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| **THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY**24 January 2021 |
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*Light a candle as a symbol of Christ’s presence with you, and to remind us that we are praying as a church family.*

**HYMN** – sung by St Andrew’s Choir
**Of the Father's heart begotten**
ere the world from chaos rose,
he is Alpha: from that fountain,
all that is and hath been flows;
he is Omega, of all things
yet to come the mystic close,
evermore and evermore.

By his word was all created;
he commanded and 'twas done;
earth and sky and boundless ocean,
universe of three in one,
all that sees the moon's soft radiance,
all that breathes beneath the sun,
evermore and evermore.

Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;
angels and archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
let your joyous anthems ring,
every tongue his name confessing,
countless voices answering,
evermore and evermore.

**WELCOME** – Simon TaylorThe Lord be with you
**and also with you.**

**CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION** - led by Lucinda Howard

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.

Let us confess our sins.

**Most merciful God,**

**Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

**we confess that we have sinned**

**in thought, word and deed.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

**In your mercy**

**forgive what we have been,**

**help us to amend what we are,**

**and direct what we shall be;**

**that we may do justly,**

**love mercy,**

**and walk humbly with you, our God.**

**Amen**.May the God of love and power

Forgive us and free us from our sins,

heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,

and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**READING** – read by Alastair MacGregor

***Mark 8.34-9.1***
**34**Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. **35**For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. **36**What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?**37**Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? **38**If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.’

**9**And he said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.’

**SERMON** – Simon Taylor

**POEM** – read by Joan King

And even here I’ll sing, for day is dawning,
Although I know some of my deeds are dark.
The psalmist asks hard questions, and the yawning

Gap between my prayer and practice, work
And words, has been exposed in scripture’s light.
Where have I set my mind?  How do I shirk

The good work he has given me? The right
Way is always open, do I follow?
Or do I stop my ears? Or make some slight

Progress at a snail’s pace, my hollow
Protestations shown for what they are
Even as I make them? Come and hallow

My poor ground again, come and repair
The ruin of my efforts to do well,
The breach between my practice and my prayer.
*Malcolm Guite*

**ORGAN** – Erbarm dich mein, O Herre Gott, BWV721 – *J S Bach*

**PRAYERS** – led by Liz Brown

*During the prayers, this response will be used*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**COLLECT**

God of all mercy,

your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,

release to the captives,

and freedom to the oppressed:

anoint us with your Holy Spirit

and set all your people free

to praise you in Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**HYMN** – the Needle family

**He who would valiant be**
'gainst all disaster,
let him in constancy
follow the Master.
There's no discouragement
shall make him once relent
his first avowed intent
to be a pilgrim.

Who so beset him round
with dismal stories,
do but themselves confound -
his strength the more is.
No foes shall stay his might,
though he with giants fight;
he will make good his right
to be a pilgrim.

Since, Lord, thou dost defend
us with thy Spirit,
we know we at the end
shall life inherit.
Then, fancies, flee away!
I'll fear not what men say,
I'll labour night and day
to be a pilgrim.

**CONCLUSION**

Christ our Lord,

to whom kings bowed down in worship and offered gifts,

reveal to you his glory

and pour upon you the riches of his grace;

and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you
and remain with you always.

**Amen.**