*St Barnabas with Christ Church: Sunday 10th January – Epiphany 1*

**Welcome to**

**Sunday Breakfast: Sunday Lunch: Sunday Tea:**

**Sunday Breakfast** *(prepared by Andy Gandon)*

Using an idea from the 24/7 prayer course which some of us were able to do last year, and really appreciated. It uses each letter in the word PRAY.

**P – PAUSE**

*You may wish to light a candle and have some reflective music playing in the background.*

The Lord is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes.

God is close to those who trust in him. *Nahum 1.7*

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;

let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Pause for some moments of stillness and quiet as you offer the day to God.*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, warm our hearts, that we may desire to love you more; this day and every day. Amen.

Good Morning! Later today, we shall focus on Jesus being baptised. But Epiphany was only on Wednesday, and it may feel as if the wise men, magi, astronomers (whoever they were!) have barely left the house in Bethlehem where they had finally arrived to worship the Christ-child. So for breakfast, let’s stay a bit longer with them ..

*After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, ‘Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.’*

*When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ‘In Bethlehem in Judea,’ they replied, ‘for this is what the prophet has written: ‘“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”’*

*Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, ‘Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.’*

*After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.*

*And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.*

**R – REJOICE!**

The Epiphany reveals that Jesus came for foreigners (Gentiles), whose gifts suggest they were wealthy as well, and prepared to travel from afar to find a new king. So, they were so different from the shepherds – locals (ie Jews), poor and despised. **Epiphany reminds us that Jesus came for all.**

Let’s be thankful for..

* those who long ago made long and dangerous journeys to bring Christianity to our land.
* at a more personal level, for all who have shown Jesus to us.
* those who travel afar today to live and proclaim the Good News so that others may become part of God’s kingdom.
* our fellowship with Christian sisters and brothers across the world, and the freedoms we (usually) enjoy to worship.

 … *OVERJOYED … they bowed down and worshipped him.*

**A – ASK**

Of course the story of the wise men doesn’t end “happily ever after”. It reminds us that the world into which Christ comes was – and still is – bleak and violent.

*When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. ‘Get up,’ he said, ‘take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.’*

Yesterday yet another journalist wrote about the latest killings in the DRC. You might want to check it out at

[*https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/jan/06/congolese-people-have-been-brutalised-since-1996-why-isnt-the-west-helping*](https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/jan/06/congolese-people-have-been-brutalised-since-1996-why-isnt-the-west-helping)

Of course today we need to keep praying for the dreadful impact of Covid on our land, and for the current lockdown and the roll-out of the vaccination programme to be effective.

But God forbid that these concerns blind us to so many other current injustices. Pray for strong unifying international leadership to emerge that will speak and work effectively to counter the evils and darkness that destroy so many people’s lives.

Remember those who are near and dear to you as well. Pray for Julieann to be sustained as she continues to shepherd us here at St Barnabas’.

**Y – YIELD (or YES!)**

Before closing, pause to ask whether the Holy Spirit has shown you something new as you have prayed? Perhaps God is calling you to be at least part of the answer to some of your prayers? What might ‘yielding’ mean for you?

*Pray the Lord’s Prayer, which all the Lord’s people will be saying today ..*

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.

May your kingdom come, O God, with deliverance for the needy,

with accountability for the oppressor,

with peace and overflowing blessing for every nation,

with glory, honour and praise for Christ, the only Saviour. AMEN

**Sunday Lunch 10th January 2021**

Prepared by Rhianne O’Rourke

***Welcome***

We meet in the name of God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit

**Amen**

May the joy and peace of Christ

be with you

**And also with you.**

 A boy has been born for us

**A child has been given**

Once, we believed we were estranged from God.

**Now we know we are God’s people.**

Once we walked in darkness

**Now we have seen a great light.**

***Invitation to Confession..***

By the mercies of God, let us confess our sins and present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to him, which is our spiritual worship.

***Kyrie Confessions***

You raise the dead to life in the spirit:

Lord, have mercy

**Lord, have mercy**

You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart:

Christ, have mercy

**Christ, have mercy**

You make one by your spirit the torn and divided:

Lord, have mercy

**Lord, have mercy**

***Gloria***

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father**

To God be glory forever

**To God be glory forever**

Alleluia. Amen

**Alleluia! Amen. Alleluia! Amen Alleluia! Amen**

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to Christ Jesus

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to Christ Jesus**

To God be glory forever

**To God be glory forever**

Alleluia. Amen

**Alleluia! Amen. Alleluia! Amen Alleluia! Amen**

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit**

To God be glory forever

**To God be glory forever**

Alleluia. Amen

**Alleluia! Amen. Alleluia! Amen Alleluia! Amen**

***Collect***

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 forever.

***Reading***

*Our Old Testament reading is taken from Genesis 1:1-5*

“In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. **4**And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.”

