



Candlemas is this Tuesday.

The light welcomes us to worship.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

4TH Sunday of Epiphany

January 31st 2021

‘I have called you by name, you are mine’

Isaiah 43; v 1

THEME

‘When you’re between a rock and a hard place’.

Let us pray together

God of every good gift

We come to worship today seeking many things.

Some of us are seeking peace,

Some are seeking healing,

Some are seeking answers

And others are looking for the right questions.

We trust you, that you will give us what we need; food for our deepest hunger .

Amen

(Carol Penner, leading worship)

Introduction

We hear two readings. Through Isaiah God re-assure us of his care for us because we belong to him.

Mark tells us how Jesus started his ministry teaching and healing, to the amazement of all present in the Synagogue.

Hymn ‘Meekness and Majesty’

Meekness and majesty,

Manhood and Deity,

In perfect harmony, the Man who is God

Lord of eternity dwells in humanity,

Kneels in humility and washes our feet.

Chorus- **O what a mystery, meekness and majesty,**

Bow down and worship for this is our God

This is our God.

Father’s pure radiance

Perfect in innocence

Yet learns obedience to death on the cross.

Suff’ring to give us life,

Conqu’ring through sacrifice

And as they crucify, prays ‘Father forgive’.

Chorus

Wisdom unsearchable,

God the invisible

Love indestructible in frailty appears

Lord of infinity, stooping so tenderly,

Lifts our humanity to the heights of his throne.

Chorus

Invitation to confession

Let us be still before the Lord.

Rest quietly in his presence.

Let us bring before the Lord

The words which have hurt, and those
unsaid.

The anger we have felt and resentment
we have fed.

Let us be still before the Lord.

Rest quietly in his presence.

The Lord is slow to anger,

Willing to forgive.

Draw near to him.

Confession

**When we have failed to recognise your
love, in the actions of a friend or
stranger.**

Forgive us

**When we have failed to recognise your
presence, in the world in which we live,**

Forgive us

**When we have failed to remember your
Gospel in our actions, thoughts and
words**

Forgive us.

Renew our hearts in worship,

Our minds in wisdom,

And our hands in service.

**Take our lives and use them as a
sacrifice of love.**

Amen

Absolution

The Lord enrich us with his grace and
nourish us with his blessing. The Lord
defend us in trouble and keep us from all
evil; the Lord accept our prayers and
absolve us from our offences, for the sake
of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen

Collect

God in heaven

**You send the Gospel to the ends of the
earth and your messengers to every
nation. Send your Holy Spirit to
transform us by the Good News of
everlasting life in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen

Liturgy of the Word.

Isaiah 43; 1 – 7 (from the Message)

**When you're between a rock and a hard
place**

But now, God's message, the God who
made you in the first place, Jacob,

The one who got you started, Israel;

Don't be afraid, I've redeemed you.

I've called your name. You're mine.

When you're in over your head, I'll be
there with you.

When you're in rough waters, you will not
drown.

When you're between a rock and a hard
place, it can't be a dead end –

Because I am God, your personal God,

The Holy of Israel, your saviour.

I paid a huge price for you:

All of Egypt, with rich Cush and Sheba
thrown in!

That's how much you mean to me!

That's how much I love you!

I'd sell off the whole world to get you back

Trade the creation just for you.

'So don't be afraid; I'm with you.

I'll round up all your scattered children,

Pull them from the east and west,

I'll send orders north and south

Bring them back.

Return my sons from distant lands

My daughters from far away places.

I want them back, every last one who
bears my name, every man, woman and
child, whom I created for my Glory.

Yes, personally formed and made each
one'.

For the Word of God in scripture,

For the word of God among us

For the word of God within us

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ
according to Mark

Glory to you O God.

Mark 1 ;21 – 28 (NIV)

They went to Capernaum, and when the
Sabbath came, Jesus entered the
Synagogue and taught. They were

astonished at his teaching for he taught
them as one having authority and not as
the scribes.

Just then there was in their synagogue a
man with an unclean spirit and he cried
out

'What have you to do with us, Jesus of
Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I
know who you are, the holy one of God'

But Jesus rebuked him and the unclean
spirit, throwing him into convulsions and
crying out with a loud voice, came out of
him.

They were all amazed, and they kept
asking one another, ' What is this? A new
teaching with authority? He commands
even the unclean spirits and they obey
him'.

At once his fame began to spread
throughout the surrounding region of
Galilee.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ.

Hymn 'O let the Son of God'

O let the Son of God enfold you

With his Spirit and his love

**Let him fill your heart and satisfy your
soul**

**O let him have the things that hold you
and his Spirit like a dove will**

**descend upon your life and make you
whole.**

Chorus

Jesus O Jesus

Come and fill your lambs

Jesus O Jesus

Come and fill your lambs

O come and sing this song with gladness

As your hearts are filled with joy

Lift your hands in sweet surrender to his name

O give him all your tears and sadness,

Give him all your years of pain,

And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name

Chorus

Sermon

Poem / reflection

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our Faith in God

We believe in God the Father

From whom every family

In heaven and earth is named

We believe in God. The Son,

Who lives in our hearts through faith,

And fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit

Who strengthens us from on high.

We believe in One God;

Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Amen.

Prayers

Lord in your mercy

Response;

Hear our prayer

The Lord's prayer

As our Father 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 forever, Amen.

News and sending

Hymn 'Great is thy faithfulness'

Great is thy faithfulness,

O God my Father

There is no shadow of turning with thee;

Thou changest not,

Thy compassions, they fail not;

As thou hast been

Thou forever will be

Chorus

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning

New mercies I see;

All I have needed

Thy hand has provided

Great is thy faithfulness

Lord, unto me.

Summer and winter,

And springtime and harvest

Sun, moon and stars

In their courses above

Join with all nature

In manifold witness

To thy great faithfulness

Mercy and love

Chorus

Pardon for sin

And a peace that endureth,

Thine own dear presence

To cheer and to guide

Strength for today

And bright hope for tomorrow

Blessings all mine

With ten thousand beside

Chorus

Prayer for our peace

Dear Lord, our Father, thank you

That we can find rest in your arms.

**Help us to balance the busyness of our
lives with the peace that only you can
give us.**

**Help us to enjoy the quietness of time
with you,**

Even when life gets noisy and manic

Around us.

**Let us stay rested in your arms, your
children seated in the embrace of their
Father.**

Amen.

Blessing

Go and know that the Lord goes with you

Let him lead you each day into a quiet
place of your heart where the Lord will
speak with you.

Know that he loves you, that he watches
over you and that he is with you always.

(Angela Ashwin , Woven into prayer)

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Methodist church, ministries, vocations and
worship

Hymn 1 Graham Kendrick

Hymn 2 John Wimber 1979 Mercy, Vineyard
publishing

Hymn 3 Thomas Obidiah Chisholm 1923 Hope
publishing

