

**St Nicholas Church
North Walsham Benefice
Morning Prayer
Sunday 17th January 2021
Second Sunday of the Epiphany**

Service led by Rev'd Valerie Watts
Livestreamed only @stnicksnorthwalsham Facebook page

O Lord, open our lips

All and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Your light springs up for the righteous

All and all the peoples have seen your glory.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,
king of the nations,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
From the rising of the sun to its setting
your name is proclaimed in all the world.
As the Sun of Righteousness dawns in our hearts
anoint our lips with the seal of your Spirit
that we may witness to your gospel
and sing your praise in all the earth.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God for ever.

Jubilate – A Song of Joy

- 1 O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth;
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.
- 2 Know that the Lord is God;
it is he that has made us and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
- 3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and bless his name.
- 4 For the Lord is gracious; his steadfast love is everlasting,
and his faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

Psalm 100

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Opening prayer

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Word of God

Psalm 139. 1-5

1 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

2 You mark out my journeys and my resting place
and are acquainted with all my ways.

3 For there is not a word on my tongue,
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

4 You encompass me behind and before
and lay your hand upon me.

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
so high that I cannot attain it.

***All Glory to the Father and to the Son
 and to the Holy Spirit;
 as it was in the beginning is now
 and shall be for ever. Amen.***

Scripture Reading

1 Samuel 3. 1-10

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the 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. ⁴Then the LORD called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' ⁵and 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. ⁶The 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.' ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of

the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore 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. ¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Canticle

**All Above you the Holy One arises,
and above you God's glory appears.**

- 1 Arise, shine out, for your light has come,
the glory of the Lord is rising upon you.
- 2 Though night still covers the earth,
and darkness the peoples;
- 3 Above you the Holy One arises,
and above you God's glory appears.
- 4 The nations will come to your light,
and kings to your dawning brightness.
- 5 Your gates will lie open continually,
shut neither by day nor by night.
- 6 The sound of violence shall be heard no longer in your land,
or ruin and devastation within your borders.
- 7 You will call your walls, Salvation,
and your gates, Praise.
- 8 No more will the sun give you daylight,
nor moonlight shine upon you;
- 9 But the Lord will be your everlasting light,
your God will be your splendour.
- 10 For you shall be called the city of God,
the dwelling of the Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 60.1-3, 11a, 18, 19, 14b

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**All Above you the Holy One arises,
and above you God's glory appears.**

John I. 43-51

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip 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.' ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' ⁵⁰Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' ⁵¹And 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.'

Reflection – Rev'd Valerie Watts

I have to say that not only do I enjoy word games, but I also enjoy reading detective stories. I like trying to find the answers to puzzles in one form or another. So, I find I identify with many of the characters in John's gospel who also seem to be seeking answers, those who want to 'come and see' what all the fuss is about. We have Andrew, Nathanael from our reading this morning, the woman at the well and many others. All are taken seriously and treated with respect, as they discover answers both for themselves and for us too who are reading these words of John, words that are designed to help us to discover the truth, to come and see for ourselves.

To see, not just with our eyes, but with open hearts and minds so that we are able to fully appreciate to perceive the fullness of what it is that we see!

Jesus is in Galilee and he calls to Philip, who then draws others including Nathanael. Nathanael, who represents those whose minds are closed to new possibilities – he is prejudiced against anything good coming out of Nazareth. On approaching Jesus, Nathanael is astonished at how well Jesus knows him, seeing him under the fig tree before Philip called him. So, we find the blind prejudice of Nathanael contrasted with the perception of Jesus, as he seems to see into the heart of Nathanael describing him as an Israelite in whom there is no deceit, so prompting Nathanael to make a full confession of faith.

And so, John invites us through the experiences of those who were invited to 'come and see', to also 'come and see', see with open hearts and minds that we might truly and fully comprehend what is before us, what it is that we are looking at, knowing that looking and seeing do not always go together.

Come and see, says John, so may we have the eyes to see and the heart and mind to recognise and to know the fullness of love that our Lord and Saviour offers to each one of us.

Gospel Canticle - The Benedictus

**All This is the Christ, the Chosen of God,
the one who will bring healing to the nations.**

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,
- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors,
and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68-79

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**All This is the Christ, the Chosen of God,
the one who will bring healing to the nations.**

Prayers

Intercessions are offered

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer

The Collect of the day

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.

The Lord's Prayer is said

Believing the promises of God, let us pray with confidence
as our Saviour has taught us

**All Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who
trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Conclusion

May Christ, who sends us to the nations,
give us the power of his Spirit.

All Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.