



St Edmund's Taverham with St Peter's Ringland

**Welcome to our worship today ~ the
first Sunday of Epiphany.**

Our gathering song. (Written by Lisa Clow, Bob Kauflin)

O come, all you unfaithful, come, weak and unstable

Come, know you are not alone

O come, barren and waiting ones weary of praying

Come, see what your God has done

Christ is born, Christ is born, Christ is born for you

O come, bitter and broken, come with fears unspoken

Come, taste of His perfect love

O come, guilty and hiding ones, there is no need to run

See what your God has done

He's the Lamb who was given, slain for our pardon
His promise is peace, for those who believe

So come, though you have nothing, come, He is the offering
Come, see what your God has done

We rejoice today in God who has been revealed to us in Jesus.
We rejoice in the presence of God. Here. Now. In this moment.
We rejoice in the love that God has poured on us and continues to pour.
We rejoice to be called God's beloved children.
We rejoice because, together, we are the family of God.

O Star-flinging God,
whose light dances across eternity,
dazzle us into your presence
this new year.
Open our hearts to the mystery of your love.

Awaken us to your presence,
knit to the ordinary.
Reveal to us what is possible, but not yet present.
Heal us, that we might be healers.

Reconcile us to you and to ourselves,
that our living might be reconciling.

Stop us often, we pray
with news that is good
with hope that holds
with truth that transforms with a Word
tailored to this trail we're on.

May the word of your grace guide our steps
like the sun by day
and the north star by night,
as we travel into the gift of a new year. Amen.

— written by Glenn Mitchell, and posted on MINemergent's Daily Communique.

Song written by Stuart Townsend

In Christ alone my hope is found

He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone! Who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones he came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave he rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath

Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

Our scripture reading this week is written in the gospel according to **Mark, chapter 1 verses 4-11.**

John the baptiser appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **5** And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. **6** Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. **7** He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. **8** I have baptised you with water; but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. **10** And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. **11** And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

In just a few short verses we have an epiphany. A voice from heaven makes an astonishing declaration about who Jesus is. This is a call to us to be awakened, to open our eyes to see who Jesus is, and to hear God telling us that we too are his beloved children.

You may like to read the thought in this week's St Ed's newsheet or St Peter's website.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father,

At the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son:
May we recognise him as our Lord
And know ourselves to be your beloved children;
Through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

We pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us.

Our Father...

Song - Good Good Father - written by Pat Barrett and Tony Brown

Oh I've heard a thousand stories of what they think You're like

But I've heard the tender whisper of love in the dead of night
You tell me that You're pleased and that I'm never alone

*You're a good, good father, it's who You are
It's who You are, it's who You are
And I'm loved by you, it's who I am
It's who I am, it's who I am*

I've seen many searching for answers far and wide
But I know we're all searching for answers only you provide
Because You know just what we need before we say a word

Oh you're perfect in all of your ways
You are perfect in all of your ways
You are perfect in all of your ways to us

Love so undeniable, I can hardly speak
Peace so unexplainable I can hardly think
As You call me deeper still
As You call me deeper still
As You call me deeper still
Into love, love, love

Our prayer of blessing

May this day bring Sabbath rest to my heart and my home.
May God's image in me be restored, and my imagination in God be re-storied.
May the gravity of material things be lightened, and the relativity of time slow down.
May I know grace to embrace my own finite smallness in the arms of God's infinite greatness.
May God's Word feed me and His Spirit lead me into the week and into the life to come.

Pete Greig, Sabbath Blessing, petegreig.info

May God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer bless us and keep us and all for whom we pray, this day and forevermore. Amen.