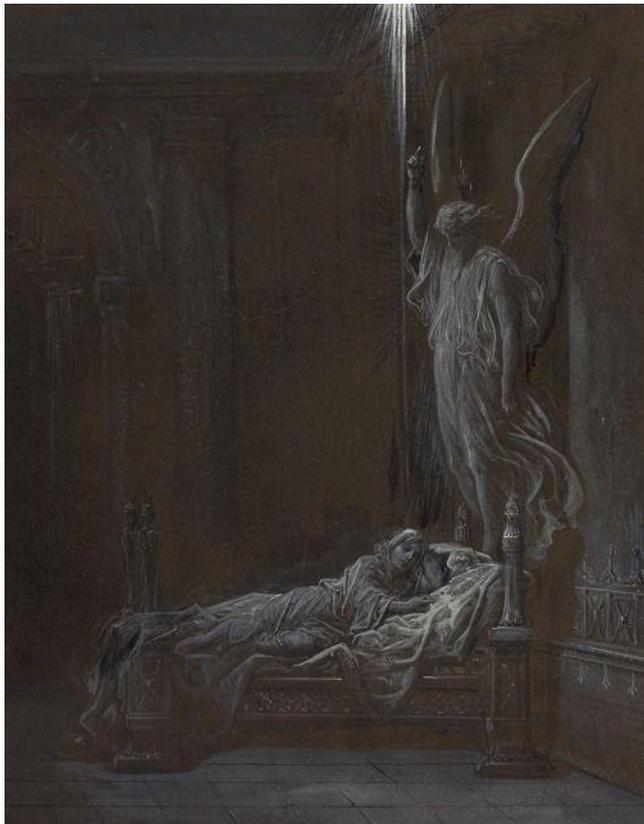


# The Churches of the Parish of Berkswich

*in the Church of England Diocese of Lichfield*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany 2021 Live-streamed Eucharist with hymns sung at home



*The Calling of Samuel by Gustave Doré*

*Today we especially rejoice to be gathered not only at home but also in one of our church buildings.*

*Please note that current guidance does not permit the singing in the church building – those at home, please sing loudly for those in the church building who can't (you will still be muted!).*

### The gathering

*On this Second Sunday of Epiphany, we rejoice that God has revealed himself in Jesus, who raises our humanity to the gates of heaven.*

Rise and hear! The Lord is speaking,  
as the gospel words unfold;  
we, in all our agelong seeking,  
find no firmer truth to hold.

Word of goodness, truth, and beauty,  
heard by simple folk and wise,  
word of freedom, word of duty,  
word of life beyond our eyes.

Word of God's forgiveness granted  
to the wild or guilty soul,  
word of love that works undaunted,  
changes, heals, and makes us whole.

Speak to us, O Lord, believing,  
as we hear, the sower sows;  
may our hearts, your word receiving,  
be the good ground where it grows.

*Howard Charles Adie Gaunt (1902-1983)*

### The greeting

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and  
of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

The Lord of glory be with you.  
**And also with you**

### Act of penitence

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.

*Silence is kept*

When we blame God for trouble  
we bring upon ourselves:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

When we are too sure  
that we are right and others wrong:  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

When we allow our weaknesses  
to suffocate our strengths:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

## Words of Forgiveness

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.

## Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## The Collect for the day

Let us pray

*Silence is kept*

Almighty God, in Christ you make 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; 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.

## The liturgy of the word

**First reading 1 Samuel 3: 1-20**  
**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

*Samuel was only a boy, and did not yet know God, but he was called by name to serve the Lord: God does not always choose the most obvious candidates.*

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.' Then the Lord said to Samuel, 'See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering for ever.' Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, 'Samuel, my son.' He said, 'Here I am.' Eli said, 'What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.' So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, 'It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him.' As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.

