



# St Anne with Holy Trinity, Brondesbury

*Confidently sharing the love of Christ*

## **Readings and Notice Sheet** **Sunday 24th January 2021** **Third Sunday after Epiphany**

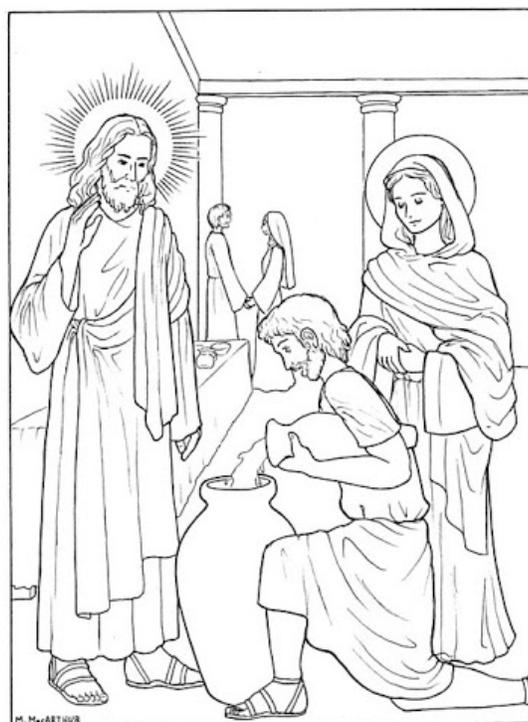
**As we continue in lockdown we find ways to worship in many different ways. There are lots of options, but this service sheet provides prayers and readings for Sunday, alone with notices for the coming week.**

### ***The 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.**

### **A note on the readings for the Third Sunday after Epiphany**

*Today's readings vary in the Church of England to the Revised Common Lectionary as we continue to observe epiphany. On the third Sunday we hear the gospel reading of the Wedding at Cana, and as such we are invited to once again consider those manifestations which help us recognise Emmanuel—God with us.*



### **Reading from the Book of Genesis**

*This obscure reading from Genesis seems almost out of place—but gives context to the image of Christ as the great High Priest—in the order of Melchizedek! One thing that makes Melchizedek unique was he was both a king and a priest. History shows that it is often dangerous to combine religious and civic authority. God forbade the kings of Israel to be priests and the priests to be kings. Melchizedek was an exception. Melchizedek is an example of a worshipper of the true God, even a priest of God Most High yet not related to Abram or other known covenant people of God. Melchizedek served Abram bread and wine. Perhaps he even served them in a manner as*

*the bread and wine of Passover and Holy Communion— how it takes place is unknown! Melchizedek, as priest, did two things. He blessed Abram and he blessed God. Melchizedek showed that a priest must connect with both God and humanity and has a ministry to both.*

**Genesis 14: 17-20**

After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. He blessed him and said, 'Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!' And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

***Our Second reading from the Revelation of John***

*As with our first reading this passage from the visions of the apocalypse in Revelation try to help us see the fullness of the vision of Jesus. Once again John finds his inspiration in the words of Scripture. In his mind are two things. First, he is remembering Psalms 97:1 : "The Lord reigns; let the earth rejoice." Second, he says: "Let us rejoice and exult." There is only one other place in the New Testament where these two verbs (chairein and agallian) come together-- in Jesus Christ's promise to the persecuted: "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven" (Matthew 5:12).*

*The thought of the relationship between God and his people as a marriage goes far back into the Old Testament. Again and again the prophets thought of Israel as the chosen bride of God. In this context it is believed to represent the intimate and indissoluble communion of Christ with the community .*

**Revelation 19: 6-10**

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out, 'Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready; to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure'—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are true words of God.' Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, 'You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

***The Gospel is today taken from John***

*John 2: 1-11 is the first recorded miracle of Jesus ministry as water is turned into wine at the wedding in Cana. What does it, and the other readings we have heard through Epiphany, reveal about who Jesus is and what Jesus will do? We should remember that the miracles Jesus performs in the Fourth Gospel are never called miracles but signs. In other words, the miracle itself is not really what we are supposed to see, as miraculous as it is.*

*True, water into wine would be quite something, especially on a Sunday afternoon. Rather, the miracles point to a truer revelation about Jesus. This could be an important way to move through the season of Epiphany. Revelation for revelation's sake is really not the point. What deeper reality is Jesus revealing? What are we supposed to see about Jesus?*

*They are good questions to consider as we prepare for Candlemas next Sunday. What difference does the revelation, the ministry, the incarnation of God amongst make to our lives? How does our faith in Christ anchor our days—in good times and in bad? What do we hold onto.*

*Each Sunday we come to the table and share in the Eucharist together. It is an act which we share as a community, and hopefully grounds our week. It is a moment in which Jesus is revealed to us afresh each week. As Epiphany draws to a close, may we be challenged to consider how we 'hold onto' what we have learnt in faith.*

**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.

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**

You call us to the banquet of your Kingdom  
Where all are welcome, and none are thirsty  
Gracious God, may your church welcome  
all in our community, and bring hope to those who are lost.  
Help us to be a community which serves you and each other.  
We pray for Bishops Sarah and Pete and all who inspire us...

