



**Sunday January 28, 2024
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**

St. Paul's Anglican Church, Uxbridge



THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Prelude

I Must Tell Jesus

Shackley

Welcome & Opening Greeting (Please remain seated.)

We Gather.

Gathering Litany (inspired by Mark 1: 21 -28)

One: Brothers, sisters [and non-binary] in Christ, what hopes do you bring to worship?

All: **We bring hope for health and wholeness.**

One: What afflictions do you bring to worship?

Physical pain?

All: **From illness and injury.**

One: Emotional pain?

All: **From sad and scary life situations.**

One: Mental pain?

All: **From dis-ease of many kinds.**

One: With all of these afflictions,

it's a miracle that any of us have made it to worship this morning!

All: **But where else would we be?**

We yearn to know God's powerful love and to know that wholeness is possible.

One: In today's gospel, a person with an "*afflicting spirit*" * interrupts Jesus

All: **and Jesus frees him.**

One: And where does the miracle of his story and our stories begin?

All: **When we bring all of who we are —hopeful, afflicted, bold—
into relationship with the Divine.**

One: So come, let us enter this sanctuary with our whole selves

All: **- hopeful, afflicted and bold -** (Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **And also with you.**

So come, let us worship!

Processional Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

CP 505

Land Acknowledgement

Together we say

The Township of Uxbridge is situated on the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, Mississauga, and Chippewa (Anishinaabe) people. We acknowledge that these lands are covered under the Williams Treaties and are home to many Indigenous communities. We honour, recognize, and respect this nation and Indigenous Peoples as the traditional stewards of the lands and waters on which we now live, work, and play. (Township of Uxbridge)

Litany:

One: Creating God, you made us in the image of your good love. You know what is in us.

All: **We open our hearts to your grace.**

One: Loving Christ, you reach out to us with tender mercy and healing. You set us free.

All: **We open our hearts to your grace.**

One: Life-giving Spirit, you fill us with your mercy and power. You bear us on a journey of grace.

All: **We open our hearts to your grace. Heal us, and make us a healing people, in the name of Christ and the power of your Spirit.**

One: Praise to the God who loves us.

All: **Thanks to the God who heals us.**

One: Praise to Christ, who sets us free.

All: **Thanks to the Spirit who makes us one.**

We worship you, Holy One, in gratitude and love. (<https://unfoldinglight.net>)

The Gloria – St. Thomas Mass

**Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.
Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heav’nly King, Almighty God and Father**

**We worship you. We give you thanks,
We praise you for your glory.**

**Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.
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 God,
Receive our prayer.**

**Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.
For you alone are the Holy One;
You alone are the lord; you alone are the most high, Jesus Christ
With the holy spirit with the glory of God the Father
Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.**

Collect of the Day

God of power and might, you sent prophets to your people, calling us back to your covenant, and teaching us your ways. In the fullness of time, you sent us your Son Jesus, teaching with such authority, that our eyes were opened to see your ways anew. Open our hearts and minds, that we may understand and proclaim your teachings for all to hear. In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.** (<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org>)

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. 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.' Then the LORD replied to me: 'They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. 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.' (NSRVA)

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 111 Hymn *O Give the Lord Wholehearted Praise*

O give the Lord wholehearted praise.
 him thanksgiving I will bring;
 with all his people I will raise my voice
 and of his glory sing.

His saints delight to search and trace
 his mighty works and wondrous ways.
 Majestic glory, boundless grace,
 and righteousness his work displays.

God's wondrous deeds of faithfulness
 his people ever keep in mind.
 His works of love and graciousness reveal
 that God the Lord is kind.

God's promise shall forever stand;
 he cares for those who trust his word.
 Upon his saints his mighty hand
 the wealth of nations has conferred.

His works are true and just indeed;
 his precepts are forever sure.
 In truth and righteousness decreed,
 they shall forevermore endure.

By God's own hand redemption came;
 his covenant sure no change can know.
 Let all revere his holy name
 in heaven above and earth below.

In reverence and in godly fear
 we find the key to wisdom's ways;
 the wise his holy name revere. Through endless ages sound his praise!

Gradual Alleluia

CP 708

"Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

Holy Gospel Mark 1:14-20

Reader: The Lord be with you

People: And also with you

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Then they entered Capernaum. When the Sabbath arrived, Jesus lost no time in getting to the meeting place. He spent the day there teaching. They were surprised at his teaching—so forthright, so confident—not quibbling and quoting like the religion scholars.

Suddenly, while still in the meeting place, he was interrupted by a man who was deeply disturbed and yelling out, “What business do you have here with us, Jesus? Nazarene! I know what you’re up to! You’re the Holy One of God, and you’ve come to destroy us!” Jesus shut him up: “Quiet! Get out of him!” The afflicting spirit threw the man into spasms, protesting loudly—and got out. Everyone there was spellbound, buzzing with curiosity. “What’s going on here? A new teaching that does what it says? He shuts up defiling, demonic spirits and tells them to get lost!” News of this traveled fast and was soon all over Galilee. *(The Message)*

Reader: The Gospel of Christ

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Gradual Alleluia

CP 708

“Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!”

