



Epiphany 4 Yr B – 31st January 2021

Welcome:

Greeting:

On this fourth Sunday in Epiphany
May the light of the Lord be with you
And also with you

Moment of Stillness:

As we begin our service, let's take a moment to be still and aware of God's presence within and all around us.

Christ Candle:

In this season of Light,
we light this candle to remind us of God's light shining in the darkness.

May we carry this light of hope, peace, and justice
to the world around us every day.

Acknowledgement First Peoples:

As we gather to worship God,
we acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land
and we recognise that this land is sacred land.

We recognise this land is holy ground.

We honour the Gadigal and Wangal peoples of the Eora Nation.
We pay our respects to the elders, past, present and emerging.
And we commit ourselves again to working for reconciliation in this land.

Call to Worship: (Psalm 111)

Praise the Lord! In the company of the
saints above and beside us, let us give
thanks to the Lord our God!

**Great is everything God does,
full of honour and majesty,
whose righteousness endures forever.**

The Lord is gracious and merciful;
the work of God's hands are faithful and just.
**God's covenant is established forever
in truth and justice.**

Our redemption is in the name of our Lord.
**Holy and awesome is God's name in all
the earth!**

Opening Prayer:

Speak with authority
in our lives, O Christ.

Speak to us,
and to what is in us,
so that we might be whole.

Speak to us,
with love,
with hope,
and with strength,
so that we might hear you,
and know, deep inside,
that we are your people,
and that you are our God.

Let it be so.

Amen

Song: 10,000 reasons

Chorus:

Bless the Lord O my soul, O my soul,
worship His holy name.

Sing like never before, O my soul,
I'll worship Your holy name.

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
it's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes.

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger.
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing.
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

And on that day when my strength is failing
the end draws near and my time has come,
still my soul will sing Your praise unending
ten thousand years and then forevermore.

Worship Your holy name.
Lord I'll worship Your holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul.
I'll worship Your holy name,
Worship Your holy name,
Worship Your holy name.

Prayer of Confession:

Creator God,
we thank you for this extraordinary world
and its reminders of resilience, grace, hope and life:
for when grass shoots break through concrete
when the sun emerges after storms
for when people share our laughter and when they share our tears.

In these moments we see glimpses of who you are –
and we are grateful.

Forgive us when we reduce you to being like the cycle of nature
or the best of humankind,
when we diminish your power to make the impossible real:
to break apart the impenetrable evils of oppression,
to cast out the very real fears that paralyse us,
to banish the negative thoughts in our lives of judgement and worthlessness

Forgive us God when we do not trust you to deal with the unspeakable
awfulness in our lives and world.
In the silence we name the parts of our lives and our world that we believe are
too broken to ever be made whole

In our brokenness
Make us new again

Forgive us when we contribute to the brokenness of the world
and the lives of people around us.
In the silence we name the things we have done that separate us
from you and from others

In our brokenness
Make us new again

Forgive us when we trust darkness more than we trust your light.
In the silence we name the things we think we need to keep hidden.

In our brokenness
Make us new again
Amen

Words of assurance:

The light of God's love
shines into the dark places of our world,
healing its brokenness,
and bringing hope to places of despair.

The light of God's love

makes us a forgiven people.

Thanks be to God!

Peace:

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you.

Let's share Christ's peace with one another

Song: This is my will, my one command (TIS 641)

This is my will, my one command,
that love shall dwell among you all.
This is my will, that you should love
as I have shown that I love you.

No greater love can be than this:
to choose to die to save one's friends.
You are my friends if you obey
what I command that you should do.

You chose not me, but I chose you,
that you should go and bear much fruit.
I chose you out that you in me
should bear much fruit that will abide.

All that you ask my Father dear
for my name's sake you shall receive.
This is my will, my one command,
that love should dwell in each, in all.

Moment for the young at heart:

Bible Readings:

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

¹⁵ The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet^[a] like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet.^[b] ¹⁶ This is what you requested of

the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.”¹⁷ Then the Lord replied to me: “They are right in what they have said.¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet^[c] like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet,^[d] who shall speak to them everything that I command.¹⁹ Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet^[e] shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable.²⁰ But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

Mark 1:21-28

²¹ They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²² They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³ Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴ and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶ And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷ They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He^[a] commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸ At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

In this is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Reflection:

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People:

The Lord’s Prayer:

**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.
Save us in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours.
Now and forever.
Amen**

'Freddo' Moment: The congregation share good news

Community News:

Offering Prayer:

Thank you, God of grace, for all the gifts you give us.
Help us to be gracious givers
in response to all that you have given us.
Use these gifts, here today, to be your light in the world
Amen.

Song: Jesus lover of my soul (TIS 211)

Jesus, lover of my soul,
let me to thy refuge fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high;
hide me, O my Saviour, hide,
till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none,
hangs my helpless soul on thee;
leave, ah! leave me not alone,
still support and comfort me:
all my trust on thee is stayed,
all my help from thee I bring;

cover my defenceless head
with the shadow of thy wing.

Plenteous grace with thee is found,
grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound,
make and keep me pure within:
thou of life the fountain art,
freely let me take of thee,
spring thou up within my heart,
rise to all eternity.

Benediction & Blessing:

May the Source of life hold you in the faith;
the Word of life speak clearly in truth around you;
and the Breath of life, of grace, of wisdom,
sing in your inmost being this day and all your days.

3-fold-amen

Acknowledgements:

Image: [February 1, 2015--"Time to Exorcise" Mark 1:21-28 — Midway Presbyterian Church \(squarespace.com\)](#)

Call to worship: Michael Morgan [re:Worship: Psalm 111 Call to Worship Litany \(re-worship.blogspot.com\)](#)

Opening prayer: ~ written by Richard Bott, and posted on Sharing Liturgy.

<http://liturgy.richardbott.com/We pray in Jesus' name>

Prayer of confession: ~ adapted from: Cheryl Lawrie and posted on [hold this space].

<http://holdthisspace.org.au/all-of-who-we-are/>

Benediction: thebillabong.info