



## 24<sup>th</sup> January 2021

### Third Sunday of Epiphany: God's Kingdom Revealed in Signs and Wonders

#### *WE WELCOME GOD'S PRESENCE*

*For the truth that Jesus revealed is what inspired the prophets. (Revelation 19.10)*

*O Lord, open our lips:*

**and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

*The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;  
let us pray with one heart and mind.*

**Faithful One, Your Word is life:  
come with saving power  
to free our praise,  
inspire our prayer  
and shape our lives  
for the kingdom of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### HYMN 1

*All Hail the Power of Jesus Name*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vojsbicG9M>

*All Hail... (Gettys)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2mkjSnphsw>

#### COLLECT

**Almighty God,  
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles  
the wonder of your saving presence:  
renew your people with your heavenly grace,  
and in all our weakness  
sustain us by your mighty power;  
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**

#### CONFESSION

*Come, let us return to the Lord and say:*

**Lord our God,  
in our sin we have avoided your call.  
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,  
like the dew that goes away early.  
Have mercy on us;  
deliver us from judgement;  
bind up our wounds and revive us;  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

*May the God of love  
bring us back to himself,  
forgive us our sins,  
and assure us of his eternal love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*



### THE WORD OF GOD

*St Paul says; The kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power. (1 Corinthians 4.20)*

**Through our lives and by our prayers  
may your kingdom come.**

#### Psalm 128

- 1 Happy are those who obey the Lord,  
who live by his commands.
- 2 Your work will provide for your needs;  
you will be happy and prosperous.
- 3 Your wife will be like a fruitful vine in your home,  
and your children will be like young olive trees  
around your table.
- 4 A man who obeys the Lord  
will surely be blessed like this.
- 5 May the Lord bless you from Zion!  
May you see Jerusalem prosper  
all the days of your life!
- 6 May you live to see your grandchildren!  
Peace be with Israel

*Read by David Suchet:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjF7SPUMzDs>

*Anglican chant*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qy2yH9IjM34>

*Sons of Korah*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0A8bbXdxTac>

#### Gen 14.17-20 Melchizedek Blesses Abram

- 17 When Abram came back from his victory over Chedorlaomer and the other kings, the king of Sodom went out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (also called the King's Valley).
- 18 And Melchizedek, who was king of Salem and also a priest of the Most High God, brought bread and wine to Abram, 19 blessed him, and said, "May the Most High God, who made heaven and earth, bless Abram! 20 May the Most High God, who gave you victory over your enemies, be praised!" And Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of all the loot he had recovered .

### HYMN 2

*Alleluia Sing to Jesus*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJDWFYIkBns>

*This is My Desire*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IxRVXK\\_z8jo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IxRVXK_z8jo)

#### John 2.1-11 The Wedding in Cana

- 1 Two days after Jesus called Philip and Nathaniel there was a wedding in the town of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, 2 and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.
- 3 When the wine had given out, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no wine left."
- 4 "You must not tell me what to do," Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."
- 5 Jesus' mother then told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."
- 6 The Jews have rules about ritual washing, and for this purpose six stone water jars were there, each one large enough to hold between twenty and thirty gallons.
- 7 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill these jars with water." They filled them to the brim, 8 and then he told them, "Now draw some water out and take it to the man in charge of the feast."
- They took him the water, 9 which now had turned into wine, and he tasted it. He did not know where this wine had come from (but, of course, the servants who had drawn out the water knew); so he called the bridegroom 10 and said to him, "Everyone else serves the best wine first, and after the guests have drunk a lot, he serves the ordinary wine. But you have kept the best wine until now!"
- 11 Jesus performed this first miracle in Cana in Galilee; there he revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.
- 12 After this, Jesus and his mother, brothers, and disciples went to Capernaum and stayed there a few days.



