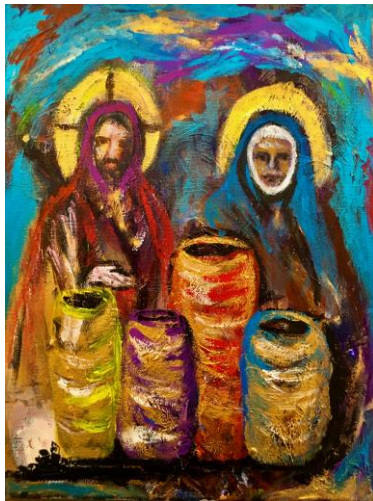


The Parish Church of St Matthew  
Northampton

# The Third Sunday of Epiphany

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



*Do whatever he tells you*

## The Parish Mass

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024

10.15 am

## Welcome to St Matthew's Parish Church

At a wedding in Cana Jesus changed water into wine. The changing of water into wine symbolises the replacing of the old order with the new. The miracle of Cana links this Sunday with the feast of the Epiphany and with Jesus' Baptism – all are epiphanies of his glory.

John depicts Mary as involved at the beginning of Jesus' ministry, and again at the end of it when she is present at the foot of the Cross. Mary is thus associated with the whole of his ministry. But her role must always be seen in relation to that of her Son.

There are many things in our spiritual lives that should be changed. Jesus' power is available to us too. Let us reflect on our need of his power in order to change the things in our lives that need to be changed.

## Reflection

Jesus brought the wine of God's love into the world.  
Everywhere he went the old was made new.  
For the couple at Cana he changed water into wine.  
For the widow of Nain he changed tears into joy.  
For Zacchaeus he changed selfishness into love.  
For the thief on Calvary he changed despair into hope.  
And on Easter morning he changed death into life.  
Lord, be present with us today and throughout our lives.  
And when through human weakness  
the wine of love is found wanting,  
touch our hearts and strengthen our wills,  
so that we may taste the wine of unselfish love.

## Settings

The Salisbury Service (Gloria only)

*Grayston Ives (b. 1948)*

Communion Service in E

*Harold Darke (1888-1976)*



# Order of Service

## ¶ The Gathering

§ *At the sound of the bell, **all stand***

## Hymn

§ *The procession enters*

*All*                    **The Church's one foundation  
                         Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
She is his new creation  
                         By water and the word:  
From heaven he came and sought her  
                         to be his holy bride,  
With his own blood he bought her,  
                         And for her life he died.**

**Elect from every nation,  
                         Yet one o'er all the earth,  
Her charter of salvation  
                         One Lord, one faith, one birth;  
One holy name she blesses,  
                         Partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses  
                         With every grace endued.**

**Though with a scornful wonder  
                         Men see her sore oppressed,  
By schisms rent asunder,  
                         By heresies distressed;  
Yet saints their watch are keeping,  
                         Their cry goes up, 'How long?'  
And soon the night of weeping  
                         Shall be the morn of song.**

**'Mid toil, and tribulation,  
And tumult of her war,  
She waits the consummation  
Of peace for evermore;  
Till with the vision glorious  
Her longing eyes are blessed,  
And the great Church victorious  
Shall be the Church at rest.**

**Yet she on earth hath union  
With God the three in one,  
And mystic sweet communion  
With those whose rest is won:  
O happy ones and holy!  
Lord, give us grace that we  
Like them, the meek and lowly,  
On high may dwell with thee.**

Words Samuel John Stone (1839-1900)

Music Aurelia  
Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)

*All* † In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## The Greeting

*All* The Lord of glory be with you  
**and also with you.**

*The service is introduced*

## Invitation to Confession

The grace of God has dawned upon the world  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who has sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.  
Let us confess our sins.

