

**Common Worship – Service of the Word  
The First Sunday of Epiphany (The Baptism of Christ)  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**Call to worship**

God is spirit.  
**All Let us worship him in spirit and truth.**  
The Lord is with us.  
**All Let us praise his name together.**

**Sing Come down, O Love divine!  
seek out this soul of mine  
and visit it with your own ardour glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.**

**There let it freely burn  
till earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
and let your glorious light  
shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.**

**Let holy charity  
my outward garment be,  
and lowliness become my inner clothing;  
true lowliness of heart  
which takes the humbler part,  
and for its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.**

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

*Jubilate Hymns version of Discendi, amor santo Bianco da Siena (fl.1367 - 1434)  
adapted by Richard F Littledale (1833 - 1890)  
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## Opening prayer

**All** Lord, direct our thoughts  
and teach us to pray.  
Lift up our hearts to worship you  
in spirit and in truth,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Confession

Christ the light of the world has come  
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.  
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Lord Jesus,  
illuminate the darkness in our hearts:  
Lord, have mercy.

**All** Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,  
open our eyes to your saving love:  
Christ, have mercy.

**All** Christ, have mercy.

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

**All** Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God,  
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,  
bring us his pardon and peace, now and for ever.

**All** Amen.

## Praise

When we were still helpless  
**All** Christ died for the ungodly.

The proof of God's amazing love is this:  
**All** while we were still sinners, Christ died for us

## The Collect

**All** Heavenly Father,  
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:  
may we recognize him as our Lord  
and know ourselves to be your beloved children;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.  
Amen.

**Sing** From heaven you came, helpless babe,  
Entered our world, Your glory veiled;  
Not to be served but to serve,  
And give Your life That we might live.

*This is our God, the Servant King,  
He calls us now to follow Him,  
To bring our lives as a daily offering  
of worship to The Servant King.*

There in the garden of tears,  
My heavy load He chose to bear;  
His heart with sorrow Was torn,  
'Yet not My will But Yours,' He said.

*This is our God, the Servant King,  
He calls us now to follow Him,  
To bring our lives as a daily offering  
of worship to The Servant King.*

Come see His hands And His feet,  
The scars that speak of sacrifice;  
Hands that flung stars into space  
To cruel nails Surrendered.

*This is our God, the Servant King,  
He calls us now to follow Him,  
To bring our lives as a daily offering  
of worship to The Servant King.*

So let us learn How to serve,  
And in our lives Enthroned Him;  
Each other's needs to prefer,  
For it is Christ We're serving.

*This is our God, the Servant King,  
He calls us now to follow Him,  
To bring our lives as a daily offering  
of worship to The Servant King.*

*Graham Kendrick  
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## Scripture reading

Mark 1:4-11

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the River Jordan.

John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt round his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message:

'After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'

For the Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

**Message**

**Sing** Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost but now I'm found  
was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
and grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed

*My chains are gone I've been set free  
My God my Saviour has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love amazing grace*

The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures

*My chains are gone I've been set free  
My God my Saviour has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love amazing grace*

*My chains are gone I've been set free  
My God my Saviour has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love amazing grace*

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
the sun forbear to shine  
But God who called me here below  
will be forever mine  
will be forever mine  
you are forever mine

*John Newton, Chris Tomlin, Louie Giglio  
2009 worshiptogether.com songs,  
sixsteps Music (Admin by Capitol Christian Music Publishing)  
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We say together in faith  
**All Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father, who created all things:  
**All for by his will they were created  
and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son, who was slain:  
**All for with his blood,  
he purchased us for God,  
from every tribe and language,  
from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:  
**All the Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!"  
Even so come, Lord Jesus!  
Amen.**

#### Prayers of intercession

**All** Make your ways known upon earth, Lord God,  
**your saving power among all nations.**

**All** Renew your church in holiness  
**and help us to serve you with joy.**

**All** Guide the leaders of this and every nation,  
**that justice may prevail throughout the world.**

**All** Let not the needy be forgotten,  
**nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

**All** Make us instruments of your peace,  
**and let your glory be over all the earth.**

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:  
**All Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

**Sing** Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy,  
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,  
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,  
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,  
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

*Jan Struther (1901-1953)*  
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#### Acclamation

**All** A city on a hill cannot be hidden.  
**We are the light of the world.**

May God, the Holy Spirit,  
who came upon the beloved Son  
at his baptism in the river Jordan,  
pour out his gifts upon us  
who have come to waters of new birth.  
**All** **Amen.**

#### Closing Prayer

**All** **Eternal God, giver of love and power,**  
**your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world**  
**to preach the gospel of his kingdom:**  
**confirm us in this mission,**  
**and help us to live the good news we proclaim;**  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord.**  
**Amen.**