

# Sunday Morning Worship

31<sup>st</sup> January 2021

*The Fourth Sunday after The Epiphany*



*Please come with us on a journey of prayer, praise and worship this morning.  
Join in with us at home by using this service sheet.*

*"Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them."*

*Psalm 111:1-2*

## Opening Prayer

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you this morning.

Loving God, we have come to worship you.  
Help us to pray to you in faith,  
to sing your praise with gratitude,  
and to listen to your word with eagerness;  
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Opening Worship – Before the Throne Above

Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong, a perfect plea  
A great high Priest whose Name is Love  
Who ever lives and pleads for me  
My name is graven on His hands  
My name is written on His heart  
I know that while in heaven He stands  
No power can force me to depart  
No power can force me to depart

When Satan tempts me to despair  
And tells me of the guilt within  
Upward I look and see Him there  
Who made an end to all my sin  
Because the sinless Saviour died  
My sinful soul is counted free  
For God the just is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me  
To look on Him and pardon me

Behold Him there the risen Lamb  
My perfect spotless righteousness  
The great unchangeable I am  
The King of glory and of grace  
One with my Lord I cannot die  
My soul is purchased by His blood  
My life is safe with Christ on high  
With Christ my Saviour and my God!  
With Christ my Saviour and my God!

Confession

*The gospel calls us to turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ. As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith, we renew our confidence and trust in his mercy.*

**Heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour**

in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault;  
by what we have done  
and by what we have failed to do.  
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name. *Amen.*

*Absolution*

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

*Kids Slot*  
*Psalm 111*

*Affirmation of Faith*

If you are able please stand as we affirm our faith:  
We join together to say:

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.*

*Bible Reading –*  
*Sermon*

Collect of the Day

Creator God,  
who in the beginning  
commanded the light to shine out of darkness:  
We pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ  
may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief,  
shine into the hearts of all your people,  
and reveal the knowledge of your glory  
in the face of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers and Intercessions

*In our prayers and intercessions this morning, the response to 'come again now'  
will be 'and may light shine in the darkness.'*

Come again now,  
**and may light shine in the darkness.**

Lord of Light,  
as the season of Epiphany draws to a close, we again remember the journey of the  
wise men –  
how, inspired by the sign of a star in the sky,  
they set off in search of a new-born king,  
a king who would change not just their lives,  
nor just the life of his people,  
but the life of the world.  
Come again now,  
**and may light shine in the darkness.**

We remember how they persevered in their quest,  
travelling in faith  
even though they had no clear idea of where they were heading,  
or any certainty of what they would find  
when they reached their destination.  
Come again now,  
**and may light shine in the darkness.**

We remember how they refused to be discouraged,  
despite their rejection in Jerusalem,  
despite the fact that no one seemed to have any idea  
that a new king had been born.  
Come again now,  
**and may light shine in the darkness.**

We remember how they kept going,  
single-minded in pursuit of their goal,  
until at last their determination was rewarded  
and they came face to face with the infant Jesus.  
Come again now,  
**and may light shine in the darkness.**

Living God,  
we pray for all who seek today,  
all those who are looking for a sense of purpose in their lives,  
all who are searching for you,  
all who long to find you for themselves.  
Come again now,  
**and may light shine in the darkness.**

Help us all to keep seeking after you,  
even when the journey is demanding;  
to keep believing,  
to keep on trusting.  
Come again now,  
**and may light shine in the darkness.**

Be upon us now  
and may the light of your love shine in our hearts,  
in grateful and joyful praise.  
Come again now,  
**and may light shine in the darkness.**

*The Lord's Prayer*

Let's say together:

**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.

*Closing Worship – As the Deer*

As the deer pants for the water,  
So my soul longs after You,  
You alone are my heart's desire,  
And I long to worship You.

You alone are my strength my shield,  
To You alone may my spirit yield,  
You alone are my heart's desire,  
And I long to worship You.

I want you more than gold or silver,  
Only you can satisfy,  
You alone are the real joy-giver,  
And the apple of my eye.

You alone are my strength my shield,  
To You alone may my spirit yield,  
You alone are my heart's desire,  
And I long to worship You.

You're my friend and You are my Brother,  
Even though You are a King,  
I love You more than any other,  
So much more than anything.

You alone are my strength my shield,  
To You alone may my spirit yield,  
You alone are my heart's desire,  
And I long to worship You.

*Closing Prayer and Blessing*

Keep us, Father, in this community of faith,  
the Church of your Son Jesus Christ,  
and help us to confess him as Messiah and Lord  
in all we say and do.

We ask this in his name...

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Don't forget to join us this afternoon for our online Christingle service as  
we celebrate Jesus Christ – Light of the World!*



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