



Sunday 17 January 2021

- All the Bible readings come from the *New Revised Standard Version*.
- The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration have been included at the end rather than in situ because many following the service will be in isolation and unable to celebrate the sacrament.
- The hymns are YouTube links. To hear the hymns please hover the mouse over each link, press Ctrl and then return.
- To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page, <http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

Introduction and welcome

HYMN 1 Father in heaven

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)

The Welcome

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

The Preparation

**All Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom 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.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.’

And the second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All Amen. Lord, have mercy.

By the mercies of God,

let us confess our sins and present our bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and acceptable to him,
which is our spiritual worship:

All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.

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

All Amen.

The Gloria

This Gloria is sung to the tune of 'Cwm Rhondda'. Click [here](#) for the tune.

All Glory be to God in Heaven,
Songs of joy and peace we bring,
Thankful hearts and voices raising,
To creation's Lord we sing.
Lord we thank you, Lord we praise you,
Glory be to God our King:
Glory be to God our King.

Lamb of God, who on our shoulders,
Bore the load of this world's sin;
Only Son of God the Father,
You have brought us peace within.

**Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,
Now your glorious reign begin:
Now your glorious reign begin.**

**You O Son of God are Holy,
You we praise with one accord.
None in heav'n or earth is like you,
Only you are Christ the Lord.
With the Father and the Spirit,
Ever worshipped and adored:
Ever worshipped and adored.**

The Collect for the Second Sunday after Epiphany

Eternal Lord,
our beginning and our end:
bring us with the whole creation
to your glory, hidden through past ages
and made known
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

First reading

A reading from the First Book of Samuel

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.'

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.'

Then the Lord said to Samuel, 'See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever.' Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, 'Samuel, my son.' He said, 'Here I am.' Eli said, 'What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.' So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, 'It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him.'

As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord. 1 *Samuel 3:1-20*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from St Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

This is what some of you used to be. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

'All things are lawful for me,' but not all things are beneficial. 'All things are lawful for me,' but I will not be dominated by anything. 'Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,' and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, 'The two shall be one flesh.' But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy

Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

1 Corinthians 6:11-20

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN 2 I have decided to follow Jesus ([click on the link to hear the hymn](#))

I have decided to follow Jesus ([instrumental](#)) ([click on this link](#))

I have decided to follow Jesus ([instrumental](#)) ([different version](#))

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All Glory to you O Lord.

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 toward him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you get 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.' *John 1:43-51*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

Ask any member of the clergy why they decided to become a priest, and they will tell you that it wasn't their decision to make, but God's; a sincere conviction of a call, tested during a thorough and comprehensive period of discernment and self-examination. Today, we hear of two people who were directly called by God: the boy Samuel and Philip, one of Jesus' first disciples.

We are told that Jesus simply found Philip and said 'Follow me'. He didn't go into the 'whys and wherefores'; Philip didn't ask any questions and there doesn't

appear to have been any hesitation. Jesus simply said 'Follow me' and that was enough for Philip to do just that!

But that's not the end of the story. Philip was so excited, that he felt compelled to search out his good friend Nathaniel to tell him about this 'Jesus, son of Joseph from Nazareth.' He finds Nathaniel under a fig tree ... perhaps resting, or praying ... and tells him of his belief that he has found the One promised long ago by Moses and the prophets. Nathaniel is not convinced by his animated friend and makes a sceptically humorous comment "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Like Jesus, Philip doesn't stop to debate the issue...he just urges Nathaniel to "Come and see." So, perhaps with a sigh of resignation, and for his friend's sake, Nathaniel sets off to see what all the fuss is about.

What Nathaniel expected to find we don't know, but certainly not a man who seemed to know things about him ... seemed to know what kind of person he was and 'saw' him, even before Philip found him, under the fig tree! As soon as Jesus spotted Nathaniel coming towards him, he saw a man who was straight, honest and upright; someone who might be outspoken in his views but who bore no malice and who would be a loyal and faithful supporter. Nathaniel for his part needed no more convincing he knew that he had found the 'Son of God! ... the King of Israel!'

