

Epiphany 2 (17th January, 2021)

Pastor Peter Ghalayini

M: Jesus found Philip and said to him:

All: **Follow me!**

M: Philip found Nathaniel and said to him:

All: **Come and see!**

M: In the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen**

Opening Hymn – God has spoken by his prophets

TIS158

- 1. God has spoken by his prophets,
spoken his unchanging word,
each, from age to age proclaiming
God, the one, the righteous Lord.
Mid the world's despair and turmoil
one firm anchor holding fast:
God eternal reigns forever,
God the first, and God the last.**
- 2. God has spoken by Christ Jesus,
Christ, the everlasting Son,
brightness of the Father's glory,
with the Father ever one;
spoken by the Word incarnate,
God from God, ere time was born,
Light from Light, to earth descending,
Christ revealing God to all.**
- 3. God is speaking by the Spirit,
speaking to our hearts again,
in the age-long word expounding
God's own message, now as then,
through the rise and fall of nations
one sure faith is standing fast;**

**God still speaks, the word unchanging,
God the first, and God the last.**

*Music: Ad. from Ludwig van Beethoven;
Words: George W. Briggs, 1875-1959
Used by Permission. CCLI Licence #224866*

M: Friends in Christ:
Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.
Let us confess our sins to God our Father and ask him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us;

C: **We confess to you, almighty God,
before the whole company of heaven, and to each other,
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, by our own fault.
Have mercy on us, for Jesus' sake, forgive us all our sins,
and bring us to eternal life.
Amen.**

M: As a called and ordained servant of the Word I announce the grace of God to all of you. On behalf of my Lord Jesus Christ, and by his command, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

M: Lord, you have searched me out and known me;
Lord have mercy,

All: **Lord have mercy,**

M: you know my sitting down and my rising up;
Christ have mercy,

All: **Christ have mercy.**

M: you discern my thoughts from afar.
Lord have mercy,

All: **Lord have mercy.**

M: The Lord be with you,

All: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray that we follow Jesus.

Jesus Christ, Son of God,
we thank you for calling us to be your disciples.
Open our eyes to recognise you
as the promised Messiah,
and draw us to follow you
wherever you lead.
For you live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

First Reading – 1 Samuel 3:1-20

The Lord reveals himself to Samuel

¹The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions. ²One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. ³The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am." ⁵And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down. ⁶Again the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." "My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸A third time the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." ¹¹And the Lord said to Samuel: "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle. ¹²At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family—from beginning to end. ¹³For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons blasphemed God,^[a] and he failed to restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swore to the house of Eli, 'The guilt of Eli's house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.'" ¹⁵Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of

the Lord. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision, ¹⁶ but Eli called him and said, "Samuel, my son." Samuel answered, "Here I am." ¹⁷ "What was it he said to you?" Eli asked. "Do not hide it from me. May God deal with you, be it ever so severely, if you hide from me anything he told you." ¹⁸ So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him. Then Eli said, "He is the Lord; let him do what is good in his eyes." ¹⁹ The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground. ²⁰ And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the Lord.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 139:1-6,13-18 (*Spoken responsively*)

M: ¹ You have searched me, Lord,
and you know me.

All: ² **You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.**

M: ³ You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.

All: ⁴ **Before a word is on my tongue
you, Lord, know it completely.**

M: ⁵ You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.

All: ⁶ **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.**

M: ¹³ For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

All: ¹⁴ **I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful, I know that full well.**

M: ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,

All: **when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.**

M: ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of
them came to be.

All: ¹⁷ **How precious to me are your thoughts, God!
How vast is the sum of them!**

M: ¹⁸ Were I to count them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand—

All: **when I awake, I am still with you.**

Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit

¹² “I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but I will not be mastered by anything. ¹³ You say, “Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both.” The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴ By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. ¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶ Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, “The two will become one flesh.” ¹⁷ But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit. ¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. ¹⁹ Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your bodies.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

M: Alleluia, alleluia.
Jesus said: 'Very truly, I tell you,
you will see heaven opened

All: **and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'**

Alleluia.

Gospel Reading – John 1:43-51

(Spoken) **Glory to you, O Lord**

We have found the Messiah

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.” ⁴⁴Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” ⁴⁶“Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. “Come and see,” said Philip. ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.” ⁴⁸“How do you know me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.” ⁴⁹Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.” ⁵⁰Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” ⁵¹He then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man.”

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: (Spoken) **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Lord Jesus, thank you for calling us to be your followers.
Help us to listen to you and to believe in you.**

Amen.

Gospel Hymn – O Jesus I Have Promised

TIS 595

- 1. O Jesus, I have promised
to serve Thee to the end;
Be Thou for ever 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.**
- 2. 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.

3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Lord, let me see Thy footmarks
and in them plant mine own;
My hope to follow duly
is in Thy strength alone;
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my friend.

*Music: William Harold Ferguson 1874-1950
Words John Ernest Bode 1816-74 alt.
Used by permission Oxford University Press*

Sermon

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And 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, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again
from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God,
the Father almighty,
from thence he will come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Offering Hymn – What Child Is This? *LHS 746*

- 1. What child is this who laid to rest
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him praise,
the babe, the son of Mary.**
- 2. Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass were feeding?
Good Christians, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary.**

**3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary.**

William Chatterton Dix 1837-1898

M: Let us pray:

Thank you, Lord, for calling us to be your followers.
Lead us to serve you in all that we do
by trusting you and doing your will.
Use us and our possessions for your purposes.

All: **Amen.**

Prayer of the church

M: Lord, teach us to pray:

All: **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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

M: Go in peace, as followers of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.
Amen.**

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favour,
† and give you peace.

All: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn – Sent forth by God’s blessing *TIS 531*

- 1. Sent forth by God’s blessing,
our true faith confessing,
the people of God from his
dwelling take leave.
The service is ended:
O now be extended
the fruits of our worship
in all who believe.
The seed of the teaching,
receptive hearts reaching,
shall blossom in action
for God and for all.
God’s grace did invite us,
and love shall unite us
to work for God’s realm
and to answer the call.**
- 2. With praise and thanksgiving
to God ever-living,
the tasks of our everyday life
we will face.
Our faith ever sharing,
in love ever caring,
embracing God’s children
and each tribe and race.
With your grace you feed us,
with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.**

**Then may all the living
with praise and thanksgiving
give honour to Christ
and that name that we bear.**

*Music: Traditional Welsh melody;
Words: Omer Westendorf 1916 - , alt.
Used by Permission. CCLI Licence #224866*