Service for Epiphany 2

Welcome:

‘I will sing of the Lord’s great love for ever;

**with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations**

I will declare that your love stands firm forever

**That you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.’** *Psalm 89:1-2*

O God, our heavenly Father  
you have been gracious to us through all our years.  
We thank you for your loving care,  
which has filled our days and brought us to this time of worship.  
**We praise your holy name, O God.**

You have given us life and set us in a world filled with your glory.  
You have comforted us with family and friends,  
and ministered to us through the hands of our sisters and brothers.

**We praise your holy name, O God.**

You have been our light in darkness  
and a rock of strength in adversity and temptation.  
You have been the very Spirit of joy in our joys  
and the all–sufficient reward in all our labours.

**We praise your holy name, O God.**

You remembered us when we forgot you.  
You followed us when we tried to flee from you.  
You met us with forgiveness when we returned to you.  
For all your patience and overflowing grace.

**We praise your holy name, O God.**

Opening hymn: O Lord my God

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder

Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,

I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,

Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee*

*How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee*

*How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander

And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;

When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,

and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

*Chorus*

And when I think that God his Son not sparing,

Sent Him to die – I scarce can take it in,

That on the cross my burden gladly bearing,

He bled and died to take away my sin:

*Chorus*

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation

And take me home – what joy shall fill my heart!

Then shall I bow in humble adoration,

And there proclaim, my God how great Thou art!

*Chorus*

Confession:

The gospel calls us to turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ. As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith we renew our confidence and trust in his mercy.

**Almighty God,**

**Long suffering and of great goodness**

**I confess to you, I confess with my whole heart**

**My neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments**

**My wrong doing, thinking and speaking:**

**The hurts I have done to others and the good I have left undone**

**O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you;**

**And raise me to new life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God,

Your Son has opened for us

A new and living way into your presence

Give us new hearts and steadfast wills

To walk in your ways and delight in your truth

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading: Joshua 24:14-18

Joshua’s testimony:

Hymn: All I once held dear

All I once held dear, built my life upon

All this world reveres and wars to own,

All I once thought gain I have counted loss;

Spent and worthless now compared to this:

*Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You,*

*There is no greater thing.*

*You’re my all, You’re the best,*

*You’re my joy, my righteousness,*

*And I love You, Lord.*

Now my heart’s desire is to know You more,

To be found in You and known as Yours,

To possess by faith what I could not earn,

All surpassing gift of righteousness.

Oh, to know the power of Your risen life,

And to know You in Your sufferings,

To become like You in Your death my Lord,

So with You to live and never die.

Our testimony:

A Covenant Prayer

O righteous God, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
see me as I fall down before you.  
Forgive my unfaithfulness in not having done your will,  
for you have promised mercy to me if I turn to you with my whole heart.

Before all heaven and earth,  
I here acknowledge you as my Lord and God.  
I take you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for my portion,  
and vow to give up myself, body and soul, as your servant,  
to serve you in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.

I do here accept Jesus Christ as the only new and living Way,  
and sincerely join myself in a covenant with him.  
O blessed Jesus, I do here, with all my power, accept you as my Lord and Head.  
I renounce my own worthiness and vow that you are the Lord, my righteousness.  
I renounce my own wisdom, and take you for my only guide.  
I renounce my own will, and take your will as my law. **Amen**

Prayers:

## In the following prayers, the response to

‘Lord hear us’ – is ‘**and help us to serve you'.**

Lord our God, we give you thanks and praise that you give us life,

you give us love, and you give us yourself.

Lord, may we learn to give our life, our love and ourselves to you.

Lord hear us- **and help us to serve you.**

We give you thanks for all who have shared their faith with us,

both in words and in actions.

We pray for those seeking to share your love in words

and in practical ways both in this country and overseas.

May they be guided and strengthened by your Holy Spirit.

We pray that we also may serve you faithfully,

and witness to your love for us in Christ Jesus to those with whom we are in contact,

whether by phone, internet or passing conversations

during our daily exercise at this present time.

We thank you that even in these uncertain, difficult and occasionally stressful times that you are sustaining, guiding and walking with us day by day.

Lord hear us - **and help us to serve you.**

We pray for all who are called to govern,

and all who influence the minds of others.

Lord, we ask you to guide and strengthen the leaders of the world,

give them wisdom to do what is right in your eyes for the benefit

and well being of all people, especially during this Covid pandemic.

Today we remember the inauguration of Joe Biden next Wednesday

as President of the United States and we pray for his time in office.

We ask that proceedings will be peaceful,

that he will have wisdom and discernment

as he seeks to govern and unite the country.

Lord hear us - **and help us to serve you.**

We give thanks because you show us your love through those who love us.

We ask your blessing on our homes, families and loved ones.

We pray for those homes where there is stress and anxiety,

for those worried about employment,

for those struggling with work and home schooling,

for those concerned about the spread of Covid.

We pray for all who are lonely,

cut off from friends and family due to Lockdown,

especially we pray for those who are feeling the emptiness of bereavement.

We ask that your peace, comfort and love will surround and uphold them all.

Lord hear us - **and help us to serve you.**

Healing God, we bring to you all involved in the healing professions.

We pray that you will sustain and protect all doctors, nurses,

hospital workers, ambulance crews and emergency services during this unprecedented pandemic.

May hospitals find ways to cope with all patients,

both those with Covid as well as other medical conditions.

We give you thanks for the inspiration and skill

of all those involved in the development of the vaccines

and we pray that it will be available to all who need it as soon as possible.

In a moment of quiet let us remember those known to us who are unwell,

either at home or in hospital …..

those who have been bereaved ….

and those who especially need to feel God's loving arms surrounding them ....

Lord hear us - **and help us to serve you.**

Finally, a prayer from the Diocese:

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy

in this time of uncertainty and distress.

Sustain and support the anxious and fearful

and lift up all who are brought low;

that we may rejoice in your comfort,

knowing that nothing can separate us

from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord*.* **Amen.**

We draw our prayers to a close with the prayer our Lord taught us:

**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.**

Closing Hymn: Before the throne of God above

Before the throne of God above

I have a strong, a perfect plea,

a great High Priest whose name is Love,

who ever lives and pleads for me.

My name is graven on His hands,

my name is written on His heart;

I know that while in heaven He stands

no tongue can bid me thence depart,

no tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,

and tells me of the guilt within,

upward I look and see Him there

who made an end to all my sin.

Because the sinless Saviour died

my sinful soul is counted free;

for God the just is satisfied

to look on Him and pardon me,

to look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there! The risen lamb,

my perfect, spotless righteousness;

the great unchangeable I AM,

the King of glory and of grace!

One with Himself I cannot die,

my soul is purchased with His blood;

my life is hid with Christ on high,

with Christ my Saviour and my God,

with Christ my Saviour and my God.

Blessing:

May God the Father, who has called us in love,

make us worthy of a place in his kingdom. **Amen.**

May God the Son, coming among us in power,

reveal in our midst the promise of his glory. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith,

joyful in hope and constant in love. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be with you all this day and for ever more. **Amen.**