Reflection

Contemplative Pause

People: God, we hear and receive your words of hope and encouragement and with thoughtful gladness we sing.

Lord, We Hear Your Word with Gladness (vs 1)

CP 447

*“Lord we hear your word with gladness: you have spoken – we rejoice:
Words of love and life and freedom – help us make their truth our choice!
Now in holy celebration for your Word we worship you;
Spoken, written, known in Jesus, ours today to prove anew.”*

Profession of faith

Creed of Epiphany

**I believe in God, the creator of the universe,
who spoke, “Let there be light!” and there was light,
setting in motion all of creation and blessing it to this day.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, the light of the world
That shines in the darkness. The darkness cannot overcome it.
He embodied humanity in the image of God.
In kindness, truthfulness, humility and devotion, He suffered for the greater good.
He was and is the Son of God.
He died on the cross for us, God’s saving grace!**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, The guiding light of God in our world.
Through his spirit, God penetrates and reveals
The [dullness] of human sin, helps people grow and become the people they are
meant to be.
I believe in the power of transformation, Through God’s spirit and light,**

Here in this world and in the world to come. Amen.

modernliturgist.org/project/creed-of-epiphany)

(<https://>

Anthem

A Joyful Psalm

Perry

Prayers of the People

Confession (A prayer for what we could have been) and **Absolution**

Eternal God, out of whose absolute power and infinite intelligence the whole universe has come into being, we humbly confess **that we have not loved you with our hearts, souls and minds, and we have not loved our neighbors as Christ loved us. We have all too often lived by our own selfish impulses rather than by the life of sacrificial love as revealed by Christ. We often give in order to receive. We love our friends and [dislike] our enemies. We go the first mile but dare not travel the second. We forgive but dare not forget. And so, as we look within ourselves, we are confronted with the appalling fact that the history of our lives is the history of a revolt against you. O God, have mercy upon us. Forgive us for what we could have been but failed to be. Give us the [grace and patience] to know your will. Give us the courage to do your will. Give us the devotion to love your will.**

(<https://>

guideposts.org/prayer/how-to-pray/pray-with-dr-martin-luther-king-jr)

Absolution – Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your faults, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

May the peace of the Christ who heals and calls us, be with you. **And also with you!**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Hymn

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

CP 509

Prayer over the Gifts

God of steadfast love, may our offering this day, by the power of your Holy Spirit, renew us for your service. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

One: May the God of glory be with you!

All: **And also with you!**

One: People of God, offer your hearts to God.

All: **We give them to the One who comes to redeem us.**

One: People of God, sing songs of praise and joy.

All: We lift our voices to the One who journeys with us through the waters of baptism, and who feeds us at the Table of hope. (<https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>)

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord. In fulfilment of your promise you pour forth your Spirit upon us, filling us with gifts and leading us into all truth. You give us power to proclaim your gospel to all nations and to serve you as a royal priesthood. Therefore we join our voices with angels and archangels, and with all those in whom the Spirit dwells, to proclaim the glory of your name.

Sanctus – St. Thomas Mass

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

We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son.

For in these last days, you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, Father, according to his command, **we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory**

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all, presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another,
forgive us. In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us. From trials too great to
endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory
of the power that is love, now and for ever. Amen.** *(The New Zealand Prayer Book)*

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All: **We, being many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God

All: **Thanks be to God**

Agnus Dei – St. Thomas Mass

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world
Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world
Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world
Grant us peace.**

Communion

During Communion

Let Us Break Bread Together

Let us break bread together on our knees,
let us break bread together on our knees,
When I fall down on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees,
let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall down on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees,
let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall down on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

(Traditional Spiritual)

Prayer after Communion

Source of all goodness, in this eucharist we are nourished by the bread of heaven and invigorated with new wine. May these gifts renew our lives, that we may show your glory to all the world, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

The Doxology

Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sending forth & Blessing

One: Loving God, we pray for openness.

All: **Open us to the practical needs of those closest to us and give us the determination to respond.**

One: Loving God, we pray for openness.

All: **Open us to opportunities to encourage the downhearted and take our hesitation away.**

One: Loving God, we pray for openness.

All: **Open us to a renewed vision of our faith community, and inspire us with a willingness to serve.**

One: Loving God we pray for openness.

All: **Open us to fresh ways of looking at our planet and the challenges that it holds, and remind us of the part we might play in its renewal.**

One: Loving God, we pray for openness.

All: **That we may end our reluctance and be ready to act boldly. Amen.**

(David Sparks, *Called to Act: Prayer with Roots in the Gospel of Mark*)

Announcements

Recessional Hymn

Tell Out, My Soul

CP 362

The Dismissal

Go in peace. Heal the world. Serve God.
Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Go Down Moses