

Service Sheet

29th January 2023, 10.30am St Mary's
The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

Welcome to St Mary's Church! We are so glad you are here – whether you are in the church building or watching online. If you are here for the first time or visiting, please say hello (in the chat feature online, or to the service leader or a member of the welcome team in church). You can find out more about our church on our website (www.denhamparish.church) or Facebook page (facebook.com/denhamparish.church).

Christoph Lindner, Rector

WELCOME

Opening Psalm: Psalm 36.7-9

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!

All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

They feast on the abundance of your house,

and you give them drink

from the river of your delights.

For with you is the fountain of life;

in your light we see light.

HYMN

Come down, O Love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with
thine own ardour glowing:

O comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes
in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round,
the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become
mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings
weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass

the pow'r of human telling;
nor can we guess its grace,
til we become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit
makes his dwelling.

CONFESSION

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you your sins, and bring you to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

COLLECT

God of 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**

FIRST READING: John 2 1-11

SONG

Same, same, strong, strong, one, one
(x3)

*New day, new life, a new adventure
God, I want to run with you today
New hope, new strength, a new adventure
Jesus, I will live for you today.*

You were the same God, when my
granny was a baby
You're the same God,
who is with me today
You'll be the same God,
when I'm terribly old
The same, same, strong, strong, one,
one, wonderful God!

You were the same God,
when you were a tiny baby
And the same God,
when you suffered and died
But you're alive now,
and your Spirit lives within me
The same, same, strong, strong, one,
one, wonderful God!

You are the same God
when I mess up, disappoint you
And you love me, you forgive me again
You know my future,
you know everything about me
The same, same, strong, strong, one,
one, wonderful God!
(Children will leave for Sunday Club now)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SECOND READING: 1 Cor 1. 18-31

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.' Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our

proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CHOIR

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
in pastures green. He leadeth me
the quiet waters by.
He leadeth me, he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again,
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for his own name's sake.
Within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
yet will I fear none ill.
For thou art with me, and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

For thou art with me, and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

My table thou has furnished
in presence of my foes:
my head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.
My head thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me.
And in God's house for evermore
my dwelling place shall be.
And in God's house for evermore
my dwelling place shall be.

SERMON

OFFERTORY HYMN

Water You turned into wine
Opened the eyes of the blind
There's no one like You, none like You
Into the darkness You shine
Out of the ashes we rise
There's no one like You, none like You

*Our God is greater, our God is stronger
God You are higher than any other
Our God is healer, awesome in power
Our God our God*

And if our God is for us
Then who could ever stop us
And if our God is with us
Then what could stand against
And if our God is for us
Then who could ever stop us
And if our God is with us
Then what could stand against
What could stand against

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is
yours.

**All things come from you, and of your
own do we give you. Amen.**

PRAYERS

*We pray for our five mission partners:
Bible Reading Fellowship, Church
Army, SHOC/Trinity, Tearfund and
Wycliffe Bible Translators. We thank you
for their sharing of good news in action
and word and pray that you would
sustain and inspire them. May they see
rich fruit in their work for you.*

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

**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 for ever.
Amen**

HYMN

Sing to God new songs of worship,
all his deeds are marvellous;
he has brought salvation to us
with his hand and holy arm:
he has shown to all the nations
righteousness and saving pow'r;
he recalled his truth and mercy
to his people Israel.

Sing to God new songs of worship,
earth has seen his victory;
let the lands of earth be joyful
praising him with thankfulness:
sound upon the harp his praises,
play to him with melody;
let the trumpets sound his triumph,
show your joy to God the king!

Sing to God new songs of worship,
let the sea now make a noise;
all the earth and in the waters
sound your praises to the Lord:
let the hills be joyful together,
let the rivers clap their hands,
for with righteousness and justice
he will come to judge the earth.

BLESSING

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Last Sunday, **Ian Jennings** shared with us that he will retire from his role as associate minister at Denham Parish Church

on Sunday, 23 April. We are so grateful for everything he has brought to our ministry and mission over the last four years. Ian has quickly become a much-loved member of our community. We will make sure that we stay in touch and invite him back on occasions. Please pray for Ian as he prepares for this transition. **Make sure to put 23 April in your diary.**

Wednesday until 1st March from 1pm-5pm:

Weekly Diary

Weds 1st Feb - Little Lions toddler group. St Mark's. Contact: eddalindner18@gmail.com

Weds 1st Feb 1-5pm Warm Space at St Mark's

Sun 5th Feb 3.30pm:

NO CAFÉ CHURCH! Our next Café Church at St Mark's will be on Sunday, 5 March with Ian Jennings. Please make a note in your diary!

Let's pray together ...

- For creation care and all our efforts to look after our planet - individually, as a nation and international community.
- For conflicts and wars in our world: For people of peace to find ways of making peace.
- For those who are unwell.
- For those who have lost loved ones, especially the family of Pam Dymott and Kath Swinson.

Join us for a cuppa every

WARM SPACE
at St Mark's

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