

# Church at Home

## Third Sunday of Epiphany



Welcome to our Church at Home service for the third Sunday of Epiphany. We are delighted that we can all worship together today, wherever we are across the diocese. Our president is Bishop Steven Croft, and the Revd Sarah Jones, interim minister for St John the Evangelist, Woodley, is preaching for us. Thank you to all who have contributed to the service.

Today's reading from the book of John tells the story of Jesus turning water into wine. It was the earliest of Jesus' miracles – a time when people first started noticing that there was something a bit different about him.

Over the course of the pandemic, many people have been asking deep questions about faith. All around us, people are searching for meaning. Perhaps you have started to notice some small glimmers of excitement that God might be at work here. Maybe you have noticed a friend or family member that has become more curious about the Christian faith. Or maybe you yourself are questioning, and, like Dom and Katie, who share their testimony at the end of the service, you want to go a bit deeper, find out a bit more.

Near the beginning of John's gospel, Jesus offers an invitation to two disciples who are curious about him: "Come and see." So now we want to offer you that same invitation. It is a big, warm, open offer to everyone – wherever you may be starting from. We're inviting you, over the next four weeks, to start noticing what is happening where you are, among the people you are with. Then, in Lent, we can go deeper, and explore the heart of Christian faith together.

You may wish to register as a whole church, and reach out to those on the fringes, or you might want to discover – or even rediscover – the strength and love and way of life found in the Christian faith for yourself. Whatever your circumstance, we invite you now to [come and see...](#)

## **Before the service**

*Bishop Steven Croft invites you to Come and See*

## **The Gathering**

### **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.*

## **Song**

**Bless the Lord O my soul, O my soul  
Worship His Holy name  
Sing like never before,  
O my soul I'll worship Your Holy name**

**The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning  
It's time to sing Your song again  
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me  
Let me be singing when the evening comes:**

**You're rich in love and You're slow to anger  
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.**

**For all Your goodness I will keep on singing  
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.**

**And on that day when my strength is failing  
The end draws near and my time has come  
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending  
Ten thousand years and then forevermore.**

Words and Music: Matt Redman (b. 1974)  
and Jonas Myrin (b. 1984)  
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*Recorded by All Saints' Singers (High Wycombe)*

### **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.  
Let us confess our sins.

**All Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy  
forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly,  
love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.  
Amen.**

## Absolution

President Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All        Amen**

## Gloria

**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

President Let us pray

*Silence is kept*

President Almighty God,  
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles  
the wonder of your saving presence:  
renew your people with your heavenly grace,  
and in all our weakness  
sustain us by your mighty power;  
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

*We listen to God speaking through the Scriptures*

### First Reading

Revelation 19.6-10 (NRSV)  
*Read by May and Sofie Duffell,  
Barley Hill Church, Thame*

Reader A reading from the book of Revelation 19.6-10

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunderpeals, crying out,

“Hallelujah!  
For the Lord our God

the Almighty reigns.  
Let us rejoice and exult  
and give him the glory,  
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,  
and his bride has made herself ready;  
to her it has been granted to be clothed  
with fine linen, bright and pure”—  
for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are true words of God.” Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

### **Gradual Hymn**

**Come down, O Love divine!  
seek out this soul of mine  
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.**

**O let it freely burn,  
till earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
and let thy glorious light  
shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round,  
the while my path illuming**

**Let holy charity  
my outward vesture be,  
And lowliness become my inner clothing;  
true lowliness of heart  
which takes the humbler part,  
and for its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.**

**And so the yearning strong  
with which the soul will long,  
shall far surpass the pow'r of human telling;  
nor can guess its grace  
till we become the place  
wherein the Holy Spirit  
makes his dwelling.**

*Sung by Emily Devine*

*Pianist Janice Devine*

*'Discendi, amor santo' by Bianco de Siena (d. 1434)  
trans. Richard F. Littledale (1833-1890) alt.*

### **Gospel Reading**

*John 2.1-11 (NRSV)*

*Read by Revd Sorrell Shamel-Wood  
Dorchester Team*

Deacon            The Lord be with you  
**All**                **And also with you**

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

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



On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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

### **Reflection**

The Revd Sarah Eden-Jones  
Interim minister St John the Evangelist, Woodley

### **Affirmation of Faith**

President    Let us affirm our faith in God

**All            We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.  
We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.  
We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

*Led by pupils from Finchampstead Primary School*

The response to the prayers is:

Intercessor      Lord, in your mercy,  
**All**                **hear our prayer.**

### **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.

President The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

*President* We offer one another a sign of peace.

