

Traditional Home service Sunday 17th January Epiphany 2

OPENING PRAYER

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.

PRAYER OF PENITENCE

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

**My God, for love of you
I desire to hate and forsake all sins
by which I have ever displeased you;
and I resolve by the help of your grace
to commit them no more;
and to avoid all opportunities of sin.
Help me to do this,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

PRAISE

Let everything be said and done in the
name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to
God through Jesus Christ. Sing psalms,
hymns and sacred songs:

Let us sing to God with thankful hearts.
Open our lips, Lord:
and we shall praise your name.

HYMN 1 (Be thou my vision)

READINGS - 1 Samuel 3.1-10
Revelation 5.1-10
John 1.43-51

TALK

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth. I believe in
Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who
was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of
the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, died, and was
buried; he descended to the dead. On
the third day he rose again; he ascended
into heaven, he is seated at the right
hand of the Father, and he will come to
judge the living and the dead. I believe in
the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness
of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Spend some time praying for our nation,
our community and our families.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

HYMN 2 (Turn your eyes upon Jesus)

CONCLUSION

The love of the Lord Jesus
draw you to himself,
the power of the Lord Jesus
strengthen you in his service,
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;;
and the blessing of God almighty, the
Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be
among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

HYMNS TO USE

Be thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me,
save that thou art
Thou my best thought,
by day or by night
Waking or sleeping,
thy presence my light

Be thou my wisdom,
and thou my true word
I ever with thee
and thou with me, Lord
Thou my great Father,
and I thy true son
Thou in me dwelling
and I with thee one

Riches I heed not,
nor vain, empty praise
Thou mine inheritance,
now and always
Thou and thou only
first in my heart
High King of heaven,
my treasure thou art

High King of heaven,
my victory won
May I reach heaven's joys,
O bright heaven's sun
Heart of my own heart,
whatever befall
Still be my vision,
O ruler of all

Source: [Musixmatch](#)
Songwriters: Eleanor Hull

Turn your eyes upon Jesus

Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow
strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace

Turn your eyes to the hillside
Where justice and mercy embraced
There the Son of God gave His life for
us
And our measureless debt was erased

*Jesus, to You we lift our eyes
Jesus, our glory and our prize
We adore You, behold You, our
Saviour ever true
Oh Jesus, we turn our eyes to You*

Turn your eyes to the morning
And see Christ the Lion awake
What a glorious dawn, fear of death is
gone
For we carry His life in our veins

Turn your eyes to the heavens
Our King will return for His own
Every knee will bow, every tongue will
shout,
'All glory to Jesus alone!'

Sermon for 17th January 2021
Louise Morton, Rev 5 and John 1 v43-51

I heard a news report this week that in the last 60 years the taste of honey has changed! Why? it's been found that bees used to major on clover, now it's oil seed rape and brambles they feast upon more, and it's shifted the flavour, what we feast on effects what we produce!!!
This works spiritually too! my own personal walk with God, my own well being!! Has been improved this week by my focus as I've spent time preparing this talk.

Prophetic theme title last week: Hang on and stay focused on Jesus.

These passages today, give us both earthly and heavenly pictures of Jesus.
There is the old refrain: turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face, and the things of earth shall grow strangely dim, in the light of his glory and grace.
If I had thought about it, would of considered the things dimming to be earths treasures and distractions! But as I have sung it preparing, walking round and round our garden, we have been isolating! Realise it can be any thing we dim, as we look at him, the new lock down, situations on top of us, troubles... All can get dimmer as we focus on Jesus.

Revelation passage gives us this description :
He is the lion of Judah (I think of Aslan!)!
He is the root of David : King of Kings, yet rooted in history, Israel!
He is seen as a slain lamb, yet standing, with 7 horns and 7 eyes.
Horns signifying strength, and the eyes the archangels only at his disposal.

