

A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion

The Second Sunday after Epiphany - January 17, 2021



ANGLICAN
DIOCESE OF
NIAGARA

Prelude: Prelude, The Old Rugged Cross, arr. T. Price

The Gathering of the Community

Words of welcome and introduction.

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

All: **And also with you.**

Bishop: Almighty God,

All: **to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.**

**Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Collect

Bishop: Let us pray.

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory;
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. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN: He comes to us as one unknown (Common Praise #456, tune 455, REPTON)

1. He comes to us as one unknown,
a breath unseen, unheard;
as though within a heart of stone,
or shriveled seed in darkness sown,
a pulse of being stirred,
a pulse of being stirred.
2. He comes when souls in silence lie
and thoughts of day depart;
half-seen upon the inward eye,
a falling star across the sky
of night within the heart,
of night within the heart.
3. He comes to us in sound of seas,
the ocean's fume and foam;
yet small and still upon the breeze,
a wind that stirs the tops of trees,
a voice to call us home,
a voice to call us home.
4. He comes in love as once he came
by flesh and blood and birth;
to bear within our mortal frame
a life, a death, a saving Name,
for every child of earth,
for every child of earth.
5. He comes in truth when faith is grown;
believed, obeyed, adored:
the Christ in all the Scriptures shown,
as yet unseen, but not unknown,
our Saviour and our Lord,
our Saviour and our Lord.

The Liturgy of the Word

A Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Reader: Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel: John 1:43-51

We sing together: (#715CP)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader: The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.'

Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

We sing together: (#715CP)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Sermon

Words of reflection or teaching are offered.

The Prayers of the People

The response in the prayers is:

One: Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Confession and Absolution

Bishop: Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;
God welcomes sinners and invites us to this holy table.
Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Bishop: Most merciful God,
**All: we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Bishop: Almighty God have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Peace

Bishop: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

The Prayer over the Gifts

Bishop: Yours Lord is the greatness,
The power, the glory the splendour and the majesty.
For everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

All: All things come from you and of your own do we give you.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Bishop: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Bishop: Lift up your hearts in adoration.

All: We lift them to our God.

Bishop: Let us give thanks to the Living God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Bishop: We rest in you timeless One, giver of peace, bringer of hope,
you have knit us together, and breathed your life into us.
your Spirit moves beckoning us to join your song;
you wait to speak even though we are slow to listen,
you call us in still small voices, command us to be still and know you,
in the depths of our being, beyond the veil of time.
Still us now so that, ever more aware of our connection with you
and with all who seek you in faith,
we may find and repeat the praises that ring
from the rocks of earth to the saints in light as we say:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Bishop: All glory be to you, our heavenly Father, who, in your tender mercy,
We bring to this table God of Grace, all the concerns we carry,
all of the gifts we have to offer, all of the hope we long to see fulfilled,
so that as bread and wine are transformed, we may experience your presence,
and our restless hearts find rest in you.

Speak to us as Christ spoke to those first disciples,
when gathered at a table Jesus took bread and gave you thanks,
he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying:

Take and eat, this is my body which is broken for you,
do this in remembrance of me.

After supper he took the cup of wine,
gave you thanks and shared it saying:

This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you
and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this in remembrance of me.

Come Holy Spirit, upon us and upon these gifts,
open us to receive Christ afresh in the depths of our hearts,
transform us, so we may be moved to adore the One
whose mercy is from everlasting to everlasting.

We worship you, we adore you, we seek you, we await you.

All: Amen. Alleluia.

The Lord's Prayer

Bishop: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,
**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.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Bishop: "I am the bread which has come down from heaven," says the Lord.
All: Give us this bread for ever.

Bishop: "I am the vine, you are the branches."
All: May we dwell in Christ, as Christ lives in us.

Bishop: The gifts of God for the People of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

Invitation to Spiritual Communion

Bishop: Dear friends, I invite you in this moment,
wherever you may be, to receive Christ,
in communion with the saints,
and the gathering of God's people,
unseen and yet present with us now.
Many are made one.

Bishop: We receive you Lord Jesus Christ,
**All: we welcome your presence in us,
and together proclaim our love for you;
with our hearts, minds, our souls and our strength,
with the saints we worship you,
with the angels we adore you,
with your whole Church we proclaim your reign.
Come to us, though many, and make us one in you. Amen.**

Bishop: I invite you in the silence of your own hearts
or using one or more of the prayers in the service sheet
to make your own act of Communion with Christ.

Silence is kept during which time the congregation prays one or more of the following prayers of reception.

Prayers of Reception

One: I worship and adore you, Lord Jesus Christ,
present in bread and wine, and present in your people,
who are gathered in spirit.
In this moment I join with them to receive you in my heart, and in our community.
May you, enthroned on the altar, be now enthroned in my heart,
may you, present in bread and wine, feed and renew my soul,
may you, who gives yourself to us again,
fill us with grace, and heavenly blessing.
Even as I am fed, may my hunger for you
and for your reign of justice and peace increase,
that I may, with your Spirit, work for that day
when your kingdom shall come on earth as it is heaven. Amen.