This story reminds us (as it must have reminded a devout Jew like Nathaniel) that God know us, perhaps better than we know ourselves. As the Psalm set for today says: 'Oh Lord, you have searched me out and know me; you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar ... you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I thank you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made'; (Psalm 139:1-2; 12-13). This points to the truth at the heart of the Christian story: not that you or I have found Christ, but that Christ has found us. We did not decide for God...God decided for us! As Paul says in his letter to the Ephesians: '... he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world ...' (Eph 1:4)

Just let that sink in for a moment ... whether we are conscious of it or not, every one of us is known and called by God. Perhaps not in the way Samuel was called in our Old Testament reading this morning; few, except those who met Jesus, claim to have heard the actual voice of God calling to them. That is not what most people mean when they talk of being called, they often speak about having a 'sense' or a 'feeling'. Like Samuel, this can come during quiet times, perhaps times of prayer ... but the kind of prayer where we don't just talk to God but open our hearts to 'listen' or 'sense' what God might be asking of us. 'Speak Lord, for your servant is listening'

(1 Samuel 3:9). Inviting God to speak to us in this way, sometimes has surprising results ... you might try it!

Undoubtedly, one of the things God asks us to do is to be like Philip; to find ways to tell others about Jesus. We are commanded to spread the Gospel ... the 'good news' that God loves us so much that he sent his only Son for our salvation ... but we don't find that an easy thing to do. Again, following Philip's example, perhaps we don't need to do all the work ourselves? Perhaps we can just invite curious (or even sceptical) friends to "Come and see" and let God do the rest?

If they do accept an invitation to come and see for themselves, what will they find? At the moment our churches are operating in straitened circumstances so perhaps, during the enforced restrictions on the life of our church community (which makes it more difficult to show our best) we might all consider and reflect on these questions for the future?

Would people find a warm welcome here? Would they get a sense of God changing lives? Would they have an experience of worship that gives them access to God? Would they go away with a sense is happening here? Is Jesus at the centre of our church community? If they come and see, would they meet with God?

God sees, accepts and loves us as we are. He chose us before we were born. Even before we were aware of him...he knew us, and knows our deepest needs. If we are able and willing to open our hearts to recognise the stirrings of his call to be his disciples, he will surely help us to discover how we can better know and serve him...and serve others by inviting them to discover what God has done for us all.

Jesus Christ is, indeed, a Saviour to be followed. It is a life time's work for us to open our hearts that God might to speak to us, and live out the two simple invitations issued to Philip and Nathaniel ... 'Follow me' and 'Come and see'. Amen.

The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
the source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

All This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of intercession

Let us pray to God, who knows us better than we know ourselves, and understands our world.

Lord, we know we are called to be the Body of Christ; make us worthy of that calling, fervent in all our prayer and worship, loving, faithful and honest in our lives, so that the whole church displays what God is like.

Lord, in your mercy

All Hear our prayer.

We pray for the grace and wisdom to care for the world we have been given as our home; for perception in the difficult decisions, and commitment to justice and peace.

Lord, in your mercy

All Hear our prayer.

We pray for the homes of this parish, whose hopes and struggles, sorrows and fears are already known to you. May each household be blessed as we pray, and may your love fill each life.

Lord, in your mercy

All Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who do not yet know you, and all whose hearts are poisoned with hate or weighed down with despair. May your light scatter the darkness and bring them hope and healing.

Lord, in your mercy

All Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have died to this life and are born into your heaven; comfort those who miss their physical presence, and bring us all to share in the fullness of your life.

Lord, in your mercy

All Hear our prayer.

We give you thanks for all that points us towards the beauty of your love, and
drawers is closer to you.

Merciful Father,

**All accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The peace

Christ is our peace.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.

The old has passed away: behold, everything has become new.

The peace of the Lord be always with you,

All And also with you.

HYMN 3 I will wait

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

The Dismissal

Christ our Lord,

to whom kings bowed down in worship and offered gifts,

reveal to you his glory

and pour upon you the riches of his grace;

and the blessing of God the Almighty:

father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now

and remain with you always.

All Amen.

HYMN 4 When the saints

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, you made the world and love your creation.
You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.
His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death.
And so we gladly thank you,
with saints and angels praising you, and saying,

**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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, 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.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we 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.
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.**

Breaking of the Bread

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

**All Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

**All 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.**

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

All We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us.
Amen.

Communion is distributed.

Prayer after Communion

God of glory,
you nourish us with your Word
who is the bread of life:
fill us with your Holy Spirit
that through us the light of your glory
may shine in all the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen**

All **Almighty God,**
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.