

Epiphany 3

Agape Service

Welcome & Introduction

Officiant Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

All **and also with you.**

Officiant Welcome to this agape meal, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

We gather to celebrate God's love revealed for our world by our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

All **We come to share our food, our lives and God's grace.**

Officiant O Lord, open our lips.

All **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Prayers of Penitence

Officiant The grace of God has dawned upon the world
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.

(Titus 2.11-14)

Officiant Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of peace:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Officiant Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary:
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Officiant Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh
and splendour of the Father:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon 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.**

Collect

Officiant Eternal Lord,

All **our beginning and our end:
bring us with the whole creation
to your glory, hidden through past ages
and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Ministry of the Word

Jonah 3: 1-5, 10

The word of the LORD came to Jonah, saying, 'Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.' So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, 'Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!' And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Psalms 62: 5-12

Officiant Wait on God alone in stillness, O my soul;
for in him is my hope.

All **He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.**

Officiant In God is my strength and my glory;
God is my strong rock; in him is my refuge.

All **Put your trust in him always, my people;
pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge.**

Officiant The peoples are but a breath,
the whole human race a deceit;
on the scales they are altogether lighter than air.

All **Put no trust in oppression; in robbery take no empty pride;
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.**

Officiant God spoke once, and twice have I heard the same,
that power belongs to God.

All **Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord,
for you repay everyone according to their deeds.**

Officiant Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;

All **as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Wait on God alone in stillness, O my soul;

A recording of Tribus miraculis (Words: Magnificat Antiphon for Feast of the Epiphany; Music: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina [1525-1594])

TRIBUS MIRACULIS ORNATUM, DIEM SANCTUM COLIMUS:
HODIE STELLA MAGOS DUXIT AD PRAESEPIUM:
HODIE VINUM EX AQUA FACTUM EST AD NUPTIAS:
HODIE IN JORDANE A JOANNE CHRISTUS BAPTIZARI VOLUIT,
UT SALVARET NOS, ALLELUIA.

WE OBSERVE THIS HOLY DAY, ORNAMENTED WITH THREE MIRACLES:
TODAY A STAR LED THE MAGI TO THE MANGER;
TODAY WINE WAS MADE FROM WATER AT THE WEDDING;
TODAY IN THE JORDAN CHRIST DESIRED TO BE BAPTISED BY JOHN,
SO THAT HE MIGHT SAVE US, ALLELUIA.

John 2: 1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Sermon

A short address by Doreen Mills, Reader at St Mary's, Warwick

Intercession

Officiant In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

This response is used:

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

At the end:

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers

For the sake of your Son

our saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

AGAPE

Officiant In this Epiphany season Agape we celebrate that Jesus is God's incarnate Word who calls us to proclaim the good news of God's grace and glory. Therefore we acknowledge these symbols to remind us of Christ's promises to us:

A candle, to remind us of Jesus' words, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life". (John 8: 12)

Some food to remind us of Jesus' words to his disciples at the Last Supper: "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth." (John 16: 13)

A cup of wine or grape juice to remind us of our passage from John's Gospel, where we heard: 'Everyone serves the good wine first. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory'. (John 2: 10-11)

Let us pray:

Living and Risen Christ, we welcome your presence with us. May the food, drink and companionship we share nourish our bodies, hearts and minds. And may our spirits be refreshed. As we live in the light of your presence with us now, and at all times and places. **Amen.**

Sharing of Food and Drink

A portion of our food is eaten, followed by the sharing of the cup. If there are others present in your 'bubble' they can be passed from person to person, during which hear a recording of 'Bethlehem Down' (Words: Bruce Blunt; Music: Peter Warlock [1894-1930])

WHEN HE IS KING WE WILL GIVE HIM THE KING'S GIFTS,
MYRRH FOR ITS SWEETNESS, AND GOLD FOR A CROWN,
BEAUTIFUL ROBES", SAID THE YOUNG GIRL TO JOSEPH
FAIR WITH HER FIRST-BORN ON BETHLEHEM DOWN.

BETHLEHEM DOWN IS FULL OF THE STARLIGHT
WINDS FOR THE SPICES, AND STARS FOR THE GOLD,
MARY FOR SLEEP, AND FOR LULLABY MUSIC
SONGS OF A SHEPHERD BY BETHLEHEM FOLD.

WHEN HE IS KING THEY WILL CLOTHE HIM IN GRAVE-SHEETS,
MYRRH FOR EMBALMING, AND WOOD FOR A CROWN,
HE THAT LIES NOW IN THE WHITE ARMS OF MARY
SLEEPING SO LIGHTLY ON BETHLEHEM DOWN.

HERE HE HAS PEACE AND A SHORT WHILE FOR DREAMING,
CLOSE-HUDDLED OXEN TO KEEP HIM FROM COLD,
MARY FOR LOVE, AND FOR LULLABY MUSIC
SONGS OF A SHEPHERD BY BETHLEHEM FOLD.

Conclusion

Officiant As our Saviour has taught his followers, so we pray
All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on 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.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Hymn *Words: Robert Bridges; Tune: Binchester*

Cantor : Simon Stenner

**Happy are they, they that love God,
whose hearts have Christ confest,
who by his cross have found their life,
and 'neath his yoke their rest.**

**Glad is the praise, sweet are the songs,
when they together sing;
and strong the prayers that bow the ear
of heaven's eternal King.**

**Christ to their homes giveth his peace,
and makes their loves his own:
but ah, what tares the evil one
hath in his garden sown!**

**Sad were our lot, evil this earth,
did not its sorrows prove
the path whereby the sheep may find
the fold of Jesus' love.**

**Then shall they know, they that love him,
how all their pain is good;
and death itself cannot unbind
their happy brotherhood.**

Blessing

Officiant Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory
and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Officiant Live in the peace of the coming light of Christ!

All **Thanks be to God!**

Organ Voluntary

FUGUE (IN MEMORIAM MAURICE DURUFLÉ) JOHN SCOTT WHITELEY (B.1950)

Further information about St Mary's can be found on: www.stmaryswarwick.org.uk

Twitter [@StMarysWarwick](https://twitter.com/StMarysWarwick) and [@ChoirsofWarwick](https://twitter.com/ChoirsofWarwick)

Facebook [@StMarysWarwick](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysWarwick) and [@WarwicksChurchofTreasures](https://www.facebook.com/WarwicksChurchofTreasures)

YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/c/CollegiateChurchofStMaryWarwick>

Our weekly Newsletter can be downloaded here:

<http://www.stmaryswarwick.org.uk/index.php?/stmarysredesign/events#newsletter>

Our monthly Prayer Diary can be downloaded here:

<http://www.stmaryswarwick.org.uk/index.php?/stmarysredesign/worship#prayer>

If you would like to make a donation to support our ministry please use this QR code:



This service is drawn from *Lent, Holy Week, Easter: Services and Prayers* (CBF, Church of England, 1984, 1986); Words to hymns and anthems are reproduced under Christian Copyright Licence No. 58068