



St Anne with Holy Trinity, Brondesbury

Confidently sharing the love of Christ

Readings and Notice Sheet **Sunday 10th January 2021** **Baptism of Jesus**

As we enter another national lockdown many of us will be worshipping at home. There are lots of options, but this service sheet provides prayers and readings for Sunday, alone with notices for the coming week.

The Collect

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the
Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as
your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your
Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



Reading from the Book of Genesis

Genesis 1 is a dance between divine desire and creative possibilities. God does not create from nothing, but rather from an untamed something that is formless and void (tohu va-vohu, in Hebrew). Together, this state of the “stuff” with which God has to work, is threatening. But God knows that to do with it. Creation is intentional and relational. The words rhyme as the poet who writes these words intends. It is poetry in motion, metaphorically and literally hovering, fluttering, shimmying in the presence of God .

Genesis 1: 1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Our Second reading from the letter to the Ephesians

Luke-Acts is a two-volume work by the same anonymous author, as in the case of other Gospels in the New Testament. For convenience, we will call the author of this two-volume work Luke. While the Gospel of Luke narrates the distinctive story of Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem, Acts tells the story of the early church from Jerusalem to Rome. Acts 19:1-7 falls within this long missionary journey of Paul (Acts 15:36-22:21). In this passage, we learn of Paul's concern about some disciples in Ephesus and how that concern was well communicated with them, step by step. The topic of this passage is the Spirit and baptism. In the following, we will study the context and message of this passage. (commentary provided by Melinda Quivik, Liturgical and Homiletical Scholar, St. Paul, Minnesota)

Acts 19: 1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—altogether there were about twelve of them.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel is today taken from Mark

When we look just at the Gospel reading for the Baptism of Our Lord, we do not see Jesus as fully as we see John the Baptist, his forerunner. Jesus remains a mystery while John stands before us in all the wildness of a life that shuns the interiors of buildings, eating what God provides in nature, speaking from the humility of a self that knows to whom it is indebted. We know what John wears; we are not told what Jesus wears. It is that clear of a difference. John, though peculiar according to our standards, is a fully human creature while Jesus—enigmatic, given to hearing a voice no one else hears—is identified in this scene in a way no one else has or will be known. In Jesus' baptism, as the Synoptic Gospels tell it, nature itself is upended. The heavens are "torn apart" (verse 10). All creation in the moment of Jesus' baptism is altered. Out of that rupture comes the Holy Spirit in a form that is described as a dove. That dove does not simply alight on Jesus, because in

the Greek, eis auton can be said to have come into him. He is infused with the Spirit from God. A new reality has come into the world, transforming all things including the seen (the heavens and a dove) and the unseen (a voice).

Mark 1: 4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

This is the Gospel of our Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Take some time to reflect on the readings set for today—what might they be saying to you? What might they be saying to us as a community?

Intercessions

Jesus calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.
Washed clean by the waters of baptism,
let us pray that we may live the life to which he has called us.

Lord Jesus, eternal Word,
proclaimed as the Christ by John the forerunner,
hear us as we pray for all who proclaim your word,
we pray for preachers and prophets of our own time
We pray for Bishops Sarah and Pete and all who lead us in these
challenging times...

(allow moment of silence)

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, baptizing with the Spirit and with fire,
strengthen all who face trials at this time.
For those who live with the inhumanity of war and violence,
for all who love for a voice of peace in the wilderness.
Strengthen all who bring hope.

(allow moment of silence)

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, bringing forgiveness to all who repent,
teach your Church dependence on your grace.
Guide us in these times of struggle, and give to all who need it
strength in the face of the pandemic.

(allow moment of silence)

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, fulfilment of the promises of old,
give hope to all who suffer or are ignored,
be with those who are isolated and marginalised
all who are homeless and afraid
all who seek comfort at this time.

(allow moment of silence)

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, beloved Son of the Father,
anoint us with the gifts of your Holy Spirit
bring healing and grace, love and comfort to all in need.
We particularly pray for Peter, Pearl, Yvonne, Rute, Patience, Ron, Evelyn,
Linda, John, Josephine, John, Cecilia and Ruth....

