**Parish Church of St Alphege Solihull**

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**Choral Eucharist**

**in Christmastide**

**24th January 2021**

**Third Sunday of Epiphany**

*A warm welcome to you. In order to worship safely a few elements of the service differ from our usual practice. Each person is asked to remain in their place throughout the service, other than to receive Communion when you will be guided by a steward. The person presiding, as well as brief notes in this order of service, will guide you as we proceed. While the service itself may be filmed for the benefit of those at home, only those leading will appear on film, not the congregation.*

**Please take this order of service away with you and use it for prayer at home/recycle it.**

Music before the Service: *St Anthony Chorale -* Haydn

**The Gathering**

**The Greeting**

*Please stand as able.*

President: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.

**From the rising of the sun to its setting**

**your name is proclaimed in all the world.**

The Lord of glory be with you.

**The Lord bless you.**

*Welcome*

**Prayers of Penitence**

Our Lord Jesus Christ says,

‘A new commandment I give you,

that you love one another as I have loved you.’

Let us confess to almighty God

our failure to accept his love

and to share it with others.

*Silence is kept*

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us

to one another and to the Father:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Absolution**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness

draw you to himself

and cleanse you from all our sins,

that you may behold the glory of his Son,

the Word made flesh,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

**Gloria in Excelsis**

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| Glory be to God on high,  and in earth peace, goodwill towards men.  We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee,  we give thanks to thee for thy great glory.  O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.  O Lord the only begotten Son Jesu Christ.  O Lord God, lamb of God, Son of the Father,  That takest away the sins of the world,  have mercy upon us;  thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father:  receive our prayer.  For thou only art holy.  Thou only art the Lord,  Thou only art Christ with the Holy Ghost  Art most high in the glory of God the Father.  Amen  *Music by Edward Bairstow* |

The Collect

God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

**Genesis 14:17-20**

After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King’s Valley).

Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High,and he blessed Abram, saying,

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.”

Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**The Gospel**

*Please stand as able. The choir sings the Gospel Acclamation.*

Alleluia, alleluia. Whoever does not love does *not* know God, because *God* is love.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John*.*

Glory to you, O Lord.

**John 2:1-11**

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They have no more wine.” “Woman, why do you involve me?” Jesus replied. “My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.” They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, “Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.”

What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

*Please sit.*

**Creed**

*Please stand*

Let us declare our belonging to the one family of 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.

Intercessions

*Please sit*

In the power of the Spirit, and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father:

*These responses may be used*

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers,

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

*Please stand as able.*

We are all one in Christ Jesus. We belong to him through faith, heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**And also with you.**

*The sign of peace is not physically offered, but only in spoken response. We remain in our places.*

Offertory Hymn

*Please sit as we listen to two verses of the hymn ‘Love Divine’ sung to the tune* ‘Blaenwern’. *You are welcome to pray the words silently as the choir sings.*

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| Love divine, all loves excelling Joy of Heaven to Earth come down Fix in us Thy humble dwelling All Thy faithful mercies crown Jesus, Thou art all compassion Pure, unbounded love Thou art Visit us with Thy salvation Enter every trembling heart | Come almighty to deliver Let us all Thy life receive Suddenly return and never Never more Thy temples leave Thee we would be always blessing Serve Thee as Thy hosts above Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing Glory in Thy perfect love  *Charles Wesley* |

Prayer at the Preparation of the Table

As the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside are now reunited on this table in bread and wine, so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together from the corners of the earth into your kingdom.

**Amen.**

**The Eucharistic Prayer**

*Please stand as able.*

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.**

Lord of all life, you created the universe,

where all living things reflect your glory.

You give us this great and beautiful earth,

to discover and to cherish.

We give you thanks for raising us up

and uniting us with Christ,

so that we can follow him

in the ways of integrity and discipleship,

and become an honoured dwelling place

for your Holy Spirit.

You made us all, each wonderfully different,

to join with the angels and sing your praise:

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| Holy, holy, holy  Lord God of Hosts  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.  *Music by Edward Bairstow* |

We thank you, loving Father, because, when we turned away,

you sent Jesus, your Son.

He gave his life for us on the cross and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine

may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen,

Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it,

and shared it with his disciples, saying:

“This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.”

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,

gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:

“This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,

for the forgiveness of sins.”

So Father, with this bread and this cup

we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.

As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit,

and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Help us, Father, to love one another,

as we look forward to that day

when suffering is ended,

and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with Alphege, Helen, Michael and all your saints

we give you glory, through Jesus Christ,

in the strength of the Spirit, today and for ever.

**Amen.**

*A bell is rung to signify the sacramental presence of Christ, followed by a moment of stillness.*

**The Lord’s Prayer**

*Please sit.*

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;**

**thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation;**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,**

**for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

**The Breaking of Bread**

*The celebrant 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.**

**Agnus Dei**

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| O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:  have mercy upon us.  O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:  have mercy upon us.  O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:  grant us thy peace.  *Music by Edward Bairstow* |

**The Invitation**

God’s holy gifts for God’s holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,**

**Jesus Christ is Lord,**

**to the glory of God the Father.**

*The celebrant raises the paten and chalice and says*

The Body and Blood of Christ.

**Amen.**

**The Giving of Communion**

*Only the celebrant receives Communion under both kinds (bread and wine). The hosts (bread) for the congregation will be in a closed ciborium (container) which is uncovered just before the congregation receives. The stewards will guide everyone to the right location.*

**Communion Motet**

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| *Nun wird mein liebster Bräutigam, Nun wird der Held aus Davids Stamm Zum Trost, zum Heil der Erden*  *Einmal geboren werden. Nun wird der Stern aus Jakob scheinen, Sein Strahl bricht schon hervor. Auf, Zion, und verlasse nun das Weinen,*  *Dein Wohl steigt hoch empor!*  *Bereite dich, Zion, mit zärtlichen Trieben,*  *Den Schönsten, den Liebsten bald bei dir zu sehn! Deine Wangen Müssen heut viel schöner prangen, Eile, den Bräutigam sehnlichst zu lieben!* | Now my dearest Bridegroom, now the hero from David's branch, for the comfort, for the salvation of the earth, will be born at last. Now the Star out of Jacob will shine, its light already breaks forth. Arise, Zion, and give up your weeping now, your happiness rises high above you!  Prepare yourself, Zion, with tender efforts, to behold your lovely one, your beloved, near you soon! Your cheeks must now glow much more radiantly, hurry to love the Bridegroom with passion!  *Music by J S Bach* |

**Post Communion Prayer**

Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

**Amen**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us**

**with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.**

**Through him we offer you our souls and bodies**

**to be a living sacrifice.**

**Send us out in the power of your Spirit**

**to live and work to your praise and glory.**

**Amen.**

**Dismissal**

**Notices**

*The celebrant will give the details of any particularly important notices and read any Banns of Marriage.*

*Please see the weekly pewslip (available online or via the Parish Office) for a full list of notices.*

**The Blessing**

*Please stand as able.*

The Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,

teach you to walk in his way more trustfully,

to accept his truth more faithfully,

and to share his life more lovingly;

that by the power of the Holy Spirit

you may come as one family to the kingdom of the Father.

And the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen**

One in heart and one in mind, and empowered by the Spirit,

go in the peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God**

Organ Voluntary: *Prelude to the ‘Te Deum’* – Charpentier