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

The response to Psalm 29 is:

*The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.*

**The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
    ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;
    worship the Lord in holy splendour.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
    the God of glory thunders,
    the Lord, over mighty waters.

**The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

The voice of the Lord is powerful;
    the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;
    the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
    and Sirion like a young wild ox.

**The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.
The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
    the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl,
    and strips the forest bare;
    and in his temple all say, “Glory!”

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
    the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.
May the Lord give strength to his people!
    May the Lord bless his people with peace!

**The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

*Our New Testament reading is taken from Acts 19:1-7*

“While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. **2**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 baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” Paul said, “John baptized 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 baptized 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.”

***Gospel acclamation***

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

**Alleluia**

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

**Glory to you O Lord**

Mark 1:4-11

“John the baptizer appearedin 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 baptized 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 baptized you withwater; but he will baptize you withthe Holy Spirit.”

**The Baptism of Jesus**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized 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***

Have you ever had one of those days when wanted a do-over? A day when you wanted to just go back to bed and start again? I clearly remember watching a film called Groundhog Day when I was a child and thinking how cool it would be to be able to go back and re-do a day over again. And I’ve spoken with people who would wish that of entire years of their life.

Whether it is a day or a decade there are times when we wish we could back up and do things differently. Choose different words to speak. Act in a differently way. Handle a relationship better. Sometimes we just want to do life differently. I think the wishing goes deeper than just doing differently. More than anything we want to be different. Our doing arises out of and reveals our being, who we are, how we see ourselves, one another, and the world. Being and doing are intimately connected.

Wishing we could do things differently, and the deeper wish to be a different creation, is really the wish for the first day. Think about some of your first days. The first day as a married person. The first day as a parent. The first day of that job or vocation you had been waiting for and working toward. The first day you took seriously, as a matter of life and death, your faith. First days are filled with light. They hold the promise of all that might be. There is an excitement, newness, and innocence to first days. First days are vibrant, alive, full of dreams and possibilities. I imagine that is how God looked at the first day, in the beginning. No harsh words had been spoken. No feelings had been hurt. No relationships had been broken. There was no guilt or regret. There was only light; the light of life, the light of love, the light of promise and hope; the light of God. And it was good. The first day is always a day of creation.

People often want to go back to the beginning of thing, relationships or jobs or retirement.

They are all looking for the first day. But we cannot go back to the way it was. But I think first day wishing, however, is not really about turning back time. It is about becoming a new creation, a new being. Ultimately, it is about returning to the waters of Jesus’ baptisms.

Every time we return to the baptismal waters, we return to the first day. Creation and baptism cannot be separated. They are intimately connected and mirror each other. Listen to what Genesis says and how St. Mark describes Jesus’ baptism.

* In the beginning a wind (or breath, or spirit) of God swept over the face of the waters.
* At Jesus’ baptism the spirit (or breath or wind) of God descended on Jesus as he is coming up out of the water.
* In the beginning God said, “Let there be light.”
* At Jesus’ baptism God said, “You are my Son, the Beloved.”
* In the beginning “God saw that the light was good.”
* At Jesus’ baptism God was “well pleased.”

Creation and Jesus baptism are God’s gifts to humanity. Everything God does God does for humanity. Jesus did not need to be baptized. We needed him to be baptized. The baptismal water did not sanctify Jesus; he sanctified the baptismal water. His baptism is not the means by which we identify with him, but the means by which he identifies with us. Our baptism allows us to participate in his baptism.

Our humanity was recreated in Jesus’ baptism. It is the first day. In baptism we are a new creation, a new being.

Every time we return to the baptismal waters we claim our identity in Jesus as beloved sons and daughters. Every time we return to the baptism waters God again manifests and reveals himself in humanity. Every time we return to the baptismal waters we return to that first day of light, love, life, and the promise of all that might be.

Whatever your life has been or might now be, the baptismal waters await you. So return to the water. Let the waters of God’s life wash and rid you of fear, resentment, and despair. Cannonball into the mercy of God. Immerse yourself in the water of God’s love. Splash in the waves of God’s forgiveness. Backstroke through the pool of God’s grace. Dive deep into the gift of having been created in the image and likeness of God. Drift in the stillness of God’s peace. These are the waters of new birth.

So come on, the water’s fine!

***Affirmation of faith***

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,

source of all being and life,

the one from whom we exist?

**We 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?

**We 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?

**We 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.**

**Amen**

***Intercessions***

We pray for the coming of God’s kingdom.

You sent your Son to bring good news to the poor,

sight to the blind,

freedom to the captives

and salvation to your people:

anoint us with your Spirit;

rouse us to work in his name.

Father, by your Spirit

**bring in your kingdom.**

Send us to bring help to the poor

and freedom to the oppressed.

Father, by your Spirit

**bring in your kingdom.**

Send us to tell the world

the good news of your healing love.

