

# WINTER WORSHIP

SUNDAY 31 JANUARY 2021

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY



**Gathering Music** (*Sung by the music team; the congregation is invited to listen*)

*Nettleton*

Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace!  
Streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! Oh, fix me on it, mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I find my greatest treasure; hither, by thy help, I've come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home,  
Jesus sought me when a stranger wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee:  
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart, oh, take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

### Opening Sentences

In the beginning, when it was dark, God said, "Let there be light."  
And there was light.

*(The sign of light - a lighted candle - is placed on a central table.)*

In the beginning, when it was quiet, The Word was with God.  
And the Word was God.

*(The sign of the Word - an open Bible - is placed on the table.)*

When the time was right, God sent His Son.  
He came among us and was one of us.

*(The Sign of the Son - a cross - is placed on the table.)*

**Song of Prayer:** (*Sung by the music team; the congregation is invited to listen*)

You are my strength when I am weak,  
You are the treasure that I seek;  
You are my all in all.  
Seeking you as a precious jewel,  
Lord to give up, I'd be a fool;  
You are my all in all.

[Chorus]

*Jesus Lamb of God,  
Worthy is your name!  
Jesus Lamb of God,  
Worthy is your name!*

Taking my sin my cross my shame,  
Rising again I bless your name;  
You are my all in all.  
When I fall down you pick me up;  
When I am dry, You fill my cup;  
You are my all in all.

*Leader* The God of Love is with us.  
*People* **The Spirit of love is in us.**  
*Leader* Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen**  
*Leader* Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, to you our hearts are open and our inmost desires are known. We cannot hide our most intimate secrets from you. We ask you to be present at all times in our thoughts and our hearts, and to purify them, so that we may love you with the love of the Holy Spirit and praise your name with humility and joy; Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Collect of the Day**

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever **Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise:** (*Sung by the music team; the congregation is invited to listen*)

*Eventide*

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
his holy Name— the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!

*The Song of Mary*

### **The Word of God**

#### **Deuteronomy 18:15–20**

The Lord your God will raise up a prophet like me from your community, from your fellow Israelites. He's the one you must listen to. That's exactly what you requested from the Lord your God at Horeb, on the day of the assembly, when you said, "I can't listen to the Lord my God's voice anymore or look at this great fire any longer. I don't want to die!" The Lord said to me: What they've said is right. I'll raise up a prophet for them from among their fellow Israelites—one just like you. I'll put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. I myself will hold accountable anyone who doesn't listen to my words, which that prophet will speak in my name. However, any prophet who arrogantly speaks a word in my name that I haven't commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods—that prophet must die.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 111

Praise the Lord!

I thank the Lord with all my heart  
in the company of those who do right,  
in the congregation.

The works of the Lord are magnificent;  
they are treasured by all who desire them.

God's deeds are majestic and glorious.

God's righteousness stands forever.

God is famous for his wondrous works.

The Lord is full of mercy and compassion.

God gives food to those who honor him.

God remembers his covenant forever.

God proclaimed his powerful deeds to his people  
and gave them what had belonged to other nations.

God's handiwork is honesty and justice;

all God's rules are trustworthy—

they are established always and forever:

they are fulfilled with truth and right doing.

God sent redemption for his people;

God commanded that his covenant last forever.

Holy and awesome is God's name!

Fear of the Lord is where wisdom begins;

sure knowledge is for all who keep God's laws.

God's praise lasts forever!

everyone according to their deeds.

## 1 Corinthians 8:1–13

Now concerning meat that has been sacrificed to a false god: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes people arrogant, but love builds people up. If anyone thinks they know something, they don't yet know as much as they should know. But if someone loves God, then they are known by God. So concerning the actual food involved in these sacrifices to false gods, we know that a false god isn't anything in this world, and that there is no God except for the one God. Granted, there are so-called "gods," in heaven and on the earth, as there are many gods and many lords. However, for us believers, there is one God the Father. All things come from him, and we belong to him. And there is one Lord Jesus Christ. All things exist through him, and we live through him. But not everybody knows this. Some are eating this food as though it really is food sacrificed to a real idol, because they were used to idol worship until now. Their conscience is weak because it has been damaged. Food won't bring us close to God. We're not missing out if we don't eat, and we don't have any advantage if we do eat. But watch out or else this freedom of yours might be a problem for those who are weak. Suppose someone sees you (the person who has knowledge) eating in an idol's temple. Won't the person with a weak conscience be encouraged to eat the meat sacrificed to false gods? The weak brother or sister for whom Christ died is destroyed by your knowledge. You sin against Christ if you sin against your brothers and sisters and hurt their weak consciences this way. This is why, if food causes the downfall of my brother or sister, I won't eat meat ever again, or else I may cause my brother or sister to fall.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn:** (*Sung by the music team; the congregation is invited to listen*)

*Land of Rest*

Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;  
brought here together by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.

