



Epiphany 4 Yr C – 2nd February 2025
Communion

Greeter: Wendy

Meditation Song: A new commandment (TIS 699)
(please remain seated)

A new commandment I give unto you
that you love one another as I have loved you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.
By this will others know that you are my disciples
if you have love one for another;
by this will others know that you are my disciples
if you have love one for another.
(repeat)

Welcome:

Greeting:

May the light of Christ be with you
And also with you

Moment of Stillness:

Christ Candle:

We light this light to remind us that Christ is with us.

Christ's light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

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

Acknowledgement of Country:

For this Land - **We give thanks!**

For the Gadigal and Wangal people - **We give thanks!**

We honour them for their custodianship of sacred stories and their connections with the deep earth and oceans. We give thanks for the grace they have shown in extending the hand of reconciliation to us in the call to pursue justice together for a better future for all.

May we walk together for justice and peace.

Call to Worship:

All you who are thirsty,
this is the place for water.

**All you who are hungry,
this is the place to be fed.**

Here without money, here without price,
**all are welcome, all belong,
all are invited to enjoy the bread of life.**

Opening Prayer:

Holy Mystery, Spirit of Wonder, Bread of Life,
you have made us your children
and call us your beloved.

You have called us to be your witnesses,
to proclaim the good news of your love and grace.

Sanctify us and help us see ourselves in you,
the living body of the risen Christ,
broken and poured out to feed a hungry world.

Come to us, here in this place
that we may witness to reconciliation in a divided world;
that we may gather around Christ's table as one people;
that we may affirm your hope, your love, your peace.

Amen

Hymn: God has spoken through the prophets (TIS 158)

1. God has spoken by the prophets,
spoken God's unchanging word.
Each from age to age proclaiming God,
the One the righteous Lord.
In the world's despair and turmoil,
one firm anchor holds us fast.
God is King, God's throne eternal,
God the first and God the last.

2. God has spoken by Christ Jesus,
Christ the everlasting Son.
Brightness of the Father's glory,
with the Father ever one.
Spoken by the Word incarnate,
God from God ere time was born.
Light from Light to earth descending,
Christ as God in human form.

3. God is speaking by the Spirit,
speaking to our hearts again,
in the ageless word expounding
God's own message now as then.
Through the rise and fall of nations
one sure faith yet standing fast.
God abides, God's word unchanging,
God the first and God the last.

Prayer of confession:

When we offer God our confession, we join the beautiful work of reconciliation, which begins with our reconciling with God. Trusting in our God of Grace, let us make our confession, beginning with a time short time of silence...

Let us pray our confession together:

**Merciful God,
our maker and the one who brings justice,
we have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and deeds:
we have not loved you with our whole heart,
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we are sorry for all the ways we have failed to live in your light.
God, our loving parent, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;**

**In the name of Christ, in whom we live and breathe and have our being.
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.

In the light of God's love
we are a forgiven people.

Thanks be to God!

Peace:

May the peace of Christ be always with you
And also with you.

Let's share Christ's peace with those around us.

Moment for the young at heart: Phil

Bible Readings: Chris L

Introduction to New Testament reading:

Today's New Testament reading follows on from last week's reading. Jesus has begun his ministry preaching in the synagogues of his hometown. He has quoted from the book of Isaiah and although the reaction of the crowd was at first favourable, this seems to quickly change. Now they want to kill him. Is it his presumption, his promotion of the sharing of wealth, or that he refuses to give any credentials? Perhaps all of the above. In all their rage, Jesus remains unharmed.

Luke 4:21-30

²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is this not Joseph's son?" ²³ He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard

you did at Capernaum.’ ” ²⁴ And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵ But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months and there was a severe famine over all the land, ²⁶ yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷ There were also many with a skin disease in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” ²⁸ When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Jeremiah 1:4-10

⁴ Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

⁶ Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” ⁷ But the Lord said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy,’ for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you.

⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.”

⁹ Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me, “Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection: Rev Joy

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: Clabon

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**

Communion Hymn: Come to the banquet

1. Come to the banquet there's a place for you
Though you maybe have no money,
though you maybe feel unworthy
in your strength or in your weakness
you are welcome, come.

2. Come to the banquet there's a place for you
See, you are an honoured guest,
from constant serving you may rest
so sit you down, be fed & blessed for
you are welcome, come.

