



Diocese of Ely
THREE RIVERS GROUP
Chippenham, Fordham, Isleham, Kennett, Snailwell

Sunday 17th January 2021

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Hymn: Come, let us join our cheerful songs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUSiZ0BLc9U>

Come, let us join our cheerful songs with angels round the throne.
Ten thousand, thousand are their tongues, But all their joys are one.

Worthy the Lamb that died, they cry, To be exalted thus!
Worthy the Lamb, our hearts reply, For He was slain for us!

Jesus is worthy to receive Honour and power divine;
And blessings more than we can give, Be, Lord, forever Thine.

Let all that dwell above the sky, and air and earth and seas,
Conspire to lift Thy glories high, and speak Thine endless praise!

The whole creation join in one, To bless the sacred name
Of Him who sits upon the throne, and to adore the Lamb.

Invitation to Confession

Because God was merciful, he saved us through the water of rebirth and the renewing power of the Holy Spirit. But through sin we have fallen away from our baptism. Let us return to the Lord and renew our faith in his promises by confessing our sins in penitence.

Lord Jesus, illuminate the darkness in our hearts:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, open our eyes to your saving love:

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, unstop our ears to hear your living word:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Collect

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Readings

A reading from the first book of Samuel (3.1-10)

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.'

A reading from the book of Revelation (5.1-10)

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?' And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me,

'Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.'

Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song:

'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God, saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth.'

Psalm 139.1-10

1 O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

3 You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

4 Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

5 You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

7 Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

9 If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

A reading from St. John's Gospel (1.43-end)

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.'

Sermon (with thanks to David Cleugh) <https://youtu.be/kuEZ0j0j2dw>

Can anything good come out of Nazereth?

Regular sufferers of my preaching will know that I have many enthusiasms in life. I could talk about the joy of listening to the Archers (I'm really enjoying the modern slavery story at present), Watching/Listening to test cricket (I've booked tickets for the India test at Trent Bridge in August, more in hope than expectation), perhaps also my love of Mansfield Town FC (Very disappointed at their loss in the 3rd round of the cup last Sunday, was able to watch in live online though), I'll not start on a food list because it will go on too long.

I wonder what your enthusiasm(s) would be? If we were being a bit more interactive in our sermon slot today we could have an opportunity to discuss them at length.

Always good to look beyond ourselves with this. What are the enthusiasms of your family and friends? I guess some of these will bore you to tears at times. My best friend Andrew is a military historian (thesis on casualty figures in the Napoleonic wars) and he and his wife are into re-enactment. Although I'm not interested myself I recognise that it is an important thing for them and I've learned lots of interesting things through our conversations. This I suspect isn't ever going to lead me to put on a uniform and play battles (Though his wife does some authentic Georgian cookery which occasionally I'm tempted by....)

My Father is a great one for enthusiasms, far too many to list, but one in particular is his love of Bob Dylan. Fortunately an attempt to name me after him was thwarted by my mum, though Robert is my middle name... My Dad's enthusiasm for Dylan has for years put me off listening to his music, the sound of the gravelly voice on countless car journeys on the tape deck still makes me shudder.

When Dylan was awarded the Nobel prize for literature in 2016 there was a lot of commentary around his work and I tentatively listened afresh the music I had so roundly rejected for so long. Now please don't let on to my Dad, but I realised there was something in it. I still find the gravelly tone not to my taste but there is something poetic and beautiful about some of his work.

So what has all this got to do with today's Gospel?

For me the key phrase for us is "Come and See", Philip's powerful words to Nathaniel. Of course there is also that other wonderful phrase "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Nathaniel is going to take some convincing, not a straight forward sell to come and see this extraordinary man Jesus, but faithful Philip persists and perhaps the rest is history. The power of invitation, the power of saying this is good why don't you give it a try.

Now I'm not trying to persuade you all to listen to the Archers, or fall in love with Test Cricket (and no one in the right mind would watch Mansfield Town), but I hope that if I were to talk about them you might at least allow me to ramble a little.

Is our faith something we feel we can talk about to our families and friends, or failing that even our experience of church. How often if asked about your weekend do you include saying something positive about the service that you have attended or something else that has been good about church recently? If folk know us well they should know that church is important in our lives, they should know that we pray for them (in good times as well as bad). Of course I'm not expecting an immediate impact from these conversations but perhaps the effect of opening the door just a slither more.

Who knows what the long term impact would be? Was I more likely to look in Dylan's work in 2016 having soaked up some of Dad's enthusiasm 20 years earlier? Who can tell? Maybe it had an impact or maybe it didn't.

I'm always glad when people ask me to "come and see" something which interests them, whether that is sharing the activity or just hearing about it sharing something which we enjoy is a great thing to do. My hope and prayer is that at least some of the time, one of these things that you enjoy most is related to the life of the church and that you might share that with family, friends and neighbours, not in a preachy way but simply saying this is good which may lead to "come and see"

Hymn: Jesus calls us o'er the tumult

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5IxbPK8Ow4>

Jesus calls us over the tumult of our life's wild, restless, sea;
Day by day His sweet voice soundeth, Saying, Christian, follow Me!