With grateful joy and holy fear his charity we learn;  
let us with heart and mind and strength now love him in return.

Forgive we now each other's faults as we our faults confess;  
and let us love each other well in Christian holiness.

Let strife among us be unknown, let all contention cease;  
be his the glory that we seek, be ours his holy peace.

Let us recall that in our midst dwells God's begotten Son;  
as members of his body joined, we are in him made one.

Love can exclude no race or creed, if honored be God's name;  
our common life embraces all whose Father is the same.

## The Holy Gospel:

*Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. (1:21–28)  
*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus and his followers went into Capernaum. Immediately on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and started teaching. The people were amazed by his teaching, for he was teaching them with authority, not like the legal experts. Suddenly, there in the synagogue, a person with an evil spirit screamed, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are. You are the holy one from God.” “Silence!” Jesus said, speaking harshly to the demon. “Come out of him!” The unclean spirit shook him and screamed, then it came out. Everyone was shaken and questioned among themselves, “What’s this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands unclean spirits and they obey him!” Right away the news about him spread throughout the entire region of Galilee.

*Priest* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## Message

The Reverend Michael Singer

## Affirmation of Faith

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.  
You create our world and give us life.  
Your purpose overarches everything we do.  
You have always been with us.  
You are God.**

**You have revealed and proved  
your love for us in Jesus Christ,  
who lived and died and rose again.  
You are with us now.  
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,  
good beyond all measure.  
You came to us before we came to you.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.  
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.  
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.  
You are our God. We worship you.**

## Prayers of the People

*Leader* Lord Jesus Christ,  
*People* **Be with us, within us, behind us and before us.**

*Leader* We bind ourselves, O God, today, to the strong name of the Trinity,  
*People* **And we name you: Three in One, One in Three; and claim our place in your community of love.**

*Leader* We are embraced, loving God, in the community that is the heart not just of our church, but also in the community that is the very heart of who you are,  
*People* **Three in One; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

*Leader* Within that great love, we are held and treasured. Lord, hear our prayers this evening;  
*People* **We pray for our hurting world.**

*Leader* That war-makers will find peace. That the hungry will find food. That refugees will find shelter. That injustice will be answered with all that is right and good.  
*People* **We pray for all who suffer.**

*Leader* For those we love dearly. For those we barely know. For those whose suffering, we have ignored. Be present in the healing touch of all hands that help the sick and suffering. And send your Spirit to comfort and protect all who need you.  
*People* **We pray for all who struggle.**

*Leader* For those who cannot see a way through broken relationships, difficult financial realities, emotional darkness, and deep, deep loneliness. May we find you even in the most helpless places. And may we, your people, be present also in those places, bringing Good News and hope to all who are longing for the true life that only you can provide.

*People* **We pray for all who are joyful.**

*Leader* We rejoice at the promise of new life, and the goodness of each new day. We celebrate the movement through milestones: births, graduations, new jobs, new relationships; and the hopes that they bring. We remember those moments of blessing in our own lives and we thank you for the opportunity to use our lives to your glory, to live lives that are full and worthy of your calling.

We lift up to you, Lord, the prayers that you've placed on our hearts in our own words at this time...

*We will intentionally PAUSE for the community present to share their requests, thanksgivings, desires, hopes & joys either out loud or silently.*

We bind ourselves, O God, today, to the strong name of the Trinity.

*People* **And we name you: Three in One, One in Three: and claim our place in your community of love.**

*Leader* Lord Jesus Christ

*People* **Be with us, within us, behind us, before us. Amen.**

### Confession of Sin

Happy are those whose sins are forgiven, whose wrongs are pardoned.