Or

One: Come Lord Jesus and make in my heart your dwelling place and home.
I seek to love you with all my heart, mind, soul and strength,
and so, through your presence in bread and wine
I receive you afresh and praise you for you are my God.
As you fill me, so may my love for you and for all your people,
rise and overflow, that with joy and thanksgiving,
I may serve you in the world you love. Amen.

Or

One: Jesus, I believe that you are present with us in the sacrament of bread and wine.
I love you and I desire your presence afresh in my life.
Since I cannot now receive the bread and wine of the altar,
come spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you and unite myself to you; never let me be separated from you.¹

Or

One: Holy Jesus we receive you in this moment,
giving you thanks and praise that you make yourself present
to all your people in the bread and wine of the Eucharist.
Transform our hearts that we may shine as your light in dark places;
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.
And this all, in love for you. Amen.

¹ Based on a prayer by St. Alphonsus Maria de' Liguori

Or

**One: O Loving God, in union with Christian people throughout the world
and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist,
hearing your holy Word
and receiving the Precious Body and Blood of your dear Son,
I offer you praise and thanksgiving.**

**Even while separated from tasting the Bread of Heaven and drinking the Cup of Life,
I pray that you will unite me with all the baptised
and with your Son who gave his life for us.
Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me and send your Holy Spirit
that I may be filled with your presence.**

**Jesus, as the hem of your garment, touched in faith,
healed the woman who could not touch your body,
so may the soul of your servant be healed,
for though I cannot receive you in the sacrament I can,
through this offering of my prayer, receive you in my heart;
grant this for Christ's sake. Amen. ²**

Prayers recommended for use by children:

**One: Holy Jesus, thank you for loving us,
and thank you for the holy bread and wine
that reminds us that you are always with us.
Come and live in our hearts, so we may know your love,
and love others too. Amen.**

Or

**One: Jesus, you remind us in bread and wine that you are near to us.
Bring me nearer to you every day, and let me carry you in my heart,
to share your love with the world you made. Amen.**

Or

**One: Lord Jesus, thank you that you are always with me,
I pray that you would remind me to welcome you to share every day with me.
Thank you for loving me. I want to say that I love you too. Amen.**

Or

**One: Jesus, I want to follow you:
to see you more clearly;
love you more dearly;
and follow you more nearly.
So come into my heart,
so that we may share life together. Amen.**

After a time of prayer, we sing together....

² Adapted from a service of Spiritual Communion, Diocese of Chelmsford, Church of England

COMMUNION HYMN: The Love of Jesus Calls us (Common Praise #434)

1. The love of Jesus calls us
our joyous praise to sing;
our deeply felt thanksgivings
we now together bring,
for all God's many blessings,
unasked yet still received,
and for the generations
who faithfully believed.
2. The love of Jesus calls us,
that we may always be
companions on a journey,
where all the world may see
that serving Christ is freedom
which time does not destroy;
where Christ's command is duty,
and every duty joy.
3. The love of Jesus calls us
to go where he would go,
to challenge all that limits,
to change, to learn, to grow,
to know that Christ has freed us,
that prisons are no more;
for those who seek his kingdom,
Christ opens every door.
4. The love of Jesus calls us
in swiftly changing days,
to be God's co-creators
in new and wondrous ways;
that God with men and women
may so transform the earth,
that love and peace and justice
may give God's kingdom birth.

Prayer After Communion

Bishop: Let us pray...

Father of all,

**All: we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off,
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared you love,
gave us grace and opened the gate of glory.
May we who receive Christ's presence,
live his risen life and bring life to others,
and may we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.³**

An Act of Praise and Thanksgiving

Bishop: Glory to God,

**All: 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.**

³ Adapted from Common Worship, Church of England, Holy Communion Order One.

Closing remarks and announcements.

The Blessing

Bishop: The peace of God which passes all our understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God
and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you, this day and always.

All: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: O Jesus, I have promised (Common Praise #438)

1. O Jesus, I have promised
to serve Thee to the end;
be Thou forever near me,
my Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle
if Thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if Thou wilt be my Guide.
2. Oh, let me feel Thee near me;
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw Thou nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.
3. Oh, let me hear Thee speaking,
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
oh, speak to reassure me,
to hasten, or control;
oh, speak, and make me listen,
thou Guardian of my soul.
4. O Jesus, Thou hast promised
to all who follow Thee
that where Thou art in glory
there shall Thy servant be;
and Jesus, I have promised
to serve Thee to the end;
oh, give me grace to follow,
my Master and my Friend.
5. Oh, let me see Thy footmarks,
and in them plant mine own;
my hope to follow duly
is in Thy strength alone.
Oh, guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then to rest receive me,
my Savior and my Friend.

Dismissal

One: Having received Christ by faith, let us go to live in that faith,
transformed by hope and proclaiming God's love.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Chorale Prelude on "Nicaea", T. Price