

**Christ Church, Ipswich**  
*Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026*  
**Family Worship for the Second Sunday after Epiphany**

Hello, I hope you are well. Let us worship God together:

**A gathering prayer**

Thank you, God, for your gifts of grace and peace –  
**which we celebrate today.**

For your gifts of strength and courage –  
**which we celebrate today.**

For gathering us together in this place –  
**where we celebrate today.**

For welcoming us into your church family –  
**where we are united today.**

In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

**A prayer of approach**

*based on Psalm 40*

God of the Church,  
 you have put a new song on our lips.  
 You have raised us up and called us to be your people –  
 and our desire is to do your will.

So, with our whole heart  
 we proclaim your faithfulness, love and truth.  
 In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

**R&S 262 Crown him with many crowns**

1 Crown him with many crowns,  
 the Lamb upon his throne;  
 hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns  
 all music but its own!  
 Awake, my soul, and sing  
 of him who died for thee,  
 and hail him as thy chosen King  
 through all eternity.

2 Crown him the Son of God,  
 before the worlds began:  
 and ye, who tread where he hath trod,  
 crown him the Son of Man;  
 who every grief hath known  
 that wrings the human breast,  
 and takes and bears them for his own,  
 that all in him may rest.

3 Crown him the Lord of life,  
 who triumphed o'er the grave  
 and rose victorious in the strife  
 for those he came to save:  
 his glories now we sing,  
 who died and rose on high,  
 who died eternal life to bring  
 and lives that death may die.

4 Crown him the Lord of love!  
 Behold his hands and side,  
 rich wounds yet visible above  
 in beauty glorified:  
 All hail, Redeemer, hail!  
 for thou hast died for me:  
 thy praise shall never, never fail  
 throughout eternity.

Matthew Bridges (1800-94)  
 & Godfrey Thring (1823-1903)

### **A prayer of adoration**

Welcoming Lord,  
 thank you that you invite us to come and see.  
 You extended a warm welcome to us.  
 Thank you that you invite us to stay and eat with you.  
 Thank you that we can draw closer to you.  
 We worship you, O faithful one,  
 knowing that you have chosen us.  
 We are honoured in your sight,  
 and you have become our strength. **Amen.**

### **A prayer of confession**

Lamb of God,  
 who takes away the sins of the world:  
 have mercy on us.  
 Father God, you invited us to come and see,  
 And we turned the other way.  
 You offered us a warm welcome,  
 And we did not extend that welcome to others.  
 You invited us to tell others about you,  
 And we turned away and chose not to.  
 You invited us to come and eat,  
 And we chose to eat elsewhere.  
 You came as a sacrificial lamb,  
 And we allowed you to be crucified.  
 Lamb of God,  
 who takes away the sins of the world:  
 have mercy on us.

### **Assurance of forgiveness**

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,  
 we have been transformed through your sacrifice upon the cross.  
 We are being made whole in you  
 and you invite us to walk with you fresh each day.  
 Thank you for wiping the slate clean and drawing us into your refreshing presence. **Amen.**

### **A prayer of thanksgiving**

Thank you, Lord, that you have always welcomed us;  
**thank you for your invitation.**  
 You invited us to come and see;  
**thank you for your invitation.**  
 To come and see your goodness;  
**thank you for your invitation.**  
 To come and see your kindness;  
**thank you for your invitation.**  
 To come and see your generous hospitality;  
**thank you for your invitation.**  
 To come and see your miracles;  
**thank you for your invitation.**  
 To come and see that you died for us on the cross;  
**thank you for your invitation.**  
 To come and see the freedom we now have in you;  
**thank you for your invitation.**  
 Freedom to be the people you have called us to be;  
**thank you for your invitation.**  
 Thank you. **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

### Family Talk

#### R&S 293 Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim

1 Ye servants of God,  
your Master proclaim,  
and publish abroad  
his wonderful name;  
the name all-victorious  
of Jesus extol;  
his kingdom is glorious  
and rules over all.

2 God ruleth on high,  
almighty to save;  
and still he is nigh,  
his presence we have;  
the great congregation  
his triumph shall sing,  
ascribing salvation  
to Jesus our King.

3 Salvation to God,  
who sits on the throne!  
let all cry aloud,  
and honour the Son;  
the praises of Jesus  
the angels proclaim,  
fall down on their faces,  
and worship the Lamb.

4 Then let us adore,  
and give him his right,  
all glory and power,  
all wisdom and might,  
all honour and blessing,  
with angels above,  
and thanks never ceasing,  
and infinite love.

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

#### *The children go to Junior Church with our love and blessing*

#### Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 49:1-7

OT page 617

##### *The Servant's Mission*

**49** Listen to me, O coastlands,  
pay attention, you peoples from far away!  
The Lord called me before I was born,  
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.  
<sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharp sword,  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow,  
in his quiver he hid me away.  
<sup>3</sup> And he said to me, 'You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'  
<sup>4</sup> But I said, 'I have laboured in vain,  
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my cause is with the Lord,  
and my reward with my God.'  
<sup>5</sup> And now the Lord says,  
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,  
and that Israel might be gathered to him,

for I am honoured in the sight of the Lord,  
and my God has become my strength—  
<sup>6</sup> he says,  
'It is too light a thing that you should be my  
servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to restore the survivors of Israel;  
I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the  
earth.'  
<sup>7</sup> Thus says the Lord,  
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,  
the slave of rulers,  
'Kings shall see and stand up,  
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,  
because of the Lord, who is faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

#### Gospel Reading

John 1:29-42

NT page 85

##### *The Lamb of God*

<sup>29</sup> The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup> This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." <sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' <sup>32</sup> And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup> I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." <sup>34</sup> And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'

### *The First Disciples of Jesus*

<sup>35</sup> The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup> and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' <sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' <sup>39</sup> He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. <sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. <sup>41</sup> He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). <sup>42</sup> He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).

