

**Opening Hymn: Songs of thankfulness and praise**

Songs of thankfulness and praise,  
Jesu, Lord, to thee we raise,  
manifested by the star  
to the sages from afar;  
branch of royal David's stem  
in thy birth at Bethlehem;  
anthems be to thee address,  
God in man made manifest.

Manifest at Jordan's stream,  
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;  
and at Cana wedding-guest  
in thy Godhead manifest;  
manifest in power divine,  
changing water into wine;  
anthems be to thee address,  
God in Man made manifest.

Manifest in making whole  
palsied limbs and fainting soul;  
manifest in valiant fight,  
quelling all the devil's might;  
manifest in gracious will,  
ever bringing good from ill;  
anthems be to thee address,  
God in man made manifest.

Sun and moon shall darkened be,  
stars shall fall, the heavens shall flee;  
Christ will then like lightning shine,  
all will see his glorious sign;  
all will then the trumpet hear,  
all will see the Judge appear;  
thou by all wilt be confest,  
God in man made manifest.

Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,  
mirrored in thy holy word;  
may we imitate thee now,  
and be pure, as pure art thou;  
that we like to thee may be  
at thy great Epiphany,  
and may praise thee, ever blest,  
God in man made manifest.

*St Edmund 56 NEH*

**The 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 the same 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.**

**The Old Testament Reading**

A reading from the book of Genesis.

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. 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.

*Genesis 1: 1-5*

**Thanks be to God.**

**The New Testament Reading**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. 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.

*Acts 19: 1–7*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**The Gospel**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations,  
and believed in throughout the world.

**Alleluia!**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Mark

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

John the baptizer appeared in 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 with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

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.'

*St Mark 1: 4–11*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**The Creed:**

Let us declare our faith in the living God.

**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.**

**Offertory Hymn: Hail to the Lord's anointed!**

Hail to the Lord's anointed!  
Great David's greater Son;  
hail, in the time appointed,  
his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
to set the captive free;  
to take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.

He comes with succour speedy  
to those who suffer wrong;  
to help the poor and needy,  
and bid the weak be strong;  
to give them songs for sighing,  
their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying,  
were precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth,  
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,  
spring in his path to birth:  
before him on the mountains  
shall peace the herald go;  
and righteousness in fountains  
from hill to valley flow.

Kings shall fall down before him,  
and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore him,  
his praise all people sing;  
to him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend;  
his kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.

O'er every foe victorious,  
he on his throne shall rest,  
from age to age more glorious,  
all-blessing and all-blest:  
the tide of time shall never  
his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand for ever;  
that name to us is Love.

*Crüger 55 NEH*

**A Prayer to receive Spiritual Communion**

**In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every Altar of thy Church  
where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated,  
I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving.  
I present to you my soul and body  
with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you.  
And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart.  
I unite myself with you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul.  
Let nothing ever separate you from me.  
May I live and die in your love. Amen.**

**Anthem: If ye love me**

If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth.

*Thomas Tallis (c 1505–85)*  
*St John 14: 15–16*

**Sunday 10 January 2021**  
**Hymns, Readings, and Collect**

**The Baptism of Christ**  
**First Sunday of Epiphany**

**Dismissal: Come down, O Love divine**

Come down, O Love divine,  
seek thou 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  
illumining.

Let holy charity  
mine outward vesture be,  
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;  
true lowliness of heart,  
which takes the humbler part,  
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,  
with which the soul will long,  
shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
for none can guess its grace,  
till he become the place  
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

*Down Ampney 137 NEH*