

The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

12th February 2023

THE GATHERING

Opening Hymn AHB 7/TiS 102 [tune, Leoni]

- 1. Praise to the living God, all praise be to his name,
who was, and is, and is to be, and still the same:
the one eternal God before what now appears,
the First, the Last, beyond all thought his timeless years!**
- 2. Formless, all lovely forms declare his loveliness;
holy, no holiness of earth can his express.
Behold the Lord of all: creation speaks his praise
and everywhere, above, below, his will obeys.**
- 3. God's Spirit freely flows, high surging where it will:
in prophet's word he spoke of old, is speaking still.
Established is God's law and changeless it shall stand,
deep written on the human heart, on sea, on land.**
- 4. God has eternal life implanted in the soul;
his love shall be our strength and stay while ages roll.
Praise to the living God, all praise be to his name,
who was, and is, and is to be, and still the same!**

From the Jewish Yigdal c. 13th cent.
tr. Max Landsberg 1845-1928, Newton Mann 1836-1926
and William Channing Gannett 1840-1923 alt.

Words of welcome or introduction may be said.

The Greeting

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Sentence

Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law
of the Lord.

Psalm 119.1

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Two Great Commandments

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one;
you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your mind,
and with all your strength.’

Jesus said: ‘This is the great and first commandment.
And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as
yourself.’

Kyrie eleison—when sung each line is threefold

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Gloria in Excelsis

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God’s 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,
you gave the law to guide our lives:
grant that we may never shrink from your commandments,
but, as we are taught by your Spirit,
may fulfil your law in perfect love;
through Christ our Lord and Master,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from the Book Deuteronomy [10. 12–22]

So now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you? Only to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord your God and his decrees that I am commanding you today, for your own well-being. Although heaven and the heaven of heavens belong to the Lord your God, the earth with all that is in it, yet the Lord set his heart in love on your ancestors alone and chose you, their descendants after them, out of all the peoples, as it is today. Circumcise, then, the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stubborn any longer. For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them with food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. You shall fear the Lord your God; him alone you shall worship; to him you shall hold fast, and by his name you shall swear. He is your praise; he is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things that your own eyes have seen. Your ancestors went down to Egypt seventy persons; and now the Lord your God has made you as numerous as the stars in heaven.

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

Psalm 119. 1-8

1. Blessed are those whose way is blameless:
who walk in the law of the Lord.
2. Blessed are those who keep his commands:
and seek him with their whole heart;
3. Those who do no wrong:
but walk in the ways of our God.
4. For you, Lord, have commanded us:
to persevere in all your precepts.
5. If only my ways were unerring:
towards the keeping of your statutes!
6. Then I should not be ashamed:
when I looked on all your commandments.
7. I will praise you with sincerity of heart:
as I learn your righteous judgements.
8. I will keep your statutes:
O forsake me not utterly.

A reading from The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians [3. 1–9]

And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, 'I belong to Paul', and another, 'I belong to Apollos', are you not merely human?

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labour of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew [5. 21-37]
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

*[On the mountain, Jesus gathered his disciples around him
and taught them, saying:]*

‘You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not murder”; and “whoever murders shall be liable to judgement.” But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgement; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, “You fool”, you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

‘You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.” But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

‘It was also said, “Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.” But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

‘Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.” But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.

And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be “Yes, Yes” or “No, No”; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

For the Gospel of the Lord,
praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Silence for reflection

The Nicene Creed

**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.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Lord, as you are generous to us, may we be generous to others.
Lord, as you forgive us, may we learn to forgive others.
You give us life, you give us love, you give us yourself;
let us give our lives, our love, ourselves, to you.
Help us to choose the way of life and to lead others
to him who is the Way the Truth and the Life.
May your church be an example of discipline and discipleship.
Help us to rejoice in life, and to work together
for the building up of your kingdom.

Life-giving God, **hear us and be with us.**

May your world work for the ways that lead to peace,
that there may be peace and goodwill among the nations,
that the resources of the world may be respected and cared for,
that all who work for the prosperity of the world may be encouraged.
We remember all who work for renewal and restoration in rundown
and deprived areas of our nation.

Life-giving God, **hear us and be with us.**

We pray that discord and anger may be taken away from our hearts
and our communities, that broken relationships may find healing,
that communities may turn to the ways of peace and trust,
that the destructive forces within us may be conquered.

Life-giving God, **hear us and be with us.**

We pray for all who are facing disaster or destruction, remembering
especially those affected by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.
For all whose land is being destroyed by greed, and for all whose lives
are being destroyed by choosing ways that lead to death.
We pray for all drug addicts,
all whose lives are marred by their past,
and all whose lives are diminished by sickness.
We remember those for whom we have been asked to pray:
Trent. Emily. Brady. Kate Jessup. Vi Bussell. Nina Colson. Bronwyn.
Josef. Kaye McKenzie. Neliya Don Leonard.

Life-giving God, **hear us and be with us.**

We rejoice that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ
Jesus. We pray for all who have passed through death, especially
remembering this week: Lois Lovell. John Haigh. Kevin Varcoe.
Trevor Colson. Herbert Chamberlain. Margaret McCormick.
Ernest Hughes. Andrew Kerris. 'Tony' Reeves. Arthur Hughes.

*Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord.
And may light perpetual shine upon them.*

Life-giving God, **hear us and be with us.**

Enfold us, Lord, in your love,
surround us with your peace,
encircle us with your power.

**Enable us to be what you would have us be;
empower us to do what you would have us do;
through Christ our living Lord. Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy,
welcoming sinners and inviting them to the Lord's table.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
confident in God's forgiveness.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
in thought, and word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do.
Have mercy on us, forgive us all that is past,
and grant that we may serve you
and live a new life to your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy on you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

*All may exchange a COVID Safe sign of peace.
i.e. if you aren't living together, don't touch. 😊*

Offertory Hymn AHB 167. [tune, St Matthew]

1. **Your hand, O Lord, in days of old
was strong to heal and save;
it triumphed over disease and death,
o'er darkness and the grave.
To you they went, the blind, the dumb,
the palsied and the lame,
the leper with his tainted life,
the sick with fevered frame.**
2. **and, lo, your touch brought life and health,
gave speech, and strength, and sight;
and youth renewed and frenzy calmed
owned you, the Lord of light.
And now, O Lord, be near to bless,
almighty as of your,
in crowded street, by restless couch,
as by Gennesaret's shore.**
3. **O be our great deliverer still,
strong Lord of life and death;
restore and quicken, soothe and bless,
with your almighty breath:
to hands that work and eyes that see
give wisdom's heavenly lore,
that whole and sick, and weak and strong
may praise you evermore.**

Edward Hayes Plumptre 1821-91 alt. (1866)

Offertory prayers may be said

Response: **Blessed be God for ever.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour, be yours now and always, mighty Creator, everliving God. We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine, and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood. ✠

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.' ✠

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' ✠

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as 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 for ever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

The priest breaks the consecrated bread.

We break the bread of life, to share in the body of Christ.
and that life is the light of the world:

**God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

The Agnus Dei is said or sung

**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world: grant us your peace.**

The Priest gives the invitation to receive communion.

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sins of the world.
Happy 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.**

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

God our creator,
by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise,
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:
may we who have been nourished at your table on earth
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;

**Most loving God,
you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.**

Notices

Closing Hymn—TiS 624 [tune, Bonnie George Campbell]

- 1. Christ be my leader by night as by day;
safe through the darkness, for he is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future his care,
darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.**
- 2. Christ be my teacher in age as in youth,
drifting or doubting, for he is the truth.
Grant me to trust him, though shifting as sand,
doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.**
- 3. Christ be my Saviour in calm as in strife;
death cannot hold me, for he is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.**

Timothy Dudley-Smith 1926-
Words by permission Hope Publishing Co, USA

Blessing

The peace of God which passes all understanding
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

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

**ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF WANGARATTA
PAROCHIAL DISTRICT OF WANGARATTA WEST & THE WARBYS**

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