



Heacham Parish Church

23rd January 2021 – Epiphany 3

The Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you **and also with you.**

Hymn: Hail to the Lord's anointed (259HON)

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 ev'ry 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.

Prayer of preparation

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

When the Lord comes,

he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ
to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven,
and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved
to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace
with all.

Confession

**Almighty God, our 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. 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.**

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

Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

**Glory, glory to God, glory to God in the high-est;
peace to his people on earth, peace to his people on
earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God, and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for
your glory.**

**Glory, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.
peace to his people on earth, peace to his people on
earth.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God,
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**You are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer, receive our prayer, receive our
prayer.**

**You alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord.
you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High.
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory,
the glory, the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;

that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

Bible reading – Luke 4:14-21 read by Barbara

A reflection – by John Whitbread

Good morning, back in December I gave a talk on “Are you ready.” Since that time, we have had Christmas celebrating the birth of Jesus which I hope many of you enjoyed with family and friends. If you read the first part of Luke, from chapter 1, 2 and 3 you will discover all about the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus. You will also find out how Jesus was presented at the Temple and a little about Jesus’ early years. That is all we know about Jesus’ early years apart from Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man. We do not hear about Jesus until he is thirty years old.

In the previous part of chapter 4 you read of “The temptation of Jesus” and in our reading we learn that Jesus was in Nazareth at his local synagogues. But there was a time in between the two happening of approximately a year when Jesus went about preaching the good news and performing miracles.

Unlike Mark, who places this episode in the middle of Jesus Galilean ministry Luke highlights this event by placing it at the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry. This account provides an insight through which we can understand the ministry of Jesus. The era that Jesus’ life and ministry ushers in fulfils God’s

ancient promises. Christ is both the anointed one and the rejected one. The gospel message is not limited to Jews, for Gentiles will see the salvation of God.

But back to our reading we see that Jesus has returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit and news about him spread through the whole countryside. You could imagine the Nazareth Times that Saturday.

The front-page story: "Local Boy Makes Good" – followed by a report on the miracles that Jesus had been performing.

So WHY was there a problem when Jesus came to Nazareth? What happened to get their knickers in a twist? So, what went wrong and why did the people of Nazareth reject Jesus?

After all he only preached a short sermon.

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."(Lk 4:16-21)

For us he preached exactly what he came to earth for. What had Jesus said to upset his fellow Jews?

We need to go back to the Old Testament to Isaiah 61:1,2 and also in our reading today in Luke 4:25-27 to find out what was worrying the Jews.

"I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian."

This was a time of a very low ebb for the Jewish nation, but God raised up two important prophets Elijah and Elisha his successor.

The Jewish nation had once again fallen into the trap of worshiping other gods along with the God of Israel. And it was during that time that God refused to intervene in the lives of the Jews but sovereignly intervened in the lives of two Gentiles.

The Good News that the Jews wanted to hear was not the Good News Jesus brought.

They wanted someone who was going to rid them of the Romans and anybody who was likely to try to invade them. Someone who was a mighty warrior, strong and brave someone like David.

What was galling was that Jesus was attacking one of the most important tenets of Judaism. That of the Jews being a special people to God.

Jesus in contrast was heralding a new age where Jew and Gentile were going to have equal access to being special

And then the mood of the crowd changes:

Who did this upstart think he was – preaching change?

But actually, all Jesus had done was to point out an obvious and simple truth from their own Scriptures - the Old Testament. The record was there. But his application of the text was revolutionary. The new era that the Jewish community of Nazareth thought they were welcoming when they spoke so well of Jesus was in fact one of change.

We have an unchanging God who introduces change. If we really trust God, we can be secure in the apparent paradox of the unchanging God bringing change to our lives.

Jesus was bringing in change and they didn't like it. No one likes change. It was a change to their way of thinking. And Jesus still does that today.

So 'are you ready'? If we are ready for Jesus we need to allow him to change our lives:

1. the way we think
2. the way we live our lives
3. the way we worship God.

Let us ask God to give us the compassionate heart of Jesus for the lost for those outside the Kingdom of God so that we will be willing to go out of our comfort zone and to promote the Kingdom of God for Jesus's sake and in his Name. Amen.

The 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

Prayers of Intercession - Led by Sue Spencer

Heavenly Father, as we think about this time of Epiphany, we remember the journey the Wise men made, how inspired they were by what they took to be a sign of a new-born King, a king who would change not simply their lives, nor merely the lives of the king's people, but of the whole world.

Help us Lord to remember how they persevered in their quest, travelling in faith even though they had no idea where they were heading or what they would find. To remember how they refused to be discouraged despite their reception in Jerusalem, and we remember how they kept going in pursuit of their unknown goal. Until at last they came face to face with the infant Jesus.

We pray for all those who are looking for a sense of purpose in their lives, all who are searching for spiritual fulfilment and who long to find you themselves. Lord you have promised through Jesus Christ that those who seek shall find. May the experience of the wise men inspire all who seek the truth, may they complete their quest and discover you for themselves.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

We rejoice in all who answer to your call, and we pray for each other asking that we may be true to the Gospel. We ask you to uphold all our ministers and leaders, especially Veronica, Pip and Penny as they guide us in your way. We pray for the leaders of the countries of the world. Help them so that together they may pursue the search for peace. Above all we pray for those parts of this world where life is a continual struggle and where peace is too often a dream drowned under a sea of sectarian violence.

Bring peace to Israel and Palestine, to Afghanistan, and to the many strife torn countries of Africa. Help us to be peacemakers in our neighbourhoods, with those we meet.

This world is a place of richness and delight for many but not for all. Greed and minimal concern for your wonderful creation has brought about prosperity for some and poverty for others. Help us never to forget that we are guardians of the many treasures which we possess. We hold them in trust for you and for our children and children's children. Help us once again to commit ourselves to carrying out those responsibilities faithfully and well.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

We bring before you in the quietness of our minds those people for whom we have especial concern. In the silence let us list the sick and the sorrowing – the lonely and the oppressed – those who mourn or struggle for meaning in their

lives – all for whom today will be marked by difficulty beyond their powers to cope.

(SILENCE)

Lord, help them to find their rest and support in you, and may you give strength and courage to those who are carers.

Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of our Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen

The Peace

Peace be with you.

Hymn: Will you come and follow me? (HON 752)

Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know,
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you, and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind,
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare,
will you let me answer prayer
in you, and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free,
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you, and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside,
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around
through my sight and touch and sound
in you, and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you,
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you, and you in me.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, we give you thanks and praise through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word, through whom you have created all things; who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.
Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to
your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his
disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for
you;

do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Prayer after Communion

Almighty God,

we thank you for feeding us

with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

**Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.**

Send us out in the power of your Spirit

to live and work to your praise and glory.

Amen.

Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep
your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always.

Hymn: O for a thousand tongues to sing (HON 485)

O for a thousand tongues to sing

my dear Redeemer's praise,

my dear Redeemer's praise,

the glories of my God and King,

the triumphs of his grace,

the triumphs of his grace,

the triumphs of his grace!

Jesus! The name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease,
that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace. (x3)
He breaks the pow'r of cancelled sin,
he sets the pris'ner free,
he sets the pris'ner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean;
his blood availed for me. (x3)

He speaks; and, list'ning to his voice,
new life the dead receive,
new life the dead receive,
the mournful broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe. (x3)

Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,
your loosened tongues employ,
your loosened tongues employ;
ye blind, behold your Saviour come;
and leap, ye lame, for joy! (x3)

My gracious Master and my god,
assist me to proclaim,
assist me to proclaim
and spread through all the earth abroad
the honours of thy name. (x3)

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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