*Silence for reflection*

## Confession

*All*      **God of mercy,  
we acknowledge that we are all sinners.  
We turn from the wrong that we have thought  
and said and done,  
and are mindful of all that we have failed to do.  
For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past,  
and help us to live each day  
in the light of Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## Kyries

Lord Jesus, you change fear into trust.  
Lord, have mercy.  
*All*      **Lord, have mercy.**

You change weakness into strength.  
Christ, have mercy.  
*All*      **Christ, have mercy.**

You change selfishness into love.  
Lord, have mercy.  
*All*      **Lord, have mercy.**

## Absolution

May the God of love and power  
forgive † you and free you from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,  
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.  
*All*      **Amen.**

## Gloria in Excelsis

*All*      **Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you,  
we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## The Collect

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,  
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles  
the wonder of your saving presence:  
renew your people with your heavenly grace,  
and in all our weakness  
sustain us by your mighty power;  
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.**

*All*      **Amen.**

§    *Sit*

# ¶ The Liturgy of the Word

## First Reading

*Reader* A reading from the Revelation to John.

I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out,

‘Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God

the Almighty reigns.

Let us rejoice and exult

and give him the glory,

for the marriage of the Lamb has come,

and his bride has made herself ready;

to her it has been granted to be clothed

with fine linen, bright and pure’—

for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

And the angel said to me, ‘Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’ And he said to me, ‘These are true words of God.’ Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, ‘You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.’

Revelation 19.6-10

This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

Andrew Moore

Response      May the Lord    bless you    all the days    of your life.



*Choir* Blessed are all those who fear the Lord,  
and walk in his ways.  
You shall eat the fruit of the toil of your hands;  
it shall go well with you, and happy shall you be. **Response**

Your wife within your house shall be like a fruitful vine;  
 your children round your table,  
 like fresh olive branches.  
 Thus shall the one be blest  
 who fears the Lord. **Response**

The Lord from out of Zion bless you,  
 that you may see Jerusalem in prosperity all the days of your life.  
 May you see your children's children,  
 and may there be peace upon Israel. **Response**

Psalms 128

## Holy Gospel

§ Stand

### Acclamation

1. Choir only  
 2. Choir and Congregation

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

God has called us through the proclamation of the good news,  
 so that we may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All Alleluia.**

The Lord of glory be with you  
**and also with you.**

**All**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**All**

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know



where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

John 2.1-11

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All*



## Homily

The Venerable Richard Ormston  
Archdeacon of Northampton

## The Nicene Creed

§ *Stand*

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*All*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

*All may  
bow*

***For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.***

***For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.***

***We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.***

## Prayers of the Faithful

*Priest*

***Jesus brought joy to the wedding guests at Cana  
by turning water into wine.  
Let us bring our needs before him with confidence.***

§ *Kneel*

*The response to each petition*

*Intercessor*

***Almighty God,  
we know all power comes from you.***

*After the final petition*

*Priest*      God of love and mercy,  
may we experience your Son's presence in our lives,  
so that when our own efforts are not enough,  
he may support us with his grace.  
We ask this through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*      **Amen.**

§ *Stand*

## ¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### Sign of Peace

Christ is our peace.  
If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.  
The old has passed away: behold, everything has become new.

*All*      The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer each other a sign of Christ's peace.

### The Offertory

*The bread and wine are presented, and the altar is prepared*

### Hymn

*A monetary collection is taken and laid at the foot of the altar*

*All*      **Songs of thankfulness and praise,  
Jesu, Lord, to thee we raise;  
Manifested by the star  
To the sages from afar;  
Branch of royal David's stem  
In thy birth at Bethlehem;  
Anthems be to thee addressed,  
God in man made manifest.**

**Manifest at Jordan's stream,  
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;  
And at Cana, wedding-guest  
In thy Godhead manifest;  
Manifest in power divine,  
Changing water into wine;  
Anthems be to thee addressed,  
God in man made manifest.**

**Manifest in making whole  
Palsied limbs and fainting soul;  
Manifest in valiant fight,  
Quelling all the devil's might;  
Manifest in gracious will,  
Ever bringing good from ill;  
Anthems be to thee addressed,  
God in man made manifest.**

**Sun and moon shall darkened be,  
Stars shall fall, the heavens shall flee;  
Christ will then like lightning shine,  
All will see his glorious sign;  
All will then the trumpet hear,  
All will see the judge appear;  
Thou by all wilt be confessed,  
God in man made manifest.**

**Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,  
Mirrored in thy holy word;  
May we imitate thee now  
And be pure, as pure art thou;  
That we like to thee may be  
At thy great Epiphany;  
And may praise thee, ever blest,  
God in man made manifest.**

*Words Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885)*

*Music St Edmund  
Charles Steggall (1826-1905)*

## Invitation to Prayer

Pray, my brothers and sisters,  
that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God,  
the almighty Father.

