

Berrow with Pendock, Eldersfield, Birtsmorton and Hollybush



2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Welcome-do have a candle, glass of juice/wine and cracker/piece of bread ready

HYMN

OPENING PRAYER

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all
and also with you.

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.

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.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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,

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**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

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

**Glory to God in the highest,
and 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.
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.**

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

THE COLLECT

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,

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in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

READINGS : 1 Samuel 3. 1-10, John 1. 43 to end

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

(Please read Revelation 5.1-10 at home)

REFLECTION

Jesus is just beginning his public life as the chosen one of God and is preparing for the journey ahead. Something happened when Andrew encountered Jesus. Andrew's heart was captured. The next morning, at the crack of dawn according to the text, Andrew went and found his older brother. "Simon Peter, my big brother, you have got to come and meet this Jesus." So Simon Peter came and met Jesus. Simon Peter spent time with Jesus. There is no record of what was said in that conversation or how long that it lasted. But Peter's heart was transformed. His heart was captured.

Peter then went to Phillip and said, "Phillip, you've come to come and see." Phillip did. Phillip's heart was transformed. His heart was captured. Phillip went and found his co-worker, Nathaniel. He said, "Nathaniel, you've got to come and meet this Jesus of Nazareth. You've simply got to." Nathaniel came and saw and Jesus said to Nathaniel. "Nathaniel. I saw you sitting under your fig tree yesterday." Nathaniel said, "How did you see that?" Jesus said, "I know your heart." Nathaniel fell down and worshipped him.

In all of these stories, there were hearts who had been captured by Jesus Christ. Those people then went out and said, "Come and see."
It was an unlikely beginning to Nathaniel's walk with Jesus, but why not? What is more unlikely than heaven touching earth?

Heaven is where love reigns. Where there is room for all God's children at the table. Not at all what earth is like. We know what earth is like. A glance through the morning paper shows us a world in turmoil.
And yet, in Jesus, the unexpected happens. And Nathaniel sees it. Heaven gets a foothold on this earth.

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He helped us remember that walking with Jesus means working for justice--revealing in our midst already a world where love reigns, of wholeness- where all are welcome.

An act of simple hospitality in the midst of want, all moments like that, so often unexpected--where the reign of God comes near, where we catch a glimpse of a time and place where we are God's adopted children. Nathaniel says, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

Nazareth is situated in the hill country of Galilee, a region of fishing and farming that was also known in Scripture for its distinctive regional accent and for having a large population of Gentiles, a high number of immigrants, foreigners, resident aliens.

Jesus didn't have the easiest time in Nazareth. Mark says that Jesus could do few healings in Nazareth, because of the residents' unbelief and lack of faith. Matthew suggests the people of Nazareth won't listen to Jesus because they still just think of him as the carpenter's son, Mary's boy.

It was in Nazareth that Jesus was raised. It was in Nazareth that he likely attended synagogue and recited Torah and learned the words of Scripture. It was in Nazareth that Scripture says Jesus "increased in wisdom and in stature and in divine and human favour."

Jesus knows his people so well that he knows what message they most need to hear. He's said he was anointed to release captives and open the eyes of the blind, so that is what he will do.

They probably think that since Jesus is from Nazareth, and that they are his own people, that they'll receive preferential treatment: after all, they're from Israel, and believe they are more important than those Gentiles living across the border.

But Jesus tries to challenge them by reminding them that God's love extends much wider.

Rural communities still have great gifts to give to the world and to the church. Nazareth reminds me of our own rural communities and what rural communities have gone through in time of great changes. Many rural

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communities and churches have struggled to thrive. Family farms have disappeared as rural communities have suffered in many different ways. Rural areas and small towns have born much of jobs have been lost. Rural schools are vulnerable with less funding available. Rural areas have struggled with poverty and hunger, mental health issues, lack of opportunities. There are many challenges for creating a future vision in rural communities.

In this pandemic all churches, including rural ones, have responded the challenges in creative and faithful ways. We have great gifts to give the world: gifts of genuine human community, true appreciation for the Creation, a rich storehouse of practical skills and wisdom.

Nathaniel asked Philip, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" And do you remember what Philip said? "Come and see."

I believe that the church of Christ is meant to be a preview of the kingdom of God. There is a sense in which the greatest gift the world has ever received, Jesus, was the gift from a rural community.

Can we see a new future, as 2021 emerges and we enter a new relationship with our nearest communities in Malvern and Upton? Can we begin to glimpse possibilities, seeing that future, to believe in it, and believing in that future, to one day be that future, by the grace of God?

People's hearts are still captured by Jesus Christ "Come and see." To know first hand his love, his compassion, his kindness, his mercy, his beauty. It can make the difference in your world and in your life and in the life of others.

Those first disciples like Andrew and Peter and Phillip and Nathaniel were people whose hearts were captured by Jesus Christ and they went and found their family and friends and said, "Come and see."

We may not have had a single moment when God called us to a specific vocation or task. Our baptism and perhaps confirmation are markers of our spiritual journey and for some ordination or licensing mark a moment of "commissioning" and special blessing.

But what if we don't have any sense of being especially important to God in his work, no office or title to set us apart from "ordinary" Christians? Does that

mean we're not that important to God and he doesn't much care what we're doing with our lives so long as we believe in him?

We may not have the prophetic ministry of John the Baptist, the evangelistic ministry of Andrew or the leadership role of Peter but we are all deeply loved by a God who has known us and called us to himself from before we were born. We are all part of the great story of the fellowship of the saints and caught up in the work of God as he seeks to restore us and all his children to the fullness of the relationship he wants to have with us.

Can we go and say to someone, "Come and see?"

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please ask for any additional prayers

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

Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us.

**Our Father,
which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done ;
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil;
for thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.**

Amen.

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THE PEACE

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.
He is Christ the Saviour and his name shall be called 'The Prince of Peace'. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread to set before you,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.
Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
 through your goodness
 we have this wine to set before you,
 fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
 It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

Here is the table set for a special meal.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator,
 ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,
 who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,
 was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit,
 and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh
 you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,
 to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
 In him we see our God made visible
 and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.
 Therefore with all the angels of heaven
 we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
 and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**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.**

Father of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from heaven.

To the darkness Jesus came as your light.
With signs of faith and words of hope
he touched untouchables with love
and washed the guilty clean.

The crowds came out to see your Son,
yet at the end they turned on him.

On the night he was betrayed
he came to table with his friends
to celebrate the freedom of your people.
Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
This is my body, given for you all.

Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;
he took the cup, gave it and said:
This is my blood, shed for you all for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate the cross
on which he died to set us free.
Defying death he rose again
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

Send your Spirit on us now
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ with opened eyes and hearts
on fire.

May we and all who share this food
offer ourselves to live for you
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven where all creation worships
you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast

(consume)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of glory,
 you nourish us with your Word
 who is the bread of life:
 fill us with your Holy Spirit
 that through us the light of your glory
 may shine in all the world.
 We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

We thank you, Lord, that you have fed us in this physical and spiritual sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for all peoples. Amen.

HYMN

THE BLESSING

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory
 and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom;
 and the blessing of God almighty,
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
 be among you and remain with you always.
Amen

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