*(allow moment of silence)*

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

You have called us to be a temple  
where the Holy Spirit can dwell.  
Help us to reflect you light and hope in the world around us.  
Heal the divisions of the nations,  
as we pray for all places where there are transitions of power;  
Guide us to care for all your creation,  
and to be good stewards of your earth.

*(allow moment of silence)*

Lord, in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

You have called us to be a light to the world,  
so that those in darkness come to you.  
May our lives shine as a witness  
to the grace you have given for all.  
Bring comfort and support to all those who live in pain.  
Guide us in these times of struggle,  
and give to all who need it  
strength in the face of the pandemic.  
For those who work in frontline services,  
for those who are isolated and afraid, and for all who despair.

*(allow moment of silence)*

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

You have called us to be members of your body,  
so that when one suffers, all suffer together.  
We ask for your comfort and healing power  
to bring hope to those in distress.

We particularly pray for Isobel, Piers, Bill, Peter, Pearl, Yvonne, Rute, Ron,  
Evelyn, Josephine, John, Cecilia and Ruth....

*(allow moment of silence)*

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

You have called us to be the Bride,  
where you, Lord, are the Bridegroom.

Prepare us for the wedding feast,  
where we will be united with you for ever.

We pray for all who have died recently including Derrick Bone as well as  
those whose anniversaries fall at this time including Albert Laurencin,  
Charles and Bellina Gabe, Anne Crawford, Ralph Keckwick, Ferry  
Hillman, Geoffrey Killick and Fr Derek New..... *Allow a moment to reflect*

Rest Eternal, Grant unto them O Lord

**And may light perpetual shine upon them.**

May they rest in peace

**And rise in Glory**

Empower us by your Spirit and unite us in your Son,  
that all our joy and delight may be to serve you  
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

### **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.**  
**The building will remain closed.**

In a longer statement Bishop Sarah made following request:

*"I would urge everyone in our churches to pray for those on the front line in our public services - the NHS and those working in social care, for schools and many others on whom we depend; and for parents and carers of children at this anxious and stressful time.*

*"There is hope. The vaccination programme is underway and, as Christians, we have a deeper hope in God that comforts us beyond fear itself. As we have been remembering this Christmas Season, even in the midst of our darkest fears, that hope brings light."*



### **Prayer Window**

We are once again creating window of prayers in the rotunda at the front of the church. If you would like to contribute a prayer, either drop in through the letter box at the church or vicarage—postcard size or smaller is best. (*current prayers are on heart shapes, but any shape is fine*) **OR** email you prayer request to Mo C and she will ensure that it is added to the window.

### **Confirmation Classes**

All being well Bishop Pete will join us on Sunday 18th April for a service of confirmation. If you would be interested in being confirmed at this time please speak with Mo C. Classes or conversations for Adults and Young people are on offer starting in late February. In the first instance these will take place on Zoom.

### **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—food is being distributed. 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/> **We have some wonderful volunteers from St Anne's supporting both Laurence's Larder and Sufra.**

**If you need assistance getting to an appointment, or you need things dropped 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** Isobel, Piers, Bill, Peter, Pearl, Yvonne, Rute, Ron, Evelyn, Josephine, John, Cecilia and Ruth; and for those who have died recently including Derrick Bone and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time including Albert Laurencin, Albert Laurencin, Charles and Bellina Gabe, Anne Crawford, Ralph Keckwick, Ferry Hillman, Geoffrey Killick and Fr Derek New.

**Services this coming week starting 24th January 2021**

**Monday 25th—2pm** Christian Contemplation on Zoom

**Tuesday 26th—8.30am** Morning Prayer on Zoom

**Thursday 28th— 8.30am** Morning Prayer on Zoom

**Friday 29th — 10am** Coffee Chat Zoom Room

**Sunday 31st January— Candlemas**

**9am** —Morning Prayer on Zoom

**9am**—Thought for the Day on Facebook

**10am** — Morning Service on Zoom hosted by Christ Church

**5pm**—Service for the day on Zoom

# THE WEDDING AT CANA

CAN YOU SPOT THE 20 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THESE TWO PICTURES?