*All*     **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

## Prayer over the Gifts

O Lord, accept our offerings,  
and in sanctifying them grant that they may profit us for salvation.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*     **Amen.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

*All*     The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

*All*     Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

*All*     Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, ever-living God,  
through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:  
for at this time we celebrate your glory  
made present in our midst.  
In the coming of the Magi  
the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.  
In the waters of baptism  
Jesus was revealed as the Christ,  
the Saviour sent to redeem us.  
In the water made wine  
the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.  
Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven  
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name  
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

*Choir* Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,  
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Christ is the bread of life:

*All*

The musical score is written for a single voice part in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo/mood is marked *mf*. The melody starts on a whole note G4, followed by a half note A4, and then a series of eighth notes: B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics 'When we eat this bread and drink this cup,' are aligned under the notes. The second staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It starts with a *cresc.* marking. The melody consists of eighth notes: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, followed by a half note B4. The lyrics 'we pro-claim your death, Lord Je - sus, un - til you come in glo - ry.' are aligned under the notes. The piece ends with a double bar line. A *f* marking is placed above the final note (B4).

*mf*

When we eat this bread and drink this cup,

*cresc.*

*f*

we pro-claim your death, Lord Je - sus, un - til you come in glo - ry.

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
 we remember his offering of himself  
 made once for all upon the cross;  
 we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
 we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
 and with this bread and this cup  
 we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
 this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
 and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
 in the presence of your divine majesty,  
 renew us by your Spirit,  
 inspire us with your love  
 and unite us in the body of your Son,  
 Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
 we worship you, Father almighty,  
 in songs of everlasting praise:

*All*



*The Blessed Sacrament is elevated, and bells are rung*

§ *Kneel*

## The Lord's Prayer

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.**

## Breaking of the Bread

*All*      The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ:  
**we being many are one body,  
for we all share in the one bread.**  
*All*      Into one body we were all baptized,  
**and one Spirit was given us all to drink.**

## Agnus Dei

*Choir*      O Lamb of God,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.

             O Lamb of God,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.

             O Lamb of God,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
grant us thy peace.

## Invitation to Communion

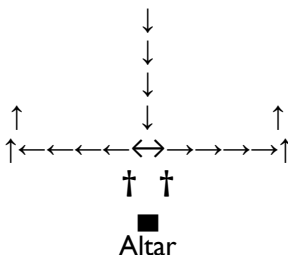
*All*      Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.  
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**



## Giving of Communion

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

*Holy Communion, alternatively God's blessing, is administered standing as indicated below. If you wish to receive God's blessing please bring this booklet with you. Thank you.*



## Spiritual Communion – *for those at home*

### Act of Reception

*All* In union, blessed Jesus,  
with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church  
where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day,

*(and remembering particularly my own parish ...)*

I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving,  
for creation and all the blessings of this life,  
for the redemption won for us by your life, death,  
and resurrection,  
for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

*(and particularly for the blessings given me ...)*

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament,  
and, since I cannot at this time receive communion,  
I pray you to come into my heart.  
I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart,  
my soul, and my mind.  
Let nothing separate me from you;  
let me serve you in this life until, by your grace,  
I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace.  
Amen.

## Motet

*Choir*      A new commandment I give unto you:  
that you love one another as I have loved you.  
By this shall all men know that you are my disciples.  
If you have love for one another.  
Let not your hearts be troubled:  
Believe in God, believe also in me.

