



SERVICE ORDER
Sunday, 12th February
Sixth Sunday After Epiphany



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

**Lord, in your kindness
listen to the prayers of your people.
Have mercy on us who are justly punished for our sins,
and save us, for the glory of your name.
We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever..
Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCE: DEUTERONOMY 30:19-20

*Choose life! Be completely faithful
to the Lord your god, love him, and Do whatever he tells you.*

**Choose life! Be completely faithful
to the Lord your god, love him, and Do whatever he tells you.**

INVOCATION

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

MY FAITH LOOKS UP

**My faith looks up to see the Lamb of Calvary,
my Saviour, Lord. O hear me while I pray;
take all my guilt away; and let me from this day be wholly Yours.**

**May Your rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart,
my faith inspire; as You have died for me,
may my love also be pure, burning endlessly, a living fire.**

**While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread,
Lord, be my guide; make darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away, don't let me ever stray or leave Your side.**

**When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold sullen stream
rolls over me, blest Saviour, then in love
fear and distrust remove; and take me safe above, redeemed and free.**

Ray Palmer 1808-87, alt.

CONFESSION

*Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins,
and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.*

**Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to You all
my sins, and repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased You
and deserve Your punishment in time and in eternity. But I am sorry for my
sins, and I ask You, for the sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death of
Your dear Son Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me. Amen.**

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His
only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who
believe in His name He has given the right to become children of God, and has
given them His Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved.*

Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.

PSALM 119:1-8

¹ *Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,
who walk according to the law of the LORD.*

² *Blessed are those who keep his statutes
and seek him with all their heart –*

³ *they do no wrong but follow his ways.*

⁴ *You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed.*

⁵ *Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees!*

⁶ *Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all your commands.*

⁷ *I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws.*

⁸ *I will obey your decrees; do not utterly forsake me.*

Happy are those who keep his decrees.

**Glory to the Father and the Son
and the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever.**

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray for obedience to God.

[silence]

**Thank you, Jesus our Saviour,
for keeping God's law perfectly for us.
Teach us through your Spirit to follow you
and fulfil the law by a life of love.**

**For you live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

BIBLE READING

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20 The two ways- life or death (NIVUK)

¹⁵ See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. ¹⁶ For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, ¹⁸ I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live ²⁰ and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

After the reading

This is the Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Divisions in the Corinthian church (NIVUK)

³ Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly – mere infants in Christ. ² I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. ³ You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? ⁴ For when one says, ‘I follow Paul,’ and another, ‘I follow Apollos,’ are you not mere human beings? ⁵ What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe – as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶ I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷ So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸ The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded

according to their own labour. ⁹ For we are fellow workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

After the reading
This is the Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Choose life
so that you and your descendants may live.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:21-37 Jesus' radical teaching of the law (NIVUK)

Before the reading
Glory be to You, O LORD.

²¹ 'You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, "You shall not murder,^[a] and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment." ²² But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister^{[b][c]} will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, "Raca,"^[d] is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, "You fool!" will be in danger of the fire of hell. ²³ 'Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.²⁵ 'Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.²⁷ 'You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery."^[e] ²⁸ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and

throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.³¹ 'It has been said, "Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce."^[f]³² But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.³³ 'Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, "Do not break your oath, but fulfil to the Lord the oaths you have made."³⁴ But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne;³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King.³⁶ And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black.³⁷ All you need to say is simply "Yes," or "No"; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.^[g]

After the reading

This is the gospel of the LORD.

Praise be to You, O Christ.

**Lord Jesus, thank you for your obedience
to your heavenly Father.**

**Give us your righteousness,
so that we may truly obey God's laws.**

Amen.

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

**born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,
from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

GIVE US HEARTS TO KNOW YOU, LORD

**Give us hearts to know you, Lord, to know who you are.
We will be your people, and you our God, and you our God.**

**Give us hearts to love you, Lord, to love who you are.
We will be your people, and you our God, and you our God.**

**Give us hearts to bless you, Lord, to bless who you are.
We will be your people, and you our God, and you our God.**

**Give us hearts to serve you, Lord, to serve who you are.
We will be your people, and you our God, and you our God.**

**Give us hearts to praise you, Lord, to praise who you are.
We will be your people, and you our God, and you our God.**

**Give us hearts to worship, Lord, to worship who you are.
We will be your people, and you our God, and you our God.**

**Words and music: Annette Fechner
1995 Annette Fechner, 18 Pinewood Drive, Mt Waverley Vic 3149**

SERMON

**At this point you may wish to Listen to Sermon,
or Read and Discuss the Sermon**

For Church YouTube Channel ([click here](#))

The Sermon online may be different to the manuscript.