(allow moment of silence)

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, bringer of hope,
share with all the faithful the riches of eternal life as we remember Mifley
and Ann, and all who have died recently as well as those whose
anniversaries fall at this time including Bert Gotobed, Joseph Lyon and
James Dunn...

Rest Eternal, Grant unto them O Lord

And may light perpetual shine upon them.

May they rest in peace
And rise in Glory

Lord Jesus Christ,
in you the Father makes us and all things new.
Transform the poverty of our nature
by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory as we pray in the words you taught us:

**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**

Notices

A Huge Thank you

Thank you to everyone who has assisted during Advent and Christmas from the little things, to the big things. The help we needed this year on many occasions was quite different, and most of it unseen—so thank you! Thank you for your generosity and care. Thank you too for all who contributed to our charities and support others in

their streets and networks with a hot meal on Christmas Day!!! You are amazing.

A personal Thank you from me (Mother Christine) too for the kind cards and gifts I was overwhelmed by your kindness, both over Christmas and while I was unwell.

Response to National Lockdown January 2021

As you may know, the lockdown regulations allow for places of worship to open where the local community feels that it is safe to do so. The St Anne's PCC met last night to consider what we felt was best for our community. We reflected not only on what might be legal; but the plea from our

community leaders to stay home as much as possible; and also the feedback from members of our congregation who work in frontline services. We also reviewed the guidance from the Church of England.

We have therefore decided to **close St Anne's for in-person services**. Instead we will be offering services online via Zoom, as well as other ways to connect with each.

We are committed to the 'Stay at Home' message and the need to stop the spread of the virus. We acknowledge and share the sadness many are feeling at not being able to meet together as we would usually do at the moment. We are committed to praying for an end to the pandemic, and look forward to better times ahead.

We will not be opening the Church at all, but if you need someone to speak to, or prayer with, please contact Mo C either by email or phone and she can arrange to see you safely in person; or talk with you over the phone or Zoom.

We also are aware that with winter this is an even more of a challenging time. If you would like to be part of a small group of others from church who speak regularly, and support one another, do be in touch and we will set this up.

St Anne's and St Andrew's will remain closed to all groups. The Nursery may be open and is following the Early Years Guidance. We had one other exempt activity which took place on Friday 8th, but from then on the building will remain closed.

News from Laurence's Larder and Sufra

Laurence's Larder will remain open on a Thursday for a takeaway - though they are currently not cooking on site. Guest will get food to takeaway however. Donations can be left in the green box by Mo C's front door, or at the Larder on a Thursday Morning. Please see their website : **<https://www.laurenceslarder.org.uk>**

We are also sharing our food donations with Sufra. You can read all about what they are doing during this period on their website <https://www.sufra-nwlondon.org.uk/> They are also looking for extra volunteer drivers.

Be part of the **NHS Volunteer Responder scheme**. This allows you to volunteer from home. They really need more! See <https://nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk/> **We have some wonderful volunteers from St Anne's supporting both Laurence's Larder and Sufra.**

We are also looking to set up a 'phone call' network within St Anne's, to help us to support one another. If you would like to be involved in this please let Mo C know.

Also, if you need assistance getting to an appointment, or you need things off, we have some drivers who are willing to help.

Daily Hope 24hour phonenumber

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044**.



For our prayers Bill, Peter, Pearl, Yvonne, Rute, Patience, Ron, Evelyn, Linda, John, Josephine, John, Cecilia and Ruth and for those who have died recently including Ann and Mifley; and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time including Bert Gotobed, Joseph Lyon and James Dunn.

Services this coming week starting 10th January 2021

Monday 11th—2pm Christian Contemplation on Zoom

Tuesday 12th—8.30am Morning Prayer on Zoom

Thursday 14th— 8.30am Morning Prayer on Zoom

Friday 15th — 3pm Afternoon Coffee Chat Zoom Room

Sunday 17th January—2nd of Epiphany

8.30am—Morning Prayer on Zoom

9am—Thought for the Day on Facebook

9.30am— Morning Service on Zoom

5pm—Service for the day on Zoom

REARRANGING MY BOOKSHELVES

