

The Stratfield Mortimer Benefice of

St Saviour
Mortimer West End

St Mary and St John
Stratfield Mortimer

St John the Baptist
Padworth

St Mary's Church of England School

St John's Church of England School

Diocese of Oxford



How Philip & Nathanael met Jesus
John 1: 43 - 51

The Parish Eucharist

on

The Second Sunday of Epiphany

Sunday 17th January 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

online at zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6931233940>

Prayer Thought: *When Philip told Nathanael about Jesus Nathanael was sceptical that 'anything good could come out of Nazareth.' Philip's response was simple: 'Come and see for yourself.' And that's how it's worked ever since. One person says to another, 'I follow Jesus - come and see for yourself.' As the church grew parents brought their children to Jesus in baptism and then invited them to see for themselves if they wanted to learn from him and his way of living.*

Nathanael impetuously called Jesus the 'Son of God.' What is there about Jesus which has this kind of effect on people? The NT gives a hint: 'for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes,' which is a phrase often repeated in the Gospels. It was as though there was a 'ring of truth' to Jesus, which set people free and transformed them. Then they told others what happened and invited them to see for themselves. It's always person-to-person. The spread of Christ's Gospel across the world is the person-to-person story of people who shared the story about Jesus and what Jesus had meant and done for them. People very often start thinking about becoming a Christian because they have seen what the Christian faith has done for people they know. At that point a saying of the early church still rings true: 'See those Christians and how they love one another.'

Sometimes people do come to Christ by reading the Gospel or through reading about a Christian, but that too is a person-to-person encounter - only through the medium of the printed page.

The message is simple: our task as Christians is not to 'prove' the truth of the Christian faith; not even to persuade others to become Christian. Our task is to say, 'Come and see.' Philip could have given Nathanael some of his own opinions. He could have said, 'This Jesus talks a great deal of sense.' Or he might have said, 'There is something about this man Jesus that draws me to him.' But, no, Philip simply said, 'Come and see,' as if to say, 'You don't need me to advertise for Jesus; come and see for yourself,' which Nathaniel did. That's now our task - to say to people 'Come and see for yourself.' God bless, Paul

The Parish Eucharist

*The present rules and guidelines about attendance, singing & speaking in churches will be followed carefully.
This Sunday only the priest and the zoom operator may be at St John's.*

HYMN *Sung by Viv Adler*

**Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea,
day by day his clear voice soundeth,
saying, 'Christian, follow me.'**

**Jesus calls us! By thy mercies,
Saviour, may we hear thy call,
give our hearts to thine obedience,
serve and love thee best of all.**

THE GATHERING AND GREETING

The greeting proclaims the presence of the Lord with us. The Penitential Rite, the Gloria and the Opening Prayer follow. The purpose of these preliminary rites is to help the people, gathered for the celebration of the Eucharist, to join with each other as a worshipping community, and to prepare to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist - the Great Thanksgiving.

Priest In the name of God - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
All Amen.

The Lord be with you
All And also with you.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

We call to mind our sins to repent of them / turn from them and to ask forgiveness of God and each other.

The Invitation to Confession

Priest *The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ. cf Titus 2: 11*
My dear brothers and sisters, as we come together as God's family and prepare to celebrate the Eucharist, let us acknowledge and confess our sins and seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus our Saviour.

A pause for silent reflection follows.

Lord, we have sinned against you:
Lord, have mercy.
All Lord, have mercy.

Lord, show us your mercy and love.
All And grant us your salvation.

The Absolution

+ Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you your sins, and bring you to everlasting life.
All Amen.

THE GLORIA *Sung by Rhona Johnson*

*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.
Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.
Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.
*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.***

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.
Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.
*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.***

THE COLLECT

Our priest invites us to pray.

Priest Let us pray.

Together we spend a few moments in reverent silence realising that we are in the presence of God our Father to whom we make our prayers. The priest 'collects' our prayerful thoughts into theme of this Christmas Day celebration in the Opening Prayer, which is either sung or said.

Priest Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; 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.

All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Liturgy of the Word consists of readings from the scriptures; a sermon/homily, which expounds the readings; the Profession of Faith, which is the Creed of God's people; and the Prayer of the Faithful or General Intercessions in which the people of God intercede for all humankind.

In the Liturgy of the Word God speaks to us of redemption and salvation and nourishes us with his word. We are not only listening to past history. The God who speaks to Israel and to the early Church speaks to us today through the power of the Holy Spirit working within us as we listen to him and as he reveals the