As of old Saint Andrew heard it by the Galilean lake,
Turned from home and toil and kindred, Leaving all for Jesus' sake.

Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store,
From each idol that would keep us, Saying, Christian, love Me more!

In our joys and in our sorrows, Days of toil and hours of ease,
Still He calls, in cares and pleasures, Christian, love Me more than these!

Jesus calls us! By Thy mercies, Saviour may we hear Thy call,
Give our hearts to Thine obedience, Serve and love Thee best of all.

Nicene Creed

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.**

Intercessions

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 in Christ 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 a light to the world, so that those in darkness
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 power
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.

Merciful Father, **accept our prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

Reflection

At the point in our service where we would usually be remembering the Last Supper together, we pause to pray for those with whom we would usually be receiving bread and wine in church. Quietly think of each of those people now, those you know well and those you know less well; those for whom you know what to pray, and those for whom you're unsure or find it more difficult to pray. Perhaps as you do this you might like to eat some bread and drink something.

We are reminded that although separated at this time we are still members together of the body of Christ.

Let us pray

**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**

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Hymn: All hail the power of Jesus' name

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9voJsbicG9M>

All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all.

Crown Him, ye martyrs of your God, Who from His altar call;
Extol the Stem of Jesse's rod, and crown Him Lord of all.

Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball
To him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all

O that, with yonder sacred throng, We at His feet may fall,
We'll Join the everlasting song, And crown Him Lord of all,

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Dismissal:

Go in the peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Voluntary:

Organ: Christ, unser Herr, zum Jordan kam, BWV 684 played by David Poulter

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XwrFbOf_zqk

More Modern: Come and See

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IOHf2uyzc0>

Choral: Here is the Little Door – Howells

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nR6e-faCx_g

Notices

Services this coming week:

- **TONIGHT** (Sunday 17th Jan), **8pm** (with chat from 7.30pm) – Compline in contemporary language on Zoom (meeting ID: 810 1509 1842)
- **Tuesday 19th Jan, 8.15am** – Morning Prayer via Zoom (meeting ID: 875 0897 9103)
- **Wednesday 20th Jan, 7pm** – Midweek Compline via Zoom (meeting ID: 839 7034 6065; Passcode: 003793)
- **Sunday 24th January** – morning services via Zoom. Details to follow by email.

Sunday Evening Service – 8pm

A quiet service to round off Sunday, open to all. Is there someone new you'd like to invite to this? The Zoom session will open from 7.30 to allow people to chat beforehand, and worship will start at 8pm (Meeting ID: 810 1509 1842).

The pattern for the remainder of January will be as follows:

2nd Sunday (10th Jan): Celtic Night Prayer;

3rd Sunday (17th Jan): Compline in contemporary language;

4th Sunday (24th Jan): Service to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity;

5th Sunday (31st): Contemplative service.

Bible Book Club

Returns on Monday 25th January at 7.30pm looking at Titus. All welcome. Contact David for the Zoom link.

Beatitudes Course

The Pilgrim Course looking at 'Church and the Kingdom' is now under way, meeting on Zoom at the following times:

· Tuesdays, 7.30-9pm · Fridays, 10.30am-12 noon

There is still space and time to join if you're interested. Please contact Rev'd Anna for details if so.

Mothers' Union Prayers by Phone

Another opportunity for MU branch members to pray together by phone on **Wednesday 20th January**, at **11am**. Dial **0203 901 7895**, then enter the meeting ID: **817 4323 6690**.

Things to do

The Tuesday Coffee Morning in Isleham is still going via Zoom, offering an hour's social chat and a gallery of friendly faces from 10.30-11.30am each week.

Meeting ID: 891 3261 8797; Passcode: 006650.

Stuart Haggett's fiendish weekly lockdown quiz is now in its 3rd season. Please contact Stuart directly (via a member of the Ministry Team if necessary) if you would like to be added to the mailing list. Congratulations to Ruth Ogden who was the winner of the Cruise Christmas Quiz with a score of 99/100!!

Intercessions: Funerals (attendance by invitation only)

Clarence 'Lardy' Pryke St Peter & Mary Magdalene Fordham Thursday 21st 11am

Mary Pullen St Margaret's Chippenham Monday 25th January, 1.30pm

Three Rivers Group Ministry Team

Rector: The Rev'd David Cleugh 723010 davidrcleugh@gmail.com

Associate Priest: The Rev'd Sue Potts 721662 revd.sue@icloud.com

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Safeguarding Officer: David Potts 721662 potts98029@msn.com

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Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_xNAa4zgNZrE8lmizNC_3g