

# Service for the Third Sunday of Epiphany



**St Laurence Church, Downton**

24 January 2021

# Preparation

## Call to Worship

Praise the God of all Creation.

**Worship the One who calls us,  
speaking with a different voice,  
offering an unexpected invitation.**

Celebrate the presence of our loving God.

**Rejoice, the realm of God is near.**

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 Team Rector introduces the service*

**Hymn: God is working his purpose out**

*(Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields)*

God is working his purpose out  
as year succeeds to year,  
God is working his purpose out,  
and the time is drawing near;  
nearer and nearer draws the time,  
the time that shall surely be,  
when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God  
as the waters cover the sea.

From utmost east to utmost west  
wherever feet have trod,  
by the mouth of many messengers  
goes forth the voice of God,  
'Give ear to me, ye continents,  
ye isles, give ear to me,  
that the earth may be filled with the glory of God  
as the waters cover the sea.'

What can we do to work God's work,  
to prosper and increase  
the love of God in all mankind,  
the reign of the Prince of Peace?  
What can we do to hasten the time,  
the time that shall surely be,  
when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God  
as the waters cover the sea?

All we can do is nothing worth  
unless God blesses the deed;  
vainly we hope for the harvest-time  
till God gives life to the seed;  
yet nearer and nearer draws the time,  
the time that shall surely be,  
when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God  
as the waters cover the sea.

*Arthur Campbell Ainger (1841-1919)*

### Gathering:

We come to you this day, Gracious God,  
as people in need of your steadfast love:  
**with you is the fountain of life;**  
**in your Light we see light.**

We gather this day, Water-changing God,  
as people looking for signs:  
**with you is the fountain of life;**  
**in your Light we see light.**

We worship this day, Gifting God,  
as people who confess Jesus as our Lord:  
**with you is the fountain of life;**  
**in your Light we see light.**

*Thom Shuman*

## Psalm 128

Happy is everyone who fears the Lord,  
**who walks in his ways.**

You shall eat the fruit of the labour of your hands;  
**you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.**

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house;  
**your children will be like olive shoots around your table.**

Thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord.  
**The Lord bless you from Zion.**

May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem  
**all the days of your life.**

May you see your children's children.  
**Peace be upon Israel!**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

### Prayer:

Compassionate God,  
all creation delights  
in your radiant presence of your Word.  
May the authority of your Spirit  
bring understanding  
into our confused minds  
and truth into our troubled hearts,  
that we may praise and serve  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Worship@North*

# *The Liturgy of the Word*

Readings:

Revelation 19:6-10

John 2:1-11

*After each reading:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Reflection

Music: Christians, shout for joy and gladness (J.S. Bach)  
*(Alan Bullard and The Oxford Choir)*

## *Prayers*

*We are led in a time of prayer*

*This response is used:*

Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

*The Lord's Prayer is said:*

Believing the promises of God,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.**

## *Conclusion*

### The Collect

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. **Amen.**

### Blessing:

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ  
shine in your hearts and fill your lives  
with his joy and peace;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Blessed be the name of the Lord  
from this time on and for evermore. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**