I will confess my sins to the Lord, I will not conceal my wrongdoings.

*Silence*

God forgives and heals us.

**We need your healing, merciful God:**

**give us true repentance.**

**Some sins are plain to us;**

**some escape us,**

**some we cannot face.**

**Forgive us;**

**set us free to hear your word to us;**

**set us free to serve you.**

*The Celebrant continues*

God forgives you.

Forgive others;

forgive yourself.

*Silence*

Through Christ, God has put away your sin:

approach your God in peace.

**The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

### THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Music at the Offertory:

*(Sung by the music team; the congregation is invited to listen)*

*There is a balm in Gilead,  
To make the wounded whole;*

*There is a balm in Gilead,  
To heal the sin-sick soul.*

Sometimes I feel discouraged,  
And think my work's in vain,  
But then the Holy Spirit  
Revives my soul again.

If you cannot preach like Peter,

If you cannot pray like Paul,

You can tell the love of Jesus,

And say He died for all.

*Refrain*

Don't ever feel discouraged,

'Cause Jesus is your friend,

And if you lack for knowledge,

He'll not refuse to lend.

*Refrain*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All thanks and praise  
are yours at all times and in all places,  
our true and loving God;  
through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word,  
the Wisdom from on high by whom you  
created all things.  
You laid the foundations of the world  
and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb;  
You brought forth all creatures of the earth  
and gave breath to humankind.  
Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing,  
all you create is a sign of hope for our journey;  
And so as the morning stars sing your praises  
we join the heavenly beings and all creation  
as we shout with joy:

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

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all,  
your Word has never been silent;  
you called a people to yourself,  
as a light to the nations,  
you delivered them from bondage  
and led them to a land of promise.  
Of your grace, you gave Jesus  
to be human, to share our life,  
to proclaim the coming of your holy reign  
and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.  
Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,  
you have freed us from sin,  
brought us into your life,  
reconciled us to you,  
and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he  
died for us Jesus took bread,  
and when he had given thanks to you,  
he broke it, gave it to his friends and said:  
“Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.”  
After supper Jesus took the cup of wine,  
said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said:  
“Drink this, all of you:  
this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood,  
poured out for you and for all  
for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.”  
And so, remembering all that was done for us:  
the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension,  
longing for Christ’s coming in glory,  
and presenting to you these gifts  
your earth has formed and human  
hands have made,  
we acclaim you, O Christ:

**Dying, you destroyed our death.  
Rising, you restored our life.  
Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us  
and upon these gifts of bread and wine  
that they may be to us  
the Body and Blood of your Christ.  
Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power,  
may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ,  
and in the fullness of time gather us  
with all your people  
into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
we worship you our God and Creator  
in voices of unending praise.

Blessed are you now and for ever. **AMEN.**

**Lord's Prayer** (*Celebrant and People*)

**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 Celebrant continues*

We break this bread  
to share in the Body of Christ.  
**We who are many are one body,  
for we all share in the one bread.**

**Music during Eucharist:** (*Sung by the music team; the congregation is invited to listen*)

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me;  
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.  
*Come home, come home, ye who are weary come home;  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"*

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?  
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? *Refrain*

Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing, passing from you and from me;  
Shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming, coming for you and for me. *Refrain*

O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me;  
Though we have sinned he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. *Refrain*

**Post-Communion Prayer** (*Celebrant and People*)

**Loving God,  
we give you thanks  
for restoring us in your image  
and nourishing us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.  
Now send us forth  
a people forgiven, healed, renewed;  
that we may proclaim your love to the world  
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## Night Prayer

Lord,  
It is night.

The night is for stillness.  
Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.  
What has been done has been done;  
What has not been done has not been done;  
Let it be.

The night is dark.  
Let our fears of the darkness of the world  
And in our lives rest in you.

The night is quiet.  
Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,  
All dear to us,  
And all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.  
Let us look expectantly to a new day,  
New joys,  
New possibilities.

In your name we pray. **AMEN**

## Blessing

Life is short, and we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be swift to love. Make haste to be kind, and the blessing of God be with you always. **AMEN.**

## Closing Song

Give thanks with a grateful heart;  
Give thanks to the Holy One;  
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"  
Let the poor say, "I am rich,  
Because of what the Lord has done for us".

## Dismissal



## ST. JAMES PARISH

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