amersham, Newbury, Reading, Waltham St Lawrence and Henley.

## Music as we gather

Our service begins as we hear part of Bach's 'Liebster Jesu wir sind hier'  
*Played by Steven Grahl, organist, Christ Church Cathedral*

## The Gathering

### The Greeting

*President* In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

*All* **Amen**

*President* The Lord be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

*The president welcomes the congregation gathered online and introduces the service.*

### Hymn

'Thou whom shepherds worshipped'

*Sung by Waltham St Lawrence Virtual Voices*

*Directed by Simon Shaw, organist Dr Camilla Jarnot*

Thou whom shepherds worshipped, hearing  
Angels tell their tidings cheering,  
'Sirs, away with doubt and fearing!  
Christ the King is born for all.'

Thou to whom came wise men faring,  
Gold and myrrh and incense bearing,  
Heartfelt homage thus declaring  
To the King that's born for all.

Bending low in adoration,  
Thee we greet, for our salvation  
Giv'n by wondrous incarnation,  
King of Glory, born for all.

Based on *Quem Pastores*  
14<sup>th</sup> century German  
*tr.* Charles Stanley Phillips 1883-1949

## Confession

*President* 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.  
Come, let us return to the Lord and say:

*cf Titus 2.11-14*

*All* **Lord our God,  
in our sin we have avoided your call.  
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,  
like the dew that goes away early.  
Have mercy on us;  
deliver us from judgement;  
bind up our wounds and revive us;  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen**

*cf. Hosea 6*

## Absolution

*President* May the God of love  
Bring you back to himself,  
Forgive you your sins,  
and assure you of his eternal love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen**

## 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 Collect**

*The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray'*

*President* Almighty God,  
in Christ you make all things new:  
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,  
and in the renewal of our lives  
make known your heavenly glory;  
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.  
*All*           **Amen**

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

### **Readings**

#### **1 Samuel 3:1-20**

*Read by Valerie Nicholson, St Margaret of Antioch Church, Harpsden*

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the Lord

was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.' Then the Lord said to Samuel, 'See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering for ever.'

Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, 'Samuel, my son.' He said, 'Here I am.' Eli said, 'What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.' So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, 'It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him.'

As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.

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

### **Hymn**

Be thou my vision

*Sung by Vic Henshall, Trinity at Four, Henley*

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart  
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art  
Thou my best thought in the day and the night  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord  
Thou my great Father, and I thy true son  
Thou in me dwelling and I with thee one

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise  
Thou my inheritance, now and always  
Thou and thou only, the first in my heart  
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art

High King of heaven, when battle is done  
Grant heaven's joy to me, bright heaven's sun  
Christ of my own heart, whatever befall  
Still be my vision, thou ruler of all

Text: *tr.* Mary Elizabeth Byrne 1880-1931  
and Eleanor Hull 1860-1935  
Music: Ancient Irish melody

## Gospel Reading

### John 1:43-51

*Read by Revd Gary Collins, associate vicar, St John the Evangelist, Newbury*

*Reader* Alleluia, alleluia.  
Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations  
and believed in throughout the world. *cf. 1 Timothy 3:16*

*All* **Alleluia.**

*Reader* The Lord be with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

*Reader* Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*All* **Glory to you O Lord.**

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 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.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.'

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' 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.'

*Reader* This is the Gospel of our Lord  
*All* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Reflection

*Revd Martin Williams, co-area dean for Amersham*

## The Creed

*President* Together in courage and hope let us profess the faith that sustains us in the words of the Creed:

*All* **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 sake 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 the Son is 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**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*Led by Dora Abbi, St John's & St Stephen's, Reading*

The response to the prayers is:

*Intercessor* Jesus, Lord of the Church,  
*All* **in your mercy, hear us.**

We pray that Christ may be seen in the life of the Church.  
You have called us into the family  
of those who are the children of God.  
May our love for our brothers and sisters  
be strengthened by your grace.  
Jesus, Lord of the Church,  
**in your mercy, hear us.**

You have called us to be a temple  
where the Holy Spirit can dwell.  
Give us clean hands and pure hearts  
so that our lives will reflect your holiness.  
Jesus, Lord of the Church,  
**in your mercy, hear us.**

You have called us to be light to the world,  
so that those in darkness will come to you.  
May our lives shine as a witness  
to the saving grace you have given for all.  
Jesus, Lord of the Church,  
**in your mercy, hear us.**

You have called us to be members of your body,  
so that when one suffers, all suffer together.  
We ask for your comfort and healing powers  
to bring hope to those in distress.  
Jesus, Lord of the Church,  
**in your mercy, hear us.**

You have called us to be the bride,  
where you, Lord, are the bridegroom.  
Prepare us for the wedding feast,  
where we will be united with you for ever.  
Jesus, Lord of the Church,  
**in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, Lord of the Church,  
you have called us into fellowship with all your saints.  
We unite our prayers with theirs  
and ask for grace to serve you with joy  
where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for all eternity.  
**Amen.**

**The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

## The Peace

*President* 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.

