

**Sunday 15 January 2023**  
**Hymns, Readings, and Collect**

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

**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.

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 New Testament Reading**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius. 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

This is the word of the Lord.

*Acts 10: 34–43*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn: Laudate omnes gentes**

Laudate omnes gentes,  
Laudate Dominum.

*Sing praise all people,  
Sing praise and bless the Lord.*

*Taize Community*

**The Gospel**

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

**Alleluia.**

*1 Timothy 3: 16*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*St Matthew 3: 13–end*

**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.

**Anthem: Tomorrow shall be my dancing day**

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day,  
I would my true love did so chance  
To see the legend of my play,  
To call my true love to the dance.

*Sing O my love, my love,  
This have I done for my true love.*

Then was I born of a Virgin pure,  
Of her I took fleshly substance.  
Then was I knit to man's nature,  
To call my true love to my dance.

In a manger laid and wrapped I was,  
So very poor this was my chance,  
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,  
To call my true love to the dance.

Then afterwards baptized I was,  
The Holy Ghost on me did glance,  
My Father's voice heard from above,  
To call my true love to my dance.

*John Gardner (1917-2011)*

**Communion Hymn: Let all mortal flesh keep silence**

Let all mortal flesh keep silence  
and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly-minded,  
for with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture,  
in the body and the blood:  
he will give to all the faithful  
his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven  
spreads its vanguard on the way,  
as the Light of light descendeth  
from the realms of endless day,  
that the powers of hell may vanish  
as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph;  
cherubim with sleepless eye  
veil their faces to the Presence,  
as with ceaseless voice they cry,  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Alleluia, Lord most high!

*Picardy 295 NEH*

**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  
illuminating.

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*