Father, by your Spirit

**bring in your kingdom.**

Send us to those who mourn,

to bring joy and gladness instead of grief.

Father, by your Spirit

**bring in your kingdom.**

Send us to proclaim that the time is here

for you to save your people.

Father, by your Spirit

**bring in your kingdom.**

Father, use us, unworthy as we are,

to bring in your kingdom of mercy, justice, love and peace.

Empower us by your Spirit and unite us in your Son,

that all our joy and delight may be to serve you,

now and for ever.

**Amen.**

God has made us one in Christ.

He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

Alleluia.

Let us offer each other a sign of peace in our hearts.

***Conclusion***

Be at peace to love and serve the world.

**Thanks be to God**

**St Barnabas BLT: Sunday 10th January 2021**

The Baptism of Christ

**Tea: Compline for the Great Theophany (the Baptism of Christ)**

Prepared by Mark Watson

**Preparation**

 The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night

 and a perfect end.

 **All: Amen.**

 Our help is in the name of the Lord**.**

 **All: Who made heaven and earth.**

 **All: Most merciful God**

 **We confess to you**

**and the whole company of heaven and one another**

 **that we have sinned in thought, word and deed**

 **and in what we have failed to do.**

 **Forgive us our sins, heal us by your Spirit**

 **and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.**

O God make speed to save us**.**

**All: O Lord make haste to help us.**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son**

 **and to the Holy Spirit;**

 **as it was in the beginning is now**

 **and shall be forever. Amen. Alleluia.**

 **Office hymn**

Before the ending of the day

Creator of the world we pray

that you with steadfast love would keep

your watch around us while we sleep.

From evil dreams defend our sight,

from fears and terrors of the night.

Tread underfoot our deadly foe

that we no sinful thought may know.

O Father, that we ask be done

through Jesus Christ your only Son

and Holy Spirit, by whose breath

Our souls are raised to life from death. Amen.

 **Psalmody Psalm 96: 1-9, 11-12**

Sing to the Lord a new song;

sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless his name;

tell out his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations

and his wonders among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;

he is more to be feared than all gods.

For all the gods of the nations are but idols;

it is the Lord who made the heavens.

Honour and majesty are before him;

power and splendour are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples;

ascribe to the Lord honour and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name;

bring offerings and come into his courts.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;

let the whole earth tremble before him.

Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad;

let the sea thunder and all that is in it;

Let the fields be joyful and all that is in them;

let all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning is now**

**and shall be forever. Amen.**



**Responsory**

Into your hands O Lord, I commend my spirit**.**

**All: Into your hands O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth**.**

**All: I commend my spirit.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit**.**

**All: Into your hands O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

Keep me as the apple of your eye**.**

**All: Hide me under the shadow of your wings.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**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,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

 **Conclusion**

 In peace we will lie down and sleep

 **All: For you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.**

Abide with us, Lord Jesus

 **All: For the night is at hand and the day is now past.**

As the night watch looks for the morning

 **All: So do we look for you, O Christ.**

Come with the dawning of the day

 **All: And make yourself known in the breaking of the bread.**

 The Lord bless us and watch over us;

 the Lord make his face to shine upon us

 and be gracious to us;

 the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace.

**All: Amen.**

**SUPPLEMENT**

**Phone Lines for daily reading, prayer and music:**



National Church (free): 0800 804 8044

Local Church (normal rate): 01905 935021

**Seasonal Poems**

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.”

And he replied:

“Go out into the darkness and put your hand in the Hand of God.  That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.”

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

*(thanks to Judy Ford)*

**Two Christmas Poems by U. A. Fanthorpe.**

*(thanks to Julie Berrow for sharing them both)*

**BC : AD**

This was the moment when Before

Turned into After, and the future’s

Uninvented timekeepers presented arms.

This was the moment when nothing

Happened. Only dull peace

Sprawled boringly over the earth.

This was the moment when even energetic Romans

Could find nothing better to do

Than counting heads in remote provinces.

And this was the moment

When a few farm workers and three

Members of an obscure Persian sect

Walked haphazardly by starlight straight

Into the kingdom of heaven.

**What the Donkey Saw**

No room in the inn, of course,

And not that much in the stable,

What with the shepherds, Magi, Mary,

Joseph, the heavenly host –

Not to mention the baby

Using our manger as a cot.

You couldn’t have squeezed another cherub in

For love or money.

Still, in spite of the overcrowding,

I did my best to make them feel wanted.

I could see the baby and I

Would be going places together.

Yes, another lockdown but

Remember: God is with us.

“The Lord is my rock and my salvation

my stronghold; I shall not be greatly shaken….

..my hope is from Him….my refuge is in God.

Trust in Him at all times, O people

pour out your heart before Him…

lovingkindness is Thine O God"

*Psalm 62*