



SERVICE OF THE WORD.

Third Sunday of Epiphany

January 24<sup>th</sup> 2021

Jesus Christ's first miracle.

Welcome and Gathering

“ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana in Galilee and it revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him”. John2; v 11

OPENING PRAYER

**Merciful God, we come together to worship you longing for tenderness because this world can be hard.**

**We come longing for light because our lives are so crowded by shadows.**

**We come desperately needing direction.**

**Fill us this morning with your peace;**

**Your spirit is in our peace and in our path. Amen.**

Introduction

We hear two readings, a Psalm of obedience and a miracle of water into wine. This account of a family occasion, a wedding to which all Jesus' family were invited as well as the disciples. We sense the wonder and awe as the miracle unfolds.

HYMN 'My Jesus, my Saviour.

My Jesus, my Saviour,

Lord, there is none like you.

All of my days, I want to praise the wonders of your mighty love.

My comfort, my shelter,

tower of refuge and strength

Let ev'ry breath, all that I am,

never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord,

all the earth, let us sing

Power and majesty,

Praise to the King.  
Mountains bow down  
and the seas will roar  
at the sound of your name.

I sing for joy at the work of your  
hands.

Forever I'll love you,  
Forever I'll stand  
Nothing compares to the promise  
I have in you.

(Darlene Zschech 1993)

#### Invitation to confession

In our humanity we fall into ways of  
living that damage us and others –  
anger and resentment, selfishness,  
greed and so much more. In his love  
for us God calls us to turn to him  
and acknowledge in sorrow the sin  
that spoils our living and our vision  
of his healing purposes for us. We  
turn to him now, confessing to him  
all our sin. We ask him to forgive us  
and restore us as he has promised.

#### Affirmation of our Faith

God our Father,  
We come to you in sorrow for our  
sins.

For turning away from you.  
and ignoring your will in our lives.

Father forgive us;

**Save us and help us.**

For behaving just as we wish,  
without thinking of you.

Father, forgive us.

**Save us and help us.**

For failing you by what we do and  
think and say;

Father, forgive us

**Save us and help us.**

For letting ourselves be drawn away  
from you by temptations in the  
world about us .

Father, forgive us,

**Save us and help us.**

For living as if we were ashamed to  
belong to your son.

Father, forgive us

**Save us and help us.**

Absolution

Almighty God, Whose Son revealed  
in signs and miracles

the wonder of your saving presence,

Renew your people with your  
heavenly grace and in all our  
weakness sustain us by your mighty  
power

Through Jesus, your Son , our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you in  
the unity of the Holy Spirit, one  
God, now and forever, Amen.

Prayer of thanksgiving.

**Hold firm, take heart, God is our  
strength. We are not alone.**

**Be brave, be holy , God is our  
justice. We are not alone.**

**Be amazed, be joyful, God is our  
glory. We are not alone. Amen.**

Collect.

**God of all mercy,**

**Your son proclaimed good news**

**To the poor, release of the  
captives, and freedom to the  
oppressed, anoint us with your  
Holy Spirit and set all your people  
free to praise you in Christ the  
Lord. Amen**

Liturgy of the Word.

**For the Word of God in scripture**

**For the Word of God among us**

**For the Word of God within us,  
Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 128. ( NIV).

Happy is everyone who fears the  
Lord,

who walks in his ways.

You shall eat the fruit of the labour

of your hands;

you shall be happy, and it shall go  
well with you.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine  
within your house;

your children will be like olive  
shoots around your table.

Thus shall the man be blessed who  
fears the Lord.

The Lord bless you from Zion.

May you see the prosperity of  
Jerusalem all the days of your life.

May you see your children's  
children.

Peace be upon Israel.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel reading.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus  
Christ according to John.

**Glory to you O Lord.**

John 2; v 1-11 ( The Message)

From water to wine.

Three days later there was a  
wedding in the village of Cana in  
Galilee. Jesus' mother was there.  
Jesus and his disciples were guests  
also. When they started running low  
on wine at the wedding banquet,

Jesus' mother told him " They're are just about out of wine".

Jesus said " Is that any of our business, Mother, yours or mine? This isn't my time. Don't push me."

She went ahead anyway, telling the servants "Whatever he tells you, do it" ..

Six stoneware pots were there, used by the Jews for ritual washings. Each held twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus ordered the servants, " Fill the pots with water". And they filled them to the brim.

" Now fill your pitchers and take them to the host" Jesus said, and they did.

When the host tasted the water that had become wine ( he didn't know what had just happened but the servants, of course, knew), he called out to the bridegroom, "Everybody I know begins with the finest wines and after the guests have had their fill brings in the cheap stuff. But you've saved the best till now".

This act in Cana of Galilee was the first sign Jesus gave, the first glimpse of his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

After this he went down to Capernaum along with his mother,

brothers and disciples, and stayed several days.

This is the Gospel of the Lord .

**Praise be to you O Christ.**

Hymn, 'Bless the Lord, O my soul.'

Bless the Lord, O my soul

O my soul

worship His holy name

Sing like never before

O my soul.

I'll worship your holy name.

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning

It's time to sing your song again

Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before you

Let me be singing when the evening comes.

Chorus, Bless the Lord.

You're rich in love, and you're slow to anger

Your name is great, and your heart is kind.

For all your goodness I will keep on singing

Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

Chorus

And on that day when my strength  
is failing

The end draws near and my time  
has come,

Still my soul will sing your praise  
unending

Ten thousand years and then  
forever more.

Chorus.

( Matt Redman)

Sermon

Poem / reflection

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our Faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,**

**From whom every family**

**In heaven and earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,**

**who lives in our hearts through  
faith,**

**and fills us with his love**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,**

**who strengthens us**

**with power from on high.**

**We believe in One God;**

**Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Lord in your mercy

Response;

**Hear our prayer.**

Followed by The Lord's Prayer

As our Father taught us, so we pray.

**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 forever. Amen.**

News and Sending

Hymn 'In Christ alone my hope is  
found'

In Christ alone my hope is found

He is my light, my strength, my  
song;

This Cornerstone, this solid ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought  
and storm .

What heights of love, what depths  
of peace,

When fears are stilled, when  
strivings cease.

My Comforter, my All in All,  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone who took on flesh  
Fulness of God in helpless babe.

This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones he came to  
save.

Till on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain.

Then bursting forth in glorious day  
Up from the grave he rose again  
And as he stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am his and he is mine

Bought with the precious blood of  
Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath.  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from his hand;  
Till he returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I stand.

(John Oxenham)

Prayer

**God help me to live one day at a  
time, not thinking of what might  
have been, not worrying about  
what may be.**

**Help me to accept the fact that I  
cannot undo the past, and I cannot  
foresee the future, and that I will  
never drift beyond your love and  
care. Amen**

Blessing

Go and know that the Lord goes  
with you.

Let him lead you each day into a  
quiet place of your heart where the  
Lord will speak with you.

Know that he loves you, that he  
watches over you and that he is  
with you always.

( Angela Ashwin)

(Woven into prayer)

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Burrswood healing service.

William Barclay 1907

Carol Penner