



Epiphany 2 Yr A – 15th January 2023

Meditation Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, Holy, Holy
My heart, my heart adores you
My heart knows how to say to you
Holy are you, Lord (Repeat)

Leader: Alison Burnett / Greeter: Mehry

Welcome:

Today we celebrate the Epiphany which is a time of revelation. Commemorating both the revealing of Jesus as the Christ to the Israelites and the Gentiles in the persons of the Magi and the baptism of Jesus. God doesn't play favorites but receives all whose hearts long for him. May we open our hearts to receive revelation from God.

Greeting:

May 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 sovereign First Peoples of this country on which we gather today; the Gadigal and Wangal people. And we pay our respects to their Elders past and present, together with all descendants.

We commit ourselves to support Voice, Treaty, Truth – justice for First Nations Peoples.

Call to Worship:

O God, you called us by name to come,
and we respond with delight and gladness

**In joyful obedience,
we come to worship our God.**

Rising out of the depths of despair,
we gratefully gather for worship.

**In joyful hope,
we come to worship our loving God.**

Our God had given us a new song

of praise to sing to our Awesome God!

**In joyful trust,
we come to worship our God.**

Amen

Opening Prayer:

Most wonderful God,
we too delight in your beloved Son.
As we gather in his name today to praise you,
may the heavens be opened for us, that we
may catch a glimpse of that Light and Love
that transforms our lives and our world with a
beauty not of our making.
Through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen

Song: Community of Christ

**Community of Christ,
who make the cross your own,
live out your creed and risk
Your life for God alone:
the God who wears your face,
to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race
And every song.**

**Community of Christ,
look past the Church's door
and see the refugee,
the hungry, and the poor.
Take hands with the oppressed,
the jobless in your street,
take towel and water,
that you wash
your neighbour's feet.**

**Community of Christ,
through whom the word**

**must sound –
cry out for justice and for peace
the whole world round:
disarm the powers of war
and all that can destroy,
turn bombs to bread,
and tears of anguish
into joy.**

**When menace melts away,
so shall God's will be done,
the climate of the world be peace
and Christ its Sun;
our currency by love
and kindness our law,
our food and faith be
shared as one
for evermore.**

Prayer of Confession:

God of our baptismal hope,
Forgive us when we do not wait patiently for your direction.
Forgive us when we are too patient with our misdirection.
Hold our gaze on your baptismal promise
sealed in the life, death, and resurrection of your Son.
Through the power of your Spirit,
give us the courage to speak what we have seen
and point to the One who takes away the sins of the world.
In the name of your son, Jesus Christ, we pray.

Amen

Words of assurance:

People of God, you are known and loved by the Creator.
You are marked as God's chosen ones
to bring hope and peace to others.
Be at peace and live in hope.

Hear then the words of Christ to us:

“Your sins are forgiven.”

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: All my hope on God is founded

**1 All my hope on God is founded;
all my trust he will renew,
through all change and chance he
guides me,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
he alone
calls my heart to be his own.**

**3 God's great goodness lasts for ever,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light and life attend him,
beauty springing out of naught.
Evermore
from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.**

**5 Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Hear Christ call
one and all:
those who follow shall not fall.**

Moment for the young at heart: Hector Abrahams

Bible Readings: Marie Thompson

1 Corinthians 1:1–9 NRSV

Salutation

1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— 6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— 7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

John 1: 29-42 NRSV

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.” The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). He brought

Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection: Dr Andrew Thornley

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: Tonia Abrahams

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**

Giving thanks: The congregation share good news

Community News:

Offering Prayer:

O God,
we recognize that we have been blessed
with great abundance.
In offering these gifts,
may we be strengthened to proclaim
your faithfulness and your salvation this
day and always.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Amen.

Song: No weight of gold or silver

**1 No weight of gold or silver
can measure human worth;
no soul secures its ransom
with all the wealth of earth;
no sinners find their freedom
but by the gift unpriced,
the Lamb of God unblemished,
the precious blood of Christ.**

**2 Our sins, our griefs and troubles,
he bore and made his own;
we hid our faces from him,
rejected and alone.
His wounds are for our healing,
our peace is by his pain.
Behold, the Man of Sorrows,
the Lamb for sinners slain.**

**3 In Christ the past is over,
a new world now begins.
With him we rise to freedom
who saves us from our sins.
We live by faith in Jesus
to make his glory known:
Behold, the Man of Sorrows,
the Lamb upon his throne!**

Benediction & Blessing:

As we leave this place, remember:
God, who chose you before your birth,
who calls you and knows you by name,
now sends you out into the world—

to bring light to those in darkness,
comfort to those who grieve,
hope to those who despair.

And may the blessing of God,
the love of Jesus Christ,
and the presence of the Holy Spirit
be among you and within you
as you seek to do God's will.

Amen.

3-fold-amen

Pastoral Prayers: Brian & Christo

Acknowledgements:

Image: Baptism of Jesus by He Qi