

1. 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.

2. 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, are precious in his sight.

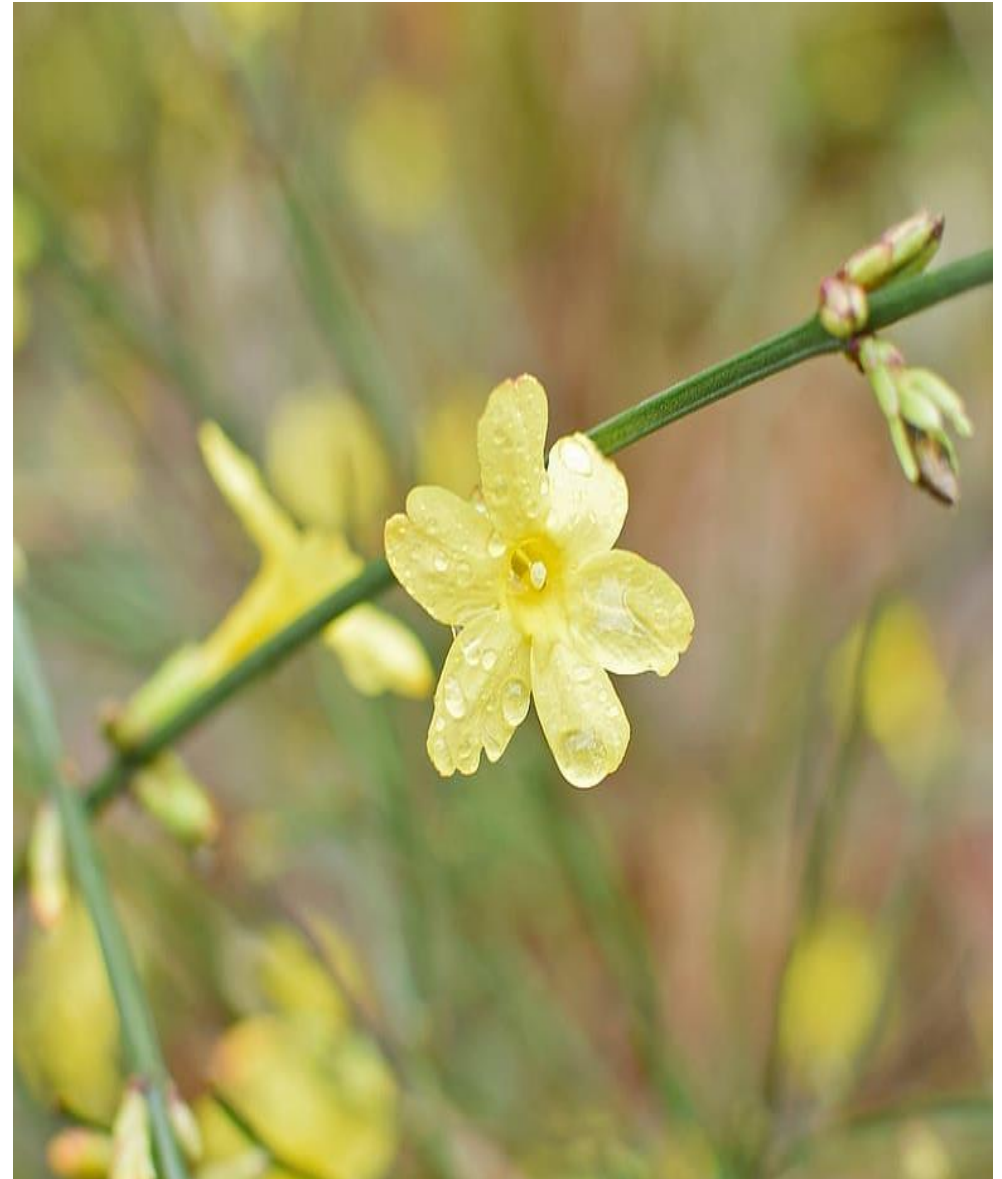
3. He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;  
love, joy, and hope, like flowers,  
spring in his path to birth.  
Before him on the mountains,  
shall peace, the herald, go,  
and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

4. To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;  
his kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.  
The tide of time shall never  
his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand forever; that name to us is love.

## The Cotteridge Church

5<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Christmas 2



## **Bible Readings**

Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12

Psalms 147:12-20 or Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:(1-9), 10-18

## **Collect**

God our Father,  
in love you sent your Son  
that the world may have life:  
lead us to seek him among the outcast  
and to find him in those in need,  
for Jesus Christ's sake.

Amen

In 1895, Henry van Dyke wrote the "Story of the Other Wise Man," a fourth wise man called Artaban. Our hero is not mentioned in the Gospel because he missed the caravan. He got to Bethlehem too late to see the baby Jesus. But Artaban did make it in time to save one of the Holy Innocents by bribing a soldier. For 33 years Artaban searched for Jesus. He did not find him. But all the while the Fourth wise man fed the hungry, helped the poor. Then one day in Jerusalem Artaban saw the "King of the Jews" being crucified. He started to offer a pearl as ransom. But then he saw a girl being sold into slavery to pay family debts. Artaban gave his pearl to buy freedom for the girl. Suddenly the earth quaked as Jesus died on the cross and a stone struck Artaban. Dying, he heard a voice saying: "When you helped the least of my children, you helped me. Meet me in heaven!" Artaban, the fourth Wise Man, had been making God present in his community for years by helping others. God asks each of us on the feast of Epiphany to be a fourth Wise Man by becoming God's epiphanies, making His love present in the world around us by our acts of love and kindness.