He is described as the one who has conquered and how has he conquered?
' you were slaughtered, and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every nation'
Until the lamb no one in all the universe has been able to open the scroll, and thus fulfil the purposes of God, John weeps over this, but the standing, slaughtered lamb is able, the risen Christ bearing the marks of crucifixion,

he can open the scroll and it causes heaven to start in worship a new song that spreads out circle after circle until every living thing every where is worshipping, even fish!!!
Blessing, honour, glory, might, for ever, and ever...

So here is a kaleidoscope picture of a heavenly Jesus, the lion, the King of kings, the lamb slaughtered yet now standing, the one who was crucified and whose blood has bought people from everywhere to be part of the kingdom. Circle upon circle in heaven, Earth, Sky, and sea, all creation worshipping singing and falling in awe before him.

An unimaginable? Scene of heavenly glory, Lord help our focus this January morning in lock down!! Lord give us eyes to see.

Move on to the passage from John's gospel: Phillip describes him as Jesus, Joseph's son, from Nazareth, firmly establishing his credentials as a man!!
But he doesn't stop there, he says I've found the one, the one Moses wrote about in the law, the one preached by the prophets.
That's Messiah, the one we are waiting for. Nathanael isn't convinced! Really? Nazareth?
Jesus shows he sees Nathanael, really sees him!
He calls him a true Israelite one in whom there is nothing false.

Years ago (30 !) in rural Suffolk we knew an old countryman, he and his wife kept goats, he taught me how to prune roses, you could hear him singing around the village as he moved the goats..
This was said of him at his funeral, not that he was a true Israelite !! But someone who was never false, what you saw was what you got, it's always stuck in my mind

Nathanael must know it's his reputation, he says to Jesus how do you know me ?

As we fix our eyes on Jesus, he fixes his eyes on us!! He knows us really knows us, Maybe some time today, ask him what's he's saying to you at this time, and listen, spiritually listen for the answer (Samuel hearing the Lord as a young boy, is the passage set for today haven't got time to use!)

Jesus says to Nathanael I saw you under the fig tree...

Nathanael is convinced!

Rabbi, Son of God, King of Israel...

Maybe it's under the fig tree he has studied the law and the prophets, maybe it's there he's prayed he'll get to see messiah? Unlike so many other Jews of his time Nathanael sees !! He sees who Jesus is. As the conversation continues Jesus calls himself the Son of Man.

Want to pull together the threads of this earthly encounter with Jesus: He is the Son of Man, Jesus of Nazareth, known as the son of Joseph. He's the One the Law and the Prophets said was coming. Rabbi (a teacher worth following, giving up everything for) Son of God, King of Israel. How Nathanael's attitude towards him is changed, in this so brief face to face !!

To finish want to pull together the earthly and the heavenly!!!

Let's dwell on him, see him this morning!! Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the sufficient one.. See Jesus as a man the earthly quality he carried so well, a carpenter from Nazareth, his family known.. His fulfilment of the Law and the Prophets, his coming foretold for 100s of years, He is the Fathers great plan .. He is Rabbi, Son Of God, King of Israel...

Hold this...

But shift it through the heavenly kaleidoscope...

The Lion of Judah, root of David, King above all kings ..

Yet he stands in heaven as the lamb a slaughtered lamb., the risen Christ carrying the mark's of crucifixion..

Whose blood bought victory, bought people from every tribe, language, people and nation..

His blood bought you, his blood bought me..

His triumph gives him strength, the horns..

His triumph gives him oversight of the archangels, the eyes..

His triumph makes him worthy, the only one worthy in all the universe..

His triumph makes a new song, sung not just in heaven but circling out further and further ..

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing:

To him who sits on the throne and to the lamb

Be praise and honour and glory and power, for ever and ever!

Worthy is the lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength And honour and glory and praise!

This is our Jesus !!!

Lord may this morning may our focus be on you, and may you strangely dim, what needs dimming, may you shine bright this morning, help us to see...