*All* **And also with you.**

*President* Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## Preparation of the Table

*President* Gracious God,  
accept the offering of your Church,  
the hearts of your people  
joined in praise and thanksgiving,  
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

*All* **Amen**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

*President* The Lord be with you.  
*All* **And also with you.**

*President* Lift up your hearts.  
*All* **We lift them up to the Lord.**

*President* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*All* **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*President* All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, ever-living God,  
through Jesus Christ, your only Son, our Lord:  
for at this time we celebrate your glory  
made present in our midst.  
In the coming of the magi,  
the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.  
In the waters of baptism  
Jesus was revealed as the Christ,  
the Saviour sent to redeem us.  
In the water made wine,  
the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.

Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.  
Therefore, with all the angels of heaven,  
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name  
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

*All*        **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.**

*President*    Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;  
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,  
he gave you thanks, 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.

*All*        Christ is the bread of life:  
**When we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,  
until you come in glory.**

*President*    Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit,

inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

*All*            **Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever. Amen**

*President*    As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

*All*            **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 the Bread**

*The president breaks the consecrated bread, saying:*

*President*    We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

*All*            **Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

*All*        **Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

**Invitation to Communion**

*President*    God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

*All*        **Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*The priest receives the bread and wine on behalf of the community as we make our 'spiritual communion'; taking time to notice God's presence with us and trust that, as we also desire communion with God, God will meet us in our hearts by faith. There are no special words or actions required for this; only true desire, lively faith and genuine love. If you find it helpful, you may wish to use the following prayer, simply listen to the hymn and meditate upon God's love for you, or join in and sing.*

*Lord, you stand at the door of my heart and knock. You wait for me and only I can let you in. I believe and trust in you and ask you now to fill me with your presence. Feed me with your body and unite me in your blood, that I may be your blessing to a world in need. Amen*

**Hymn**

**'Take my life and let it be'**

*Sung by Vic Henshall, Trinity at Four, Henley*

Take my life, and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to Thee.

Take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my voice, and let me sing  
always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips, and let them be  
filled with messages from Thee.

Take my will, and make it Thine;  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is Thine own;  
it shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
at Thy feet its treasure store.  
Take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for Thee.

Text: Frances R Havergal

### **Prayer after Communion**

*President* God of glory,  
you nourish us with your Word  
who is the bread of life:  
fill us with your Holy Spirit  
that through us the light of your glory  
may shine in all the world.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

*All* **Amen**

### **The Dismissal**

*President* Christ the Son of God  
perfect in you the image of his glory  
and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom:  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen**

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

## Hymn

'O for a thousand tongues to sing'  
*Sung by Waltham St Lawrence Virtual Voices*  
*Directed by Simon Shaw, organist Dr Camilla Jarnot*

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
My dear Redeemer's praise,  
My dear Redeemer's praise.  
The glories of my God and King,  
The triumphs of his grace!  
The triumphs of his grace!  
The triumphs of his grace!

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,  
That bids our sorrows cease,  
That bids our sorrows cease.  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'Tis life and health and peace.  
'Tis life and health and peace.  
'Tis life and health and peace.

He speaks, and listening to His voice,  
New life the dead receive;  
New life the dead receive.  
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice:  
The humble poor believe,  
The humble poor believe,  
The humble poor believe.

Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb,  
Your loosened tongues employ:  
Your loosened tongues employ.  
Ye blind, behold your Saviour come,  
And leap ye lame for joy;  
And leap ye lame for joy;  
And leap ye lame for joy.



My gracious Master and my God,  
Assist me to proclaim;  
Assist me to proclaim.  
And spread through all the earth abroad  
The honours of thy name,  
The honours of thy name,  
The honours of thy name.

Text: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)  
Music: Thomas Jarman (1776-1861)

Thanks to all those who made this service possible:

*Revd Dr William Lamb, vicar, University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford; Revd Martin Williams, co-area dean for Amersham; Revd Gary Collins, associate vicar, St John the Evangelist, Newbury; Steven Grahl, organist, Christ Church Cathedral; Waltham St Lawrence Virtual Voices, directed by Simon Shaw, with organist Dr Camilla Jarnot; Valerie Nicholson, St Margaret of Antioch Church, Harpsden; Vic Henshall, Trinity at Four, Henley; Dora Abbi, St John's & St Stephen's, Reading.*

*This service was produced by Revd Sarah Nesbitt, assistant curate, United Benefice of Shiplake with Dunsden and Harpsden. The lead liturgist was Revd Fr Darren McFarland, vicar, Saint Andrew's Parish Church, Headington.*

*Church at Home is produced each week by Revd Charlotte Bannister-Parker, associate chaplain to the Bishop of Oxford; and Steven Buckley, director of communications; with the help of Emma Thompson, digital communications officer, and Mark Robinson of Digital Creative.*

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# COME AND SEE

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