StF 666 Frances Ridley Havergal

1 Master, speak! thy servant heareth,  
waiting for thy gracious word,  
longing for thy voice that cheereth,  
Master, let it now be heard.  
I am list'ning, Lord, for thee;  
what hast thou to say to me?

2 Speak to me by name, O Master,  
let me know it is to me;  
speak, that I may follow faster,  
with a step more firm and free  
where the Shepherd leads the flock,  
in the shadow of the Rock!

3 Master, speak! tho' least and lowest,  
let me not unheard depart;  
Master, speak! for oh, thou knowest  
all the yearning of my heart,  
knowest all its truest need;  
speak! and make me blest indeed.

4 Master, speak! and make me ready  
when thy voice is truly heard,  
with obedience glad and steady,  
still to follow ev'ry word.  
I am listening, Lord for thee  
Master, speak! O speak to me!

## The Cotteridge Church

12<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Epiphany



## **Bible Readings - Baptism of the Lord**

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 29

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

## **Collect**

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

An Irish legend tells that the a king had no children to succeed him so he has his messengers post signs in every town and village of his kingdom inviting qualified young men to apply to the king. In this way he hoped to choose a successor before he died. The person must have a deep love for God and for his neighbour. A young man saw one of the signs. He, indeed, had a deep love for God and neighbour and felt an inner voice telling him to apply for an interview. But the young man was so poor that he didn't have clothes to wear to an interview. He also had no money to buy food for the long journey to the castle so he begged for what he needed.

After a month of travel, the young man caught sight of the castle. He also caught sight of a poor beggar sitting by the side of the road. The beggar held out his hands and pleaded "I'm hungry and cold," he said. "Could you give me something warm to wear and some food?" The young man was moved by the sight of the beggar. He stripped off his warm outer clothes and exchanged them for the tattered old coat of the beggar. He also gave the beggar most of the provisions he had been carrying in his backpack. Then, somewhat uncertainly, he walked on to the castle in tattered clothes and without enough food for his return trip. When the young man arrived at the castle, guards met him and took him to the visitors' area.

After a long wait, the young man was led in to see the king. He bowed low before the throne. When he straightened up, the young man could hardly believe his eyes. He said to the king, "You were the beggar beside the road." "That's right," said the king. "Why'd you do this to me?" asked the young man. "I had to find out," said the king, "if you really did love God and neighbour."



StF 603 Shirley Erena Murray

Come to a wedding,  
Come to a blessing,  
Come on a day when happiness sings!  
Come rain or sun,  
Come winter or summer,  
Celebrate love and all that it brings.

Thanks for the love,  
That holds us together,  
Parent and child, and lover and friend;  
Thanks to the God,  
Whose love is our centre,  
Source of compassion, knowing no end.

Love is the gift,  
And love is the giver,  
Love is the gold that  
Makes the day shine;  
Love forgets self to care for the other,  
Love changes life from water to wine.

Come to this wedding,  
Asking a blessing,  
For all the years that living will prove;  
Health of the body,  
Health of the spirit,  
Now to you both we offer our love.

## The Cotteridge Church

19<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**Epiphany 2**

Week Of Prayer For Christian Unity



## **Bible Readings**

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 36:5-10 - 1

Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

## **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.

There is an old Hindu parable about a tiger cub raised by goats. The cub learned to bleat and nibble grass and behave like a goat.

One night a tiger attacked the goats, which scattered for safety. But the tiger cub kept grazing and crying like a goat without getting frightened.

The old tiger roared, "What are you doing here, living with these cowardly goats?" He grabbed the cub by the scruff, dragged him to a pond and said: "Look how our faces reflected in water? Now you know who you are and whose you are."

The tiger took the cub home, taught him how to catch animals, eat their meat, roar and act like a tiger. The tiger cub thus discovered his true self.

Today's gospel seems to suggest that Jesus received from heaven a fresh flash of realization of who, and Whose, he really was (his identity) and what he was supposed to do (his mission), on the day of his baptism in the river Jordan.

26<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**Epiphany 3**

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 your self 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 prisoners 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.



## **Bible Readings**

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 –

Psalms 19 –

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a –

Luke 4:14-21

## **Collect**

God of all mercy,  
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,  
release to the captives,  
and freedom to the oppressed:  
anoint us with your Holy Spirit  
and set all your people free  
to praise you in Christ our Lord.  
Amen

Jesus began his ministry by calling simple fishermen to be his most trusted friends. Although the Twelve were hardly scholars or men wise in the ways of the world, Jesus saw beyond their gruff simplicity to call forth from them faith, sincerity and integrity. As Mark's Gospel unfolds each Sunday this year, the first disciples will misunderstand Jesus (if not miss the point entirely), desert him and even deny and betray him.

To follow Christ means "abandoning our nets" of self-interest to embrace the needs of others; Jesus calls us to follow him along the difficult path of humility and selflessness. If we are going to realize his call to be "fishers of men," we have to be willing to cast our nets into waters that are deep and turbulent, waters we do not know, waters that threaten the safety and security of our small boats.

But Jesus entrusts to them, for all of humankind, the proclamation of his Gospel. We, too, are called by Christ to be his "fishers," to help one another discover the love of God in our midst.

The Gospel is about possibilities: Christ came to show us how it is possible to love life to the fullest, if we dare to make forgiveness, reconciliation and selfless charity the centre of our lives.