For LCA Worship Resources ([click here](#))

ANCIENT OF DAYS - CityAlight

**Though the nations rage, kingdoms rise and fall,
there is still one King reigning over all.
So I will not fear for this truth remains
that my God is the Ancient of Days.**

**None above Him, none before Him,
all of time in His hands.**

**For His throne it shall remain and ever stand.
All the power, all the glory; I will trust in His name.
For my God is, the Ancient of Days.**

**Though the dread of night overwhelms my soul;
He is here with me, I am not alone.
O His love is sure, and He knows my name;
for my God is, the Ancient of Days.**

**None above Him, none before Him,
all of time in His hands.**

**For His throne it shall remain and ever stand.
All the power, all the glory; I will trust in His name.
For my God is, the Ancient of Days.**

**Though I may not see what the future brings,
I will watch and wait for the Saviour King.
Then my joy complete, standing face to face
in the presence of the Ancient of Days.**

**None above Him, none before Him,
all of time in His hands.**

**For His throne it shall remain and ever stand.
All the power, all the glory; I will trust in His name.
For my God is, the Ancient of Days.
For my God is, the Ancient of Days.**

OFFERING PRAYER

*Lord our God,
we thank you for making us yours.
Teach us to live as your holy people,
obeying your commands in our hearts,
and giving ourselves
in loving service to others.
Amen.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Jesus says to his followers: 'You are light for the world. Let your light shine before others.' So let us bring to our heavenly Father the needs of all people in prayer.

We praise you, holy God, that you have brought us safely to the beginning of this day. Be with us today, keep us from all evil and forgive us when we do not fear, love or trust you as we ought.

Holy God: **hear our prayer.**

All creation rightly praises you: keep your church in true faith, in godly worship, and in the joy of your Son's resurrection. Help us to obey your laws from our hearts. Grant that we may shine with your light before others.

Holy God: **hear our prayer.**

Thank you for the peace that passes all understanding. Bring your peace to those who live in conflict and help us to forgive each other. Help all people to recognise their need for forgiveness and to turn to you and be saved. Be with our leaders and give them the ability and desire to promote justice and peace.

Holy God: **hear our prayer.**

You are the God of all comfort: console those who weep or grieve, and those who are sick in mind, body and spirit. Show them your compassion in the face of Christ.

Holy God: **hear our prayer.**

Lord, when we cry for help, you listen to us. Hear our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

BLESSING

Let us bless the LORD.

God be praised forevermore.

The LORD bless us and keep us.

The LORD make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.

The LORD look upon us with favour, and give us peace.

Amen!

GROWING FAITH AT HOME BLESSING

May you be filled with love for Jesus and listen to his voice.

May you be filled with love for Jesus and listen to his voice..

WORDS OF SENDING

*Go in peace,
for you are God's field, God's building.*

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Jesus, stand among us

**Jesus stand among us at the meeting of our lives.
Be our sweet agreement at the meeting of our eyes:
O Jesus, we love You so we gather here;
join our hearts in unity and take away our fear.**

**So to You we're gath'ring out of each and ev'ry land
Christ the love between us at the joining of our hands:
O Jesus, we love You so we gather here;
join our hearts in unity and take away our fear.**

**Jesus stand among us at the breaking of the bread;
join us as one body as we worship You, our head:
O Jesus, we love You so we gather here;
join our hearts in unity and take away our fear.**

Graham Kendrick Copyright © 1977 Make Way Music Used by permission CCLI #175879

HYMNS AND SONGS

First reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

LHS

- 337 God, from all eternity* (*alt tune* 276, G5)
- 339 Praise to Thee and adoration* G4
- 358 Renew me, O eternal Light* G3
- 359 Thee will I love, my strength, my treasure* G6
- 368 My faith looks up to Thee*
- 381 O God our Father, throned on high (*alt tune* 391, G9)

786 In faith and hope and love GS
862 As we step from the edge of morning GS
877 Trust and obey GS

AT

1 Lord of our days
101 Jesus, please watch over us
112 From heav'n the Lord looks down
225 Why do you love me?
254 I give you my joys and sorrows
357 Give us hearts to know you, Lord

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

LHS

185 Sun of righteousness divine* G3
188 Built on a rock the Church doth stand* G4
193 Jesus, with Thy church abide* G9
197 Lord, keep us steadfast in Thy word* G5
267 Almighty God, Thy word is cast* G6
800 May we be one GS

AT

172 May we be one

Gospel: Matthew 5:21-37

LHS

337 God, from all eternity* (*alt tune* 276, G5)
355 May we Thy precepts, Lord, fulfil* G3
357 O God, Thou faithful God* G3
610 Do no sinful action
803 Peace with the Father, peace with Christ his Son G7

AT

332 We are sorry