



Candlemas is this Tuesday.

The light welcomes us to worship.

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

4<sup>TH</sup> Sunday of Epiphany

January 31<sup>st</sup> 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

