

Blofield Benefice

A Service for the Season of Epiphany



Preparation

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.
To you be glory and praise for ever.

From the rising of the sun to its setting
your name is proclaimed in all the world.
To you be glory and praise for ever.

Opening prayer

Lord God, you sent the Lord Jesus Christ to be
the light of our world.
As he shines in our hearts may he banish all that
obscures your goodness and darkens our lives.
Illuminate our worship, with the light of your presence
and reveal your glory, in our hearts as we worship.

All

Amen

Hymn

- 1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty; victorious, thy great name we praise.
- 2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains, high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.
- 3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changest thee.

4 Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight
All praise we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908)
Used By Permission. CCL Licence No. C201849
Copied from HymnQuest: Copyright Licence Users' Edition HymnQuest ID: 41684

Confession

By the mercies of God,
let us confess our sins and present our bodies as a living
sacrifice,
holy and acceptable to him,
which is our spiritual worship.

Romans 12.1

All **Lord God,**
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from
our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore to us the joy of your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw us to himself,
that we may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
and be cleansed from all our sins
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Collect

Eternal Lord,
our beginning and our end:
bring us with the whole creation
to your glory, hidden through past ages
and made known
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

A song of Praise

- 1 You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honour and power.
- 2 For you have created all things,
and by your will they have their being.
- 3 You are worthy, O Lamb, for you were slain,
and by your blood you ransomed for God
saints from every tribe and language and nation.
- 4 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests
serving our God, and they will reign on earth.

**To the One who sits on the throne and to the
Lamb be blessing and honour, glory and might,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Revelation 4.11; 5.9b,10,13b

The Reading The Gospel of John 1.43-51

Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."

Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about

whom the prophets also wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

“Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?”
Nathanael asked.

“Come and see,” said Philip.

When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him,
“Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false.”

“How do you know me?” Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig-tree before Philip called you.”

Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel.”

Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig-tree. You shall see greater things than that.”
He then added, “I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

After the reading this response is used

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

A hymn

- 1 Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
And publish abroad his wonderful name;
The name all-victorious of Jesus extol;
His kingdom is glorious, and rules over all.

- 2 God ruleth on high, almighty to save;
And still he is nigh, his presence we have;
The great congregation his triumph shall sing,
Ascribing salvation to Jesus our king.

3 'Salvation to God who sits on the throne!'
Let all cry aloud, and honour the Son;
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
Fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.

4 Then let us adore, and give him his right:
All glory and power, all wisdom and might,
All honour and blessing, with angels above,
And thanks never-ceasing, and infinite love.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
Used By Permission. CCL Licence No. C201849
Copied from HymnQuest: Copyright Licence Users' Edition HymnQuest ID: 64597

The Sermon

Our 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.**

The Intercessions (*prepared for us today by Rev Judith*)

Let us pray to God our Father, who loves us and knows us better than we know ourselves...

Father God, as we continue to face the consequences of the pandemic,
help us not to fear, but to trust in your goodness;
help us to draw our strength from you and not to fret at our weakness;
help us to live as your people and to shine as lights in the darkness, showing you to our world around.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Father God, we pray for the world you have given us, that you would help us to heal the damage we have caused and treat your creation with loving respect.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Father God, we pray for peace and justice in our world;
guide the governments of the nations;
raise up men and women of integrity to positions of power and authority.

We pray for a peaceful transition of government in the United States and for the new President as he takes on so many challenges. We pray for our own Prime Minister and our government; give them wisdom and courage as they lead our nation at this difficult time.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Father God,
we pray for the homes of this benefice,
whose hopes, struggles, sorrows and fears are already
known to you.

May each household be blessed as we pray
and may your love be known in hearts and lives.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Father God,
we bring to you our friends and family,
all we hold dear – especially those who are far away
or whom we cannot visit at this time.
Enfold them in your loving arms, shelter them and draw
them to yourself.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Father God,
we pray your mercy on all who are sick
or suffering at this time;
comfort, strengthen them and help them;
we pray for those who are struggling with poverty and
uncertain employment,
those whose worries seem to have no solution.
Speak tenderly to them and assure them of your love
and help.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Father God,
we remember before you those who have died to this
life and are now with you;
comfort those who miss them and bring us all to share
in the fullness of your eternal life.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer

Father God, we thank you for the love you showed us
in your Son, Jesus, our Saviour;
hold us in the palm of your hand;
help us to live in love and faith day by day,
trusting in your goodness and mercy.

**Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

All

**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**

A hymn is sung

- 1 Father, hear the prayer we offer:
not for ease our prayer shall be,
but for strength that we may ever
live our lives courageously.
- 2 Not for ever in green pastures
do we ask our way to be;
but the steep and rugged pathway
may we tread rejoicingly.
- 3 Not for ever by still waters
would we idly rest and stay;
but would strike the living fountains
from the rocks along our way.
- 4 Be our strength in hours of weakness,
in our wanderings be our guide;
through endeavour, failure, danger,
Father, be there at our side.

Love Maria Willis (nee Whitcomb) (1824-1908), Samuel Longfellow (1819-1892)
Used By Permission. CCL Licence No. C201849
Copied from HymnQuest: Copyright Licence Users' Edition
HymnQuest ID: 52538

Concluding prayer

May Christ our Lord,
to whom kings bowed down in worship and offered
gifts,
reveal to you his glory
and pour upon you the riches of his grace;
and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with you this day, in your lives and in your homes.
Ame