

A Liturgy of the Word Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Date : 12 February 2023

The full service or the sermon can be viewed on the website.

Processional Hymn

All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

Daily doth th' Almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.
Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

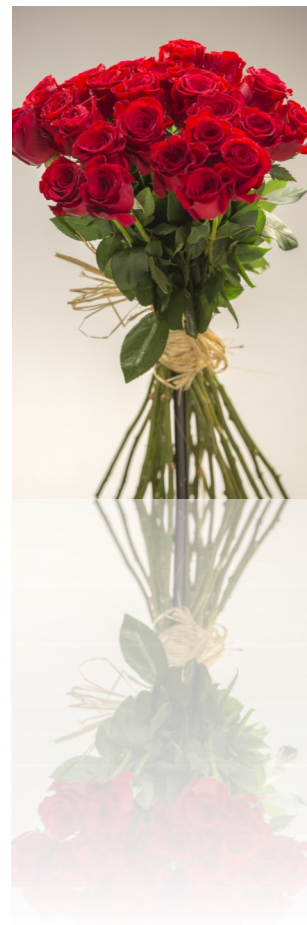
Author: Joachim Neander; Robert Bridges (transl.)

Call to Worship

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

For we are God's fellow workers.
You are God's field, God's building.

In one Spirit, we were all baptised into one Body.
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.



Introductory Rite

God has set before us death and life;
 let us choose life, that we may live.
 Let us choose life not only for ourselves,
 but for our fellow human beings,
 created in God's image,
 that they too may know the abundant life
 to which we are called. **Amen**

The Penitence

Friends, let us not grieve the Holy Spirit of God.
 Let us put away all bitterness and wrath and anger
 and wrangling and slander, together with all malice.
 Let us be kind to one another, tender-hearted,
 forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven us.

Together we 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

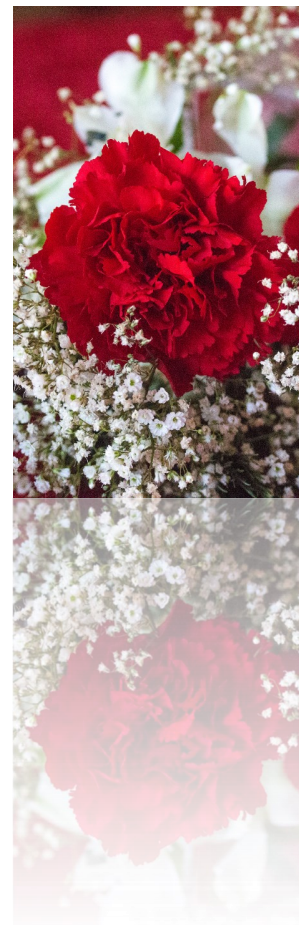
May the God of love bring us back to himself,
 forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love;
 in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Collect

Holy and righteous God,
 you set before us life and death:
 grant us grace in the face of many temptations
 to seek the mind of Christ
 and choose eternal life
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and forever. **Amen**

The Word of God

Deuteronomy 30 : 15-20
 Psalm 119 : 1-8
 1 Corinthians 3 : 1-9



Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:21-37

The Sermon

The Revd David Edwards

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

Heavenly Father, your Word says that human anger does not produce the righteousness you require and yet, day to day, we find so many reasons to be angry. May human tempers be stilled by your peace, and may we seek to have a heart after your own, that we would be called children of God.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer

Gracious Father, as a country we have failed some of the most vulnerable in our society. Our high prevalence of gender-based violence and child abuse is a blight on our democracy. We pray for state and social structures to combat this scourge; but we pray also for a drastic change in mindset, based on mutual respect and the recognition of universal human dignity.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer

The world's nations seem always to be guided by retribution and retaliation. We pray for all warring countries. May you look kindly on the innocent and those most affected – those who are killed, injured or displaced. We pray for an end to human greed and the fearful obsession of securing private resources. In our own lives, may our values and our ethos be shaped and tempered by your Holy Word.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer

Loving God, help us to practice forgiveness and compassion. Pour your love into our hearts and draw us closer to you. May we be nourished by your Word and built up by the chords of fellowship which unite us. We pray for Bishop Steve, and for our sister churches throughout the Diocese. May you raise up and equip ministers (lay and ordained) who will work towards the building of your kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer

As we see out the close of the season of Epiphany and as we prepare to enter Lent, we pray that you would continue to direct and guide our course of action throughout 2023. May your will be done in our lives and may your purposes be realised. Grant us grace to fulfil the promises we have made to you and to others.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer

Father, may you hear our prayers, those spoken in this service of worship and those said in the silence of our hearts. In the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Prayer for Offering

Heavenly Father, thank you that you satisfy our every desire and need. Your word says that we should give honour to you with the first fruits of our wealth. Accept our tithes and offerings as a gift of worship to you. Multiply what we give for the effective growth of your kingdom. May Christ dwell in our hearts through faith so that, being rooted and grounded in love, we may know the love of Christ that surpasses all knowledge. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen

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

O Jesus, I have promised
 To serve thee to the end;
 Be thou forever near me,
 My Master and my friend;
 I shall not fear the battle
 If thou art by my side,
 Nor wander from the pathway
 If thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me!
 The world is ever near:
 I see the sights that dazzle,
 The tempting sounds I hear.
 My foes are ever near me,
 Around me and within;
 But, Jesus, draw thou nearer,
 And shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear thee speaking
 In accents clear and still,
 Above the storms of passion,
 The murmurs of self-will.
 O speak to reassure me,
 To hasten or control;
 O speak, and make me listen,
 Thou guardian of my soul.



O Jesus, thou hast promised
To all who follow thee
That where thou art in glory
There shall thy servant be.
And, Jesus, I have promised
To serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
My Master and my friend.

Author: John Ernest Bode

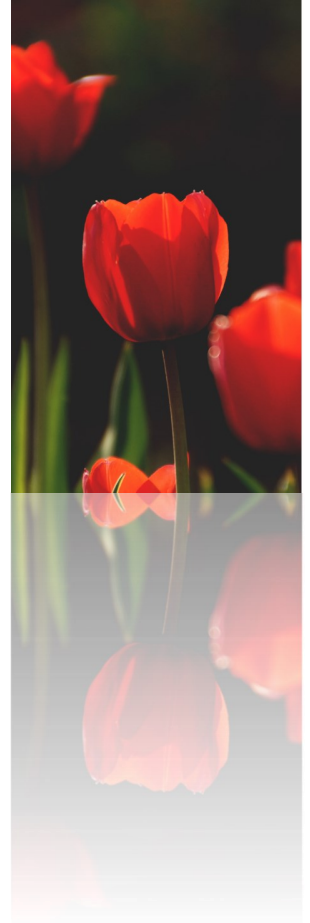
Final Blessing

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose identity we have received, cause us to flourish, prosper and excel in every good work. May the Holy Spirit give us confidence to display God's glory in our families, to our friends, to our colleagues and to all who encounter us. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

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.

E.F.T

St Michael's Church Bank
Standard Bank (051001)
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