And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel reading**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John ✠  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*1:43-end*

*Despite Nathanael's prejudice against his background, Jesus already knew this honest man had the potential to be a disciple*

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Homily**

#### **Affirmation of faith**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,**

**of all that is,  
seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

*If possible, kneel (or bow your head) at the following three lines as we honour the Incarnation – God stooping to earth to become human.*

**For us and for our salvation he came down  
from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy  
Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius  
Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living  
and the dead, and his kingdom will have no  
end. We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from  
the Father and the Son, who with the Father  
and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic  
Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the  
forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Before a word is on our lips, our God has known our needs. And yet our prayers are welcomed for God longs to hear our voice. Let us pray for the Church, for the world and for ourselves.

*At the end of each bidding the following response is used*

faithful God  
**glorify your name.**

*And at the end*

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Joseph, St Thomas, St Chad, and all the angels and saints, we commend ourselves and the whole creation to God's unfailing love as we pray

**Hear these prayers, Lord, our hope and salvation, and answer them according to your perfect will. Amen.**

## The liturgy of the sacrament

### The Peace

As disciples of Christ we are promised his peace, the peace that comes from knowing we are loved and valued by God.

The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

### Offertory Prayer

Lord, accept your people's gifts, not gold, frankincense or myrrh, but hearts and voices raised in praise of Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation. **Amen**

### The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here  
**His spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God, through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord: for at this time we celebrate your glory made present in our midst. In the coming of the magi the King of all the world was revealed to the nations. In the waters of baptism Jesus was revealed as the Christ, the Saviour sent to

redeem us. In the water made wine the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast. Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy. Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

✠ **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine ✠ may be to us his body and his blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you;

this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**(sung) O come, let us adore him,**

**O come, let us adore him,**

**O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty,

renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Joseph her husband, St Thomas, St Chad, all the faithful departed and with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you. Father almighty, with songs of everlasting praise:

**(sung) O come, let us...**

**Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Believing the promises of God, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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 for ever.**

**Amen.**

### **Breaking of the bread**

*The priest breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

### **An act of Spiritual Communion**

*Those at home, as they look on to the consecrated elements - the Body and Blood of Our Lord present in the Bread and Wine, are invited to say these words*

**In union, dear Father, with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist, hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood, I offer you praise and thanksgiving. Even though I am exiled from tasting**

**the Bread of Heaven and drinking the Cup of Life I pray that you will unite me with all the baptised and with your Son who gave his life for us.**

**Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me and send your Holy Spirit that I may be filled with your presence.**

*Those in church are invited to receive communion in one kind only. When you remove your mask, please ensure you wash your hands before and after receiving. Please do not say Amen when the host is given to you. As people in church receive, an organ voluntary will play.*

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

### **Prayer after communion**

God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **The dismissal**

**Will you come and follow Me  
If I but call your name  
Will you go where you don't know  
And never be the same  
Will you let My love be shown  
Will you let My name be known  
Will you let My life be grown  
In you and you in Me**

**Will you leave yourself behind  
If I but call your name  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
And never be the same  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
Should your life attract or scare  
Will you let Me answer prayer  
In you and you in Me**

Will you let the blinded see  
If I but call your name  
Will you set the prisoners free  
And never be the same  
Will you kiss the leper clean  
And do such as this unseen  
And admit to what I mean  
In you and you in Me

Will you love the you you hide  
If I but call your name  
Will you quell the fear inside  
And never be the same  
Will you use the faith you've found  
To reshape the world around  
Through My sight and touch and sound  
In you and you in Me

Lord Your summons echoes true  
When You but call my name  
Let me turn and follow You  
And never be the same  
In Your company I'll go  
Where Your love and footsteps show  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
In You and You in me

*John L Bell (b.1949)*

The Lord be with you  
and also with you.

May God the Father, who led the wise men by  
the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light  
from Light, lead you also in your pilgrimage to  
find the Lord. **Amen.**

May God the Son, who turned water into wine at  
the wedding feast at Cana, transform your lives  
and make glad your hearts. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit, who came upon the  
beloved Son at his baptism in the river Jordan,  
pour out his gifts on you who have come to the  
waters of new birth. **Amen.**

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

I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the  
earth.

*Isaiah 49:6*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Equipped to go out into our world, we leave in  
silence*

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