

A Liturgy of the Word Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

29 January 2023

The video of the service or the sermon can be viewed on the website, YouTube or Facebook

Hymn

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.

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,
are precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and 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.

To him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand forever;
that name to us is love.



Call to Worship

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Psalm 139: 7-18

Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol,
you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost
parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.
**If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,"
even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day,
for darkness is as light with you.**

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my
mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
**Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.
My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.**

Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written,
every one of them, the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them.
**How precious to me are your thoughts,
O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I would count them,
they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.**



Prayer

May Your star pause over this place of worship,
illuminating Your truth and justice.
Confront us anew with Your call
to look for power in lowly places
and to bring our gifts to worship.
You, who are long gone from the stable,
but present in every place and time –
God with us.

The Penitence

As we contemplate the week which was,
and as we anticipate the week ahead, we bring our burdens,
those self-inflicted, and those which we bear collectively,
before God, seeking God's grace and mercy.
Let us confess our sins:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father
in penitence we confess
that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed
and in what we have left undone.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life
to the glory of your name.

Absolution

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself,
and cleanse you from all sin that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect

God of all blessing,
in Christ you open for us a new way of living:
purge us of our easy acceptance
of the ways of the world,
and forge in us the radical vision of your reign,
that your will may be done on earth as in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

The Word of God

Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1: 18-31

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:1-12

The Sermon

Revd Matthew Wright



Affirmation of Faith

**I believe and trust in God the Father
who made the world.**

**I believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ
Who redeemed humankind.**

**I believe and trust in his Holy Spirit
who gives life to the people of God.**

**I believe and trust in one God
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

As Christ has interceded for us with the Father, so now let us intercede for God's world and God's people.

In these changing and uncertain times, we look to you O God, for our peace and our strength. We pray for the world and its leaders. We pray for your creation in the face of changing climate and decreasing biodiversity. We pray for a transition into a just world which reflects your peace.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for our own country, for its people and leaders. We pray especially for those most affected by rising food prices. We pray for a collective will to address issues which affect our economy at all levels – for our national power utility, for those seeking piecemeal jobs to put food on the table.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

In the midst of these changing times, remind us Lord of all that you have blessed us with. May we never be disheartened or discouraged, but instead inspired to use our gifts, abilities and resources to help those we are able to help.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

God of healing, we bring before you all who are ill or suffering at this time. May your life-giving Spirit minister to each according to their needs and may they know your peace and comfort. We commend to you our pastoral team and all who care for the sick and suffering.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We commit into your hands, this parish, St Michael's Bryanston. We continue to pray for the appointment of a rector. And we pray that this parish would be one through which your kingdom is built. We pray for our Diocese, and for Steve our Bishop, and for the world-wide Anglican Communion. Inspire us to be the Body of Christ in the world.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Finally, we commend to you the souls of all who have passed on recently, as well as those whose year's mind occurs this week. We pray for their loved ones, that they would not grieve as those without hope, but that they would trust in the power of the Resurrection.

May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace; and rise in glory.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Merciful Father, accept these our prayers for the sake of your Son, Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your Name
your kingdom come
your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen**



Final Blessing

May we follow the light of Christ into all the darkness of the world, overthrowing the old and tired ways, fighting for justice, forging paths to peace, and loving those it may be hard to love, knowing Christ goes before us and calls us to follow; and may the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you now and always. **Amen**

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen

Hymn

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his Word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his Word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and forevermore!

Giving

Thank you for your continued financial contribution to the church at this time so as to enable St Michael's to meet its obligations in mission and ministry.

E.F.T

St Michael's Church Bank
Standard Bank (051001)
Account Number: 000 176 397
Account Name: Bryanston St Michael

SNAP SCAN



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CREDITS

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Gathering Prayer

<https://churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/weekly-worship/monthly/january-2023/29-january-4th-sunday-after-epiphany>

Absolution

Authorised Forms of Confession and Absolution (CoE) <http://justus.anglican.org/~ss/commonworship/word/confessions.html>

Blessing

Based on prayers from <https://churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/weekly-worship/monthly/january-2023/29-january-4th-sunday-after-epiphany>

MUSIC

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Author: James Montgomery (1821)
Artist: The Celebration Choir.
Tune: Johann Cruger
<https://youtu.be/EkrepBvrLI4>

Tell out, my soul

Author: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1961)
Tune: WOODLANDS (Greatorex)
Performed by: Arundel Cathedral
<https://youtu.be/3E7QWLyDWe8?t=5>