### **R&S 127 Hail to the Lord's Anointed**

1 Hail to the Lord's Anointed,  
great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed,  
his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
to set the captive free,  
to take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.

2 He comes with succour speedy  
to those who suffer wrong;  
to help the poor and needy,  
and bid the weak be strong;  
to give them songs for sighing,  
their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying,  
were precious in his sight.

3 He shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth;  
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,  
spring in his path to birth:

before him on the mountains,  
shall peace the herald go,  
and righteousness in fountains  
from hill to valley flow.

4 Kings shall fall down before him,  
and gold and incense bring;  
and nations shall adore him,  
his praise all people sing;  
for he shall have dominion  
o'er river, sea, and shore,  
far as the eagle's pinion  
or dove's light wing can soar.

5 O'er every foe victorious,  
he on his throne shall rest;  
from age to age more glorious,  
all-blessing and all-blest:  
the tide of time shall never  
his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand for ever;  
that name to us is Love.

Psalm 72

Para. James Montgomery (1771-1854)

### **Reflection**

#### *A moment for reflection as Stephen plays*

### **R&S 382 Come, let us join our cheerful songs**

1 Come, let us join our cheerful songs  
with angels round the throne;  
ten thousand thousand are their tongues,  
but all their joys are one.

2 Worthy the Lamb that died, they cry,  
to be exalted thus:  
worthy the Lamb, our lips reply,  
for he was slain for us.

3 Jesus is worthy to receive  
honour and power divine;  
and blessings more than we can give  
be, Lord, for ever thine.

4 Let all the hosts of heaven combine  
with air and earth and sea,  
to lift in glorious songs divine  
their endless praise to thee.

5 Let all creation join in one,  
to bless the sacred name  
of him that sits upon the throne,  
and to adore the Lamb.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)\*

## Our prayers of intercession

Lord, in the stillness of this moment, help us to think back over this past week and ponder: Where have you revealed yourself to us this week? In nature around us? In the smile of a friend or family member? The kindness of strangers? Through your word? If this week has seemed dark and difficult, point us to a lighter moment that we perhaps didn't notice at first. Help us to cling onto the truth that, whether we noticed you or not, you were there and always will be beside us.

L: Lord, reveal yourself to us

**All: That we may show you to others.**

Lord, as we turn our thoughts to the world, we see so much turmoil and unrest. We see wars and rumours of wars. We pray for the situation in Iran. We continue to lift Gaza, Israel and Ukraine to you.

Lord, in our world we also see untold sorrow. We see distrust and confusion. Yet we know that you are Lord of all. We know that one day all kings and rulers will bow down before you. We pray for our leaders now, Lord... Show yourself to them in 2026, we pray. Astonish them by your presence. Give them wisdom, particularly where there are difficult decisions to be made about the welfare of the people they serve. Help them, and us, to be bringers of peace.

L: Lord, reveal yourself to us

**All: That we may show you to others.**

Lord, we pray for those in our community who need fresh vision of who you are just now. We remember those who are in pain, sickness or sorrow, especially...

Lord, be their comfort and healer in ways they could not previously have imagined. Enable us to be there for them, with a word of encouragement, a loving arm around the shoulder, practical action, whatever they need. Show us new ways to be your eyes, your feet, your hands.

We pray for our health services, social services and all those who provide community care, especially...

Help us always to be supportive of those who support us, in whatever way.

L: Lord, reveal yourself to us

**All: That we may show you to others.**

Lord, we pray for the places around us where there seems to be darkness instead of your light... We pray for people who feel enmeshed in the darkness of addiction, trauma or depression... Show us where and how we can be light bringers. May your kingdom come. Reveal yourself in the small things, giving people the hope they need to keep going even when all seems difficult or dark. Reveal yourself in the big things, giving flashes of inspiration and joyful moments. May this year bring transformation, hope and light.

L: Lord, reveal yourself to us

**All: That we may show you to others.**

Lord, we focus now on the week ahead. We picture the places we expect to be going to and the people we expect to meet. Help us to bring your love into each situation. We pray particularly about any moments that may be difficult or uncomfortable. Help us to know that you are walking alongside us and give us your peace. Enable us to be surprised by you this week, too, Lord - not so hooked on our routines that we aren't able to make space for the unexpected. Help us to see where you are within those moments and to follow where you lead. Bring us back here next week with a renewed sense of purpose and joy.

L: Lord, reveal yourself to us

**All: That we may show you to others.**

And send us out from here with a willingness to be your hands and feet, your followers and disciples, bearing your love into every corner of our community. **Amen.**

## R&S 344 God of grace and God of glory

1 God of grace and God of glory,  
on thy people pour thy power;  
crown thine ancient Church's story;  
bring her bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom,  
grant us courage,  
for the facing of this hour.

2 Lo! the hosts of evil round us  
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us,  
free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom,  
grant us courage,  
for the living of these days.

3 Cure thy children's warring madness;  
bend our pride to thy control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom,  
grant us courage,  
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

4 Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore;  
let the gift of thy salvation  
be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom,  
grant us courage,  
serving thee whom we adore.

H. E. Fosdick (1878-1969) altd.

### A sending out prayer

Lord, you invited us to come and see  
and you opened our eyes to your wonders.  
We have been transformed by our encounter.  
Now give us the courage to go and tell,  
to share who you are with others we meet,  
so they too may be transformed by you. **Amen.**

### The Blessing

And may the blessing of God Almighty,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be upon us and those we love,  
this day and always. **Amen.**

### The Grace

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

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