**Morning Prayer on the First Sunday of Epiphany**

**Sunday 7th January 2024**

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 856 4943 0168

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**Telephone instructions:**

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\* When passcode requested type numbers i.e. 336782 plus #.  
  
\* At this point you should be admitted to the call.

**Preparation**

O Lord, open our lips.

*All* **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Your light springs up for the righteous

*All* **and all the peoples have seen your glory.**

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,

king of the nations,

to you be praise and glory for ever.

**A sun and mountains with rays

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From the rising of the sun to its setting

your name is proclaimed in all the world.

as the Sun of Righteousness dawns in our hearts

anoint our lips with the seal of your Spirit

that we may witness to your gospel

and sing your praise in all the earth.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*All*  **Blessed be God for ever.**

The voice of the Lord is over the waters,  
the voice of the Lord is powerful,  
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.  
May the Lord give strength to us, his people.  
May the Lord bless us with peace.  
**Amen.**

*The Jubilate – A Song of Joy*

**A group of angels with horns

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*All* **O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth;**

**serve the Lord with gladness**

**and come before his presence with a song.**

**Know that the Lord is God;**

**it is he that has made us and we are his;**

**we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving**

**and his courts with praise;**

**give thanks to him and bless his name.**

**For the Lord is gracious; his steadfast love is everlasting, and his faithfulness endures**

**from generation to generation.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit:**

**as it was in the beginning, is now**

**and shall be for ever. Amen.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;

let us pray with one heart and mind.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

**The Word of God**

*First reading* Genesis 1: 1-5

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

**2**Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

**3**And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. **4**God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. **5**God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*  **Thanks be to God**

*Canticle* *from* Ezekiel chapter 36

*All* **The Spirit of God fills the whole world.**

1 I will take you from the nations,

and gather you from all the countries.

**2 I will sprinkle clean water upon you,**

**and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness.**

3 A new heart I will give you,

and put a new spirit within you,

**4 and I will remove from your body the heart of stone**

**and give you a heart of flesh.**

You shall be my people, and I will be your God.

*All* **Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit:**

**as it was in the beginning, is now**

**and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*All* **The Spirit of God fills the whole world.**

*Psalmody* Psalm 29

*All* **The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

1 Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven,

ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

2    Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name;

worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

3    The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;

the God of glory thunders;

the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

*All* **The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

4    The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation;

the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.

5    The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;

the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

6    He makes Lebanon skip like a calf

and Sirion like a young wild ox.

*All* **The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

7    The voice of the Lord splits the flash of lightning;

the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;

the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

8  The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe

and strips the forests bare;

in his temple all cry, ‘Glory!’

9    The Lord sits enthroned above the water flood;

the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.

10  The Lord shall give strength to his people;

the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

*All* **The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit:**

**as it was in the beginning, is now**

**and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Open our ears, glorious Lord Christ,

to hear the music of your voice

above the chaos of this world;

open our eyes to see the vision of your glory,

for you are our King, now and for ever.

*Second reading* Mark 1:4-11

4 John the baptiser appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

6 Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. 8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. 11 And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*  **Thanks be to God**

*We pause to reflect on the readings before turning to prayer.*

**Intercessions**

Faithful God,  
you have led us through the ups and downs of the year that is past.  
Today, you call us onwards to new adventures of faith.  
Help us to trust your voice  
and to follow where you lead us.

We turn to you, O God:  
**Help us to walk in your light.**

Faithful God,  
as a new year begins,  
we pray for the ability to pay attention  
to the signs of your presence all around us.

We pray for all who have lost their way  
for the doubters, the dispossessed and the distressed,  
and ask that you would shine your light into their lives.

As a new year begins, we ask for fresh vision amongst our political leaders;  
for the light of wisdom, kindness, truth and grace to shape debate;  
for the will to build a more just society where resources are shared  
and for the determination to make sure that no one goes hungry.

We turn to you, O God:  
**Help us to walk in your light.**

Faithful God,  
you lead us to the edge of the river Jordan  
to hear again the sound of your voice and to see the Spirit descending.

Speak to us again of a world made new  
and show us the part you want us to play  
in building your kingdom where we are.

We pray for all who are exploring a call to lay and ordained ministry,  
and for ourselves that we would be ready to serve you in new ways.

Fill us again with your Spirit:   
may our prayer find expression in our actions and choices,  
and may we bring your light to a world walking in darkness.

We turn to you, O God:  
**Help us to walk in your light.**

Faithful God,  
may the light of your healing wrap around us  
and bring us new life.

We ask you to be with all who wait at the bedside of the sick and the dying  
and we pray especially for people who are experiencing any kind of suffering in mind or body.

Today we offer to God today our prayers for those we know who are ill and for those who have recently lost a loved one:

May they know your care and your love.

We turn to you, O God:  
**Help us to walk in your light.**

Faithful God,  
we give thanks for the love we receive from friends and family  
and pray for all who tonight will weep alone.

Make our communities into places where love grows;  
where we challenge each other to live into our baptismal calling  
and learn to become the people you want us to be.

May the lost find a place to belong with us;  
may the hungry be fed;  
may hope be rekindled and our vision expanded   
so that your light will shine into our homes and our neighbourhoods.

We turn to you, O God:  
**Help us to walk in your light.**

Faithful God,  
though the way ahead may be dark and the cost may be high;  
give us courage to speak up for those in need;  
to use what we have to serve others  
and to sing of your goodness when hope seems lost.

We pray for all areas of the world living under the shadow of death and conflict:  
remembering especially all children who suffer in adult wars.  
In the stillness of our hearts  
let us name to God the parts of the world in desperate need today.

**(silence)**

Bring light into the war-torn places in our world  
and may our communities be beacons of hope in a troubled world.

We turn to you, O God:  
**Help us to walk in your light.**

Faithful God,  
we pray for open hearts to hear the cry of our planet for healing and justice.   
We weep with you for the damage caused by our destructive choices.  
May we live more simply in the year ahead, trusting that you will provide for us.

Lighten the pathway ahead as we walk with you, one step at a time;  
keep our eyes fixed on your great love for us;  
keep our feet in the pathway you have set for us  
and keep our ears open to hear your direction.

We turn to you, O God:  
**Help us to walk in your light.**

Merciful Father,

*All* **accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

*Collect for the Baptism of Christ*

Eternal Father,  
who at the baptism of Jesus  
revealed him to be your Son,  
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:  
grant to us,

who are born again by water and the Spirit,  
that we may be faithful to our calling

as your adopted children;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

*The Lord’s Prayer*

*All* **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.**

**Lead us not into temptation**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power**

**and the glory are yours**

**now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

*Blessing*

May God the Father,

who led the wise men by the shining of a star

to find the Christ, the Light from Light,

lead us also in our pilgrimage to find the Lord.

May God the Son,

who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana,

transform our lives and make glad our hearts.

May God the Holy Spirit,

who came upon the beloved Son

at his baptism in the River Jordan,

pour out his gifts

on us who have come to the waters of new birth.

And the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among us and remain with us

and those we love and pray for

today and always.

*All* **Amen**.

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**Giving**

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