*Christians have shared a sign of peace since the earliest days of the Church.  
Although separated by distance we are all members of the Body of Christ  
and we celebrate this by sharing Christ's peace.*

## **Anthem**

**Look at the world, everything all around us  
Look at the world and marvel every day.  
Look at the world: so many joys and wonders,  
So many miracles along our way**

**Praise to thee, O lord for all creation.  
Give us thankful hearts that we may see  
All the gifts we share, and every blessing,  
All things come of thee.**

**Look at the earth bringing forth fruit and flower,  
Look at the sky the sunshine and the rain.  
Look at the hills, look at the trees and mountains,  
Valley and flowing river, field and plain.**

**Praise to thee, O lord for all creation.  
Give us thankful hearts that we may see  
All the gifts we share, and every blessing,  
All things come of thee.**

**Think of the spring, think of the warmth of summer  
Bringing the harvest before the winter's cold.  
Everything grows, everything has a season,  
Till it is gathered to the Father's fold:**

**Praise to thee, O lord for all creation.  
Give us thankful hearts that we may see  
All the gifts we share, and every blessing,  
All things come of thee.**

**Every good gift, all that we need and cherish.  
Comes from the Lord in token of his love  
We are his hands, stewards of all his bounty  
His is the earth and his the heavens above**

**Praise to thee, O lord for all creation.  
Give us thankful hearts that we may see  
All the gifts we share, and every blessing,  
All things come of thee.**

Look at the World, John Rutter  
*Sung by the Choir of St. James' Church, Finchampstead  
Directed by Janice Devine, Organist William Taylor*

### **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 is here.

**All His Spirit is with us.**

President Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

President Let us give thanks to Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

President Father, you made the world and love your creation.  
You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.  
His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death.  
And so we gladly thank you,  
with saints and angels, praising you, and saying:

**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 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.

Christ is the bread of life:

**All** **When we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,  
until you come in glory.**

President 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.

**All** **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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.*

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.**

**Angus Dei**

**All      Jesus, Lamb of God,  
have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer 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 president receives the bread and wine on behalf of the community as we take our 'spiritual communion'; taking time to notice God's presence*

*with us and trust that as we desire communion with God, God will meet us in our hearts by faith. You do not need any special words or actions to participate in this, only to desire to meet God. If you find it helpful you may want to use the following prayer or simply to listen to the hymn and reflect on God's love for you.*

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, 'I am with you always'. Be with me today, as I offer myself to you. Hear my prayers for others and for myself and keep me in your care. Amen.

### **Music during communion**

**Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.**

**Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

*Sung by the Choir of St James' Church, Finchampstead  
Directed by Janice Devine, Organist William Taylor  
Thomas Obadiah Chisolm (1866-1960)*



## **Prayer after Communion**

President Let us pray.  
Almighty Father,  
whose Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
is the light of the world:  
may your people,  
illumined by your word and sacraments,  
shine with the radiance of his glory,  
that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed  
to the ends of the earth;  
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

**All Amen**

## **Song**

**The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty**

**Let all the Earth rejoice**

**All the Earth rejoice**

**He wraps himself in light**

**And darkness tries to hide**

**And trembles at His voice**

**Trembles at His voice**

**How great is our God, sing with me**

**How great is our God, and all will see**

**How great, how great is our God**

**Age to age He stands**

**And time is in His hands**

**Beginning and the end**

**Beginning and the end**

**The Godhead Three in One**

**Father Spirit Son**

**The Lion and the Lamb  
The Lion and the Lamb**

**Name above all names  
Worthy of our praise  
My heart will sing  
How great is our God**

*Performed by Doug Smith  
St Mary the Virgin, Greenham  
Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, Ed Cash*

### **Invitation to Come and See**

*The president invites people to join the Come and See journey to discover or rediscover faith in Jesus.*

### **Blessing and Dismissal**

President May God the Father,  
who led the wise men by the shining of a star  
to find the Christ, the Light from light,  
lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

**All Amen.**

President May God the Son,  
who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana,  
transform your lives and make glad your hearts.

**All Amen.**

President May God the Holy Spirit,  
who came upon the beloved Son  
at his baptism in the river Jordan,  
pour out his gifts on you  
who have come to the waters of new birth.

**All            Amen.**

President    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.**

## **Come and See: Adventures in Faith and Trust** *Episode 1: Dom and Katie*

### **A huge thank you to all who made this service possible:**

Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, the Bishop of Oxford; The Revd Sarah Jones, interim minister for St John the Evangelist, Woodley; Dom and Katie Finch, Christ Church Abingdon; Revd Keith Dunnett, Vicar at Christ Church Abingdon; All Saints' Singers, High Wycombe; May and Sofie Duffell, Barley Hill Church, Thame; Emily and Janice Devine, Parish of Finchampstead and California; Revd Sorrell Shamel-Woods, assistant curate, Dorchester Team; Pupils at Finchampstead, Church of England Primary School; William Taylor, organist, Finchampstead and California; Doug Smith, St Mary the Virgin, Greenham. This service was produced by Revd Gemma Donnell, assistant curate, Finchampstead and California. The lead liturgist was Revd Philippa White, precentor and school chaplain, Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. 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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# Locked down, open-hearted

Living life in all its fullness



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