3. Come to the banquet there's a place for you
Woman, wise one, mother, maiden,
see your plate with food is laden,
and your place is set and waiting,
you are welcome, come.

4. Come to the banquet there's a place for you
Worker, father, little boy,
old man or youth without employ,
come rest your worry, here is joy and
you are welcome, come.

5. Come to the banquet there's a place for you
Willing hands have made this bread ,
with salt and yeast and labour shared,
let all the hungry ones be fed;
it's time for feasting, come.

6. Come to the banquet there's a place for you
Abundant wine, enough for all,
our generous loving host has called,
the cup of blessing now is poured,
for sweet communion, come.

Come to the banquet there's a place for you.

Communion:

This is the table, not of the Church, but of Jesus.
It is to be made ready for those who love him
and those who want to love him more.
So, come, you who are hungry for God's love.
Come, you who are yearning the Christ's presence.
Come, you who want community;
know that you are welcome here.

Why have we gathered here?

We come because we have been called to live out a story.

What story shall we live?

The story of saving love.

Where did this story begin?

**It was whispered before time began.
It was sung in the melody of Creation.**

Whose story is this?

**This story is God's alone to tell.
It hums in the rivers and the trees.
It whispers in the skies and the seas.
It calls to the people of all places.
It speaks in our hearts, in our lives.**

Why then should we speak of this story?

**This story calls our name in Creation.
This story claims our lives through the Cross.
This story shaped our future through the Spirit.
We are its telling in this time and this place.**

So, tell me the story of this night and of this table.

**The Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed took bread,
and when he had given thanks, he broke it (bread is broken).**

Tell me what he said and did.
**'This is my body which is broken for you.
Do this to make me real to you.**

Tell me what he said and did next (lift cup)
**In the same way, he took the cup and said
'This is a new covenant in my love.
Drink it to make me real to you.**

**This is our common story,
our deep memory, our true destiny.**

So, let it also be our story-telling, our testimony.
Let's celebrate the way that grace has shaped our lives.
I invite you to say aloud what you are thankful for...

(we share what we are thankful for)

Hear the storytelling of all ages singing with us: (sung response TIS 761)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

What is our prayer on this day?
(everyone holds their hands in blessing)

**Pour out your Holy spirit on us,
so that this everyday meal becomes an eternal feast.
So that our eating and drinking today
unites us with Christ making us one body.**

**So we know that you live in us and that we live in you.
So that we live in your world knowing it is indeed yours.
Living God, this is our prayer
Amen**

Distribution

Let us receive this holy sacrament
of the body and blood of Christ,
and feed on him in our hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

(we eat and drink together)

Concluding prayer

In gratitude, in deep gratitude
for this moment, this meal, these people,
we give ourselves to you.

Take us out to live as changed people
because we have shared the Living Bread
and cannot remain the same.

**May we live to your glory,
bringing your love and peace to your world.
Amen.**

Community News:

Offering Prayer:

***As we faithfully give for the life and mission of God's church in this
place and in the world, let's pray our 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 we have received from you.
We give these gifts of money and our lives
trusting and hoping that you will use them and us
to be your light in the world.
Amen.

We hear from our children:

Song: Fear not

Fear not, for I am with you.
Fear not, for I am with you.
Fear not, for I am with you, says the Lord.

I have redeemed you,
I've called you by name,
child, you are Mine.
When you walk through the waters,
I will be there,
and through the flame.
You'll not be drowned,
you'll not be burned,
For I am with you!

Benediction & Blessing:

Be filled with the goodness of God;
the nourishment of Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life,
and the power of the Holy Spirit.
Go now in peace to serve God in all your being and your doing.

And may Almighty God bless you;
Creator, Christ and Spirit
be upon you and remain with you always

3-fold-amen

Pastoral prayers: David

Acknowledgements:

Image: The prophet Jeremiah by Marc Chagall

Acknowledgement of Country: adapted National Assembly working group on worship

Call to worship – adapted from Wild Goose Worship Group - A Wee Worship Book

Opening Prayer – adapted ministrymatters.com

Prayer of confession: adapted Uniting in Worship 2

Communion liturgy: adapted Craig Mitchell

Assurance: adapted from – ministrymatters.com

Benediction: adapted from Nancy C. Townley, ministrymatters.com