*Text* John 13.34-35, 14.1

*Music* Richard Shephard (born 1949)

## Hymn

*All*      **Christ is our light! the bright and morning star  
Covering with radiance all from near and far.  
Christ be our light, shine on, shine on we pray  
Into our hearts, into our world today.**

**Christ is our love! baptized that we may know  
The love of God among us, swooping low.  
Christ be our love, bring us to turn our face  
And see in you the light of heaven's embrace.**

**Christ is our joy! transforming wedding guest!  
Through water turned to wine the feast was blessed.  
Christ be our joy; your glory let us see,  
As your disciples did in Galilee.**

*Words* Leith Fisher (1941-2009)

*Music* Farley Castle  
Henry Lawes bapt (1596-1662)

## Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

§ *Stand*

Almighty Father,  
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world:  
may your people,  
illuminated by your word and sacraments,  
shine with the radiance of his glory,  
that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed  
to the ends of the earth;  
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

*All*

**Amen.**

**Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work  
to your praise and glory.  
Amen.**

## Hymn

*All*

**Go forth and tell! O Church of God, awake!  
God's saving news to all the nations take:  
Proclaim Christ Jesus, Saviour, Lord, and King,  
That all the world his worthy praise may sing.**

**Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all;  
He will in grace respond to all who call:  
How shall they call if they have never heard  
The gracious invitation of his word?**

**Go forth and tell! The doors are open wide:  
Share God's good gifts – let no one be denied;  
Live out your life as Christ your Lord shall choose,  
Your ransomed powers for his sole glory use.**

**Go forth and tell! O Church of God, arise!  
Go in the strength which Christ your Lord supplies;  
Go till all nations his great name adore  
And serve him, Lord and King for evermore.**

*Words James Seddon (1915-1983)*

*Music Yanworth  
John Barnard (born 1948)*

## Notices for the Community

### ¶ Sending Out

§ *Stand*

*All* The Lord of glory be with you.  
**and also with you.**

### Solemn Blessing

*All* May God, the Father,  
who led the wise men by the shining of a star  
to find the Christ, the Light from light,  
lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.  
**Amen.**

*All* May God the Son,  
who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana,  
transform your lives and make glad your hearts.  
**Amen.**

*All* May God the Holy Spirit,  
who came upon the beloved Son at his baptism in the river Jordan,  
pour out his gifts on you  
who have come to the waters of new birth.  
**Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son †, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.  
*All*      **Amen.**

## The Dismissal

*All*      Go out into the world in peace,  
**to walk in God's light,**  
**to rejoice in God's love**  
**and to reflect God's glory. Amen.**

## Organ Voluntary

Trumpet Tune in D

*David N Johnson (1922-1987)*

*The procession departs*

*Those leaving immediately are asked to be aware of those who wish to listen to the organ voluntary*

*Refreshments are being now being served in the Parish Centre. You are most welcome to join us and take the opportunity to meet your fellow worshippers.*

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## Collection – responding to God's generosity

*If you have not already done so, we invite you to make a monetary offering towards the ministry and mission of St Matthew's Church. You may do so using any of the following methods:*

***During the collection at the Offertory.***

***Cash, cheques, stewardship envelopes*** - using the receptacle provided at the back of church. If you are a taxpayer please use the envelopes in the chairs, and fill out the details in order that our parish may also benefit from the Gift Aid (an extra 25p for every pound given) associated with your giving.

**Contactless giving** - using the terminal provided. Just press the button for the amount you wish to give - £5, £10, or £20, and then hold your bank card over the reader.

**Giving on your smart phone** - using the QR code printed below. It gives you the option of any amount, Gift Aid, and making a regular payment.

**Giving online** - click the donate button on the parish website or Facebook page and follow the instructions.

Your generosity is gratefully received. Thank you.



*Our thanks are due to Mark and Mandy Ludlow  
who have generously financed  
the production of this week's service booklet.*

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This evening at 5.30 pm

## Choral Evensong and Benediction

**Please take this booklet home  
as an aid to prayer and reflection during the week,  
and then re-cycle it.**

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