

*A Liturgy of the Word Fifth Sunday After Epiphany*

*Date: 5 February 2023*

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

*Hymn*

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;  
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,  
be thou ever with me, and I with thee Lord;  
be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;  
be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;  
be thou my whole armor, be thou my true might;  
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:  
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise:  
be thou mine inheritance now and always;  
be thou and thou only the first in my heart;  
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright sun,  
O grant me its joys after victory is won;  
great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Author: Eleanor Hull

*Call to Worship*

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you.**

We are called to serve—to be Christ with and for one another,  
**for we are the salt of the earth!**

We are called to shine—to be beacons of hope and witnesses to truth,  
**for we are the light of the world!**

Come, you who are claimed as children of God, salt of the earth and light of the world.  
**Let us worship the Lord!**

*Gathering prayer:*  
God of Community,  
we rejoice in this time to worship you in this holy place,  
and through the wonder of technology,  
which gathers us from many places.  
You have made us to be salt and light.  
in a tasteless and shadowed world,  
guide us in this time of worship.  
Grant us understanding and spiritual discernment  
so that others may see your good works through us,  
and be moved to serve you. **Amen.**



*The Penitence*

God is gracious and merciful and knows our needs even before they reach our lips. Still, we engage in confession, admitting to God all that rests uneasily in our hearts.

Confident of God's love, let us make our confession.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father  
in penitence we confess  
that we have sinned against you  
through our own fault  
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*

Friends, the love of God revealed in Jesus forgives us, heals us and sets us free to rebuild, restore, and raise up foundations for new generations.

**Amen**

*The Collect*

**Jesus our Lord,  
You have taught us that judgment begins.  
In the house of God:  
Save us from our self-satisfaction,  
Rigidity and corruption,  
And make us salt and light for the world;  
For you live and reign in the unity of the  
Blessed Trinity,  
One God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

*The Word of God*

Isaiah 58 : 1-9a, (9b-12)

Psalm 112 : 1-10

1 Corinthians 2 : 1-12,(13-16)

*Gospel Reading*

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

*The Sermon*

Sermon: The Revd Margaret Place



## Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in the words of the Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

To the God who so much wants to give light to the world's darkness and salt to heal its many wounds, let us pray. Gracious God, we pray for Your Church throughout the world that gives us hope and comfort in troubled times. May each of our churches be inspired by the words of Jesus, to be a light in the darkness, to be the salt of the earth. Undergird and strengthen all those who serve in ministry including our bishops, priests, and deacons. Guide the clergy as they lead the congregation of St Michaels. Bless the people and ministries of this congregation. May everything that we say and do glorify you.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

God of power and might, your broken world cries out from the depths, a world dominated by the darkness of war, terror, pain, economic hardship, and suffering. May they see your light, feel your strength and power and know the truth of your promise that we shall not be overcome by the dark shadows of life or the darkness of human nature.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Heavenly Father we come before you on behalf of those charged with the responsibility of leading our country. We pray especially for President, Cyril Ramaphosa as well as those at our community levels. We pray that reason and compassion may be the hallmarks of their conversations on what best serves the common good, we pray for the load-shedding situation in our country. You know all the issues. We ask for leaders who will work together to find a solution.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Lord we pray for those who are sick in body or mind or spirit. We pray for those known to us who are struggling at the moment. We pray for all who work and volunteer in the caring professions. May those who are sick know your healing touch and those who care for them be blessed with tenderness and patience.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Lord we remember before you all those who have died. We pray for those who are known to us who mourn and we pray for your comfort for them.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Lord, we lift this church to you, that we might be beacons of light and hope as we leave this building today. May those who we meet this week encounter the living Christ through the power of your Spirit,

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

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

*Prayer for Offering*

Generous God,  
we thank you for all that you have given us.  
Receive these tokens of our love for you,  
for the ministry of your Church.  
Bless our offering for the work of your kingdom  
in our communities, In Jesus name we pray. **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 Hymn*

For the healing of the nations,  
Lord, we pray with one accord,  
for a just and equal sharing  
of the things that earth affords.  
To a life of love in action  
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us, Father, into freedom,  
from despair your world release;  
that, redeemed from war and hatred,  
men may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness  
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,  
let it from the earth be banned:  
pride of status, race or schooling,  
dogmas keeping man from man.  
In our common quest for justice  
may we hallow life's brief span.

You, creator-God, have written  
your great name on all mankind;  
for our growing in your likeness  
bring the life of Christ to mind;  
that by our response and service  
earth its destiny may find.

Author: Fred Kaan



*Final Blessing*

Go in faith to be salt for the earth and light for the world.  
May God's love restore you;  
May Christ's teaching inspire you;  
May the Holy Spirit equip you to serve in a world  
that is ready to receive you,  
And 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**



*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.


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