# THE POWER OF GOD IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

# SIGNS & WONDERS

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

[Click here to watch the talk.](#)

*God was a God of Signs and Wonders before Jesus came to earth. The term is first mentioned in Exodus 7.3 when God said to Moses: "I'm going to put Pharaoh's back up, and follow it up by filling Egypt with signs and wonders." (Message)*

*Signs and Wonders are mentioned 31 times in the bible. They happen when the future conditions of the Kingdom of God break out now on earth. They give us a hint as to what the new heaven on earth might be like: no more pain, no more suffering, no more illness, no shortage, blessings abounding...*

*Through these miracles, that John called 'signs,' Jesus revealed who he was: the God of signs and wonders come to earth. He revealed God's kingdom through these signs and wonders. The Kingdom is already breaking out, but not yet fully come.*

*In the story of the wedding, Jesus demonstrates in vivid real-time 3D video technicolour just how abundant the extraordinary conditions of the kingdom he came to establish are.*

*120-180 gallons of the best wine anyone has ever tasted! That must have been some wedding reception!*

*We tend towards the default way of thinking and acting: that these signs and wonders were for then.*

*But Jesus taught his disciples to 'do' the same things he did: heal the sick, cast out demons, correct injustices,*

*feed the hungry. In fact he said his followers would do even greater things even than he did. (Jn 14.12)*

*None of us has the power or ability to do any of these things, without the power of the same Spirit who empowered Jesus.*

*What's the difference? Jesus listened to his Father completely, trusted totally, and obeyed absolutely. He wasn't impressed by what human beings thought of him. To put it in other words, he had complete confidence in his identity as God-on-earth.*

*I did my PhD on Columba, who brought the faith from Ireland into Britain in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. He evangelised with the help of signs and wonders. (My book, Prophecy, Miracles, Angels and Heavenly Light? tells the story.) Wesley preached, with signs and wonders following in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, etc.*

*Signs and Wonders have never stopped appearing when people have ministered with confidence in God rather than in their own ability.*

*The tragedy is, these have all too often been left to the crackpot fringes of church life, instead of being the toolkit right at the heart of our daily practice as followers of Jesus, where today's collect puts them!!*

*We also can have confidence that Jesus calls us to follow him, in every way. Our identity is in Christ...*

**God of Signs and Wonders, Watoto**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8nPAPfHNrvq>

Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.

## 2 Corinthians 12:12

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Let us declare our faith in God.*

***We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on 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 with power from on high.***

***We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen***

### HYMN 3

***How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds***

***<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NoPlwPUYWaw>***

***...(Emu)***

***<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWvzmmbbgGLU>***

### PRAYERS

**Follow this link for prayers of intercession**

***The following form of prayer may be used:***

*We pray for strength to follow Jesus.  
Saviour, we hear your call.  
Help us to follow.*

*Jesus said: Unless you change  
and become humble like little children,  
you can never enter the kingdom of heaven.  
Saviour, we hear your call.  
Help us to follow.*

*We pray for the coming of God's kingdom.  
Father, by your Spirit bring in your kingdom.  
You sent your Son to bring good news to the poor,  
sight to the blind, freedom to captives,  
and salvation to your people:  
anoint us with your Spirit;  
rouse us to work in his name,  
Father, by your Spirit  
bring in your kingdom.*

*Send us to bring help to the poor  
and freedom to the oppressed.  
Father, by your Spirit  
bring in your kingdom.  
Send us to tell the world  
the good news of your healing love.  
Father, by your Spirit  
bring in your kingdom.*

*Send us to those who mourn,  
to bring joy and gladness instead of grief.  
Father, by your Spirit  
bring in your kingdom.  
Send us to proclaim that the time is here  
for you to save your people.  
Father, by your Spirit  
bring in your kingdom.*

*In faith we pray:  
That you will strengthen us in your service,  
and fill our hearts with longing for your kingdom  
(Isaiah 61.1-3 & Luke 4.18-19)*

### HYMN 4

***Amazing Grace***

***<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDdvReNKKuk>***

***Broken Vessels, Amazing Grace***

***<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fiyYoe678yI>***





# Expect Miracles

## THE BLESSING

*Christ the Son of God perfect in us  
the image of his glory  
and gladden our hearts  
with the good news of his kingdom;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among us and remain with us always.***Amen.**

## Extras

**Webale (Thank you) Watoto**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRUMM9a0wjk>

**Why Signs and Wonders Are for Today**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7REcLCAiwo>

