



Sunday Worship at Home January 23rd 2022 Epiphany 3

Opening Prayers:

God of Abraham and Isaac, we thank you for our elder brothers in faith. The Jewish People. Help us all to know each other and love each other, as we worship together One True God. Amen.

Invitation to confession:

God our Father, we thank you that you are always ready to forgive our sins.

Lord have mercy

Lord Jesus: you came to save us from our sins.

Christ have mercy.

Holy Spirit, you help us to be sorry for our sins and to seek forgiveness.

Lord have mercy

May almighty God have mercy upon us,
forgive us our sins and bring us to eternal life. Amen

The Collect (Special Prayer for the day)

God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed the good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom of the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord. Amen

Gospel Reading Luke 4: 14-21.

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Reflection on the Gospel.

When Jesus returned to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath Day to worship, nothing extraordinary in that, it was his custom as a Jew. Synagogue means "meeting place" it's like a church without an altar, instead it has an Ark, which holds the Torah – the word of God. Jesus stood up to read and he found words of the prophet Isaiah. The Ark would have been opened and the Torah taken out, everyone had to stand in its presence. Jesus stood and preached the words 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the

oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' He then sat down, adopting the stance of a teacher. This was Jesus' first public sermon in which he announced his very own Mission statement - that the Messiah, the Anointed one was here, the Torah was alive, manifest in Jesus, the words on the page had come true. In these short words, Jesus' life, ministry, and purpose is revealed in an instant. This is a passage, situated in the season of Epiphany has a major role in revealing who Jesus is, what Jesus will do, and for whom Jesus has come. It's all there in a nutshell! Did those in the Synagogue realise the significance of Jesus' words? Can we say that we fully understand the magnitude of his sermon? Read again words that tell us we are all loved unconditionally by God; Jesus came for Jews, he came for all of us. The Jews have the Torah, we have the Bible brought to life by the incarnation of Jesus, may we use it to read and learn about God through the life and teachings of Jesus here on earth. Amen.

The Creed

We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and earth is named.
We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Be still and Pray:

For our families and those and all those we love. For the Church throughout the world, giving thanks for the churches in our Benefice; for our congregations and those who live in our parishes. For our nations' leaders to govern with love and care and not self-gain. Pray for God's comfort for those in sickness or need, those recovering from illness and those mourning the loss of a loved one. Keep in your hearts the memory of those who have died recently, especially Lesley Sainsbury whose funeral takes place this week, and any others known to you. May they rest in peace and rise in glory Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, in 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; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever
Amen

Blessing:

The God of all grace,
who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith; and the blessing of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and all those you love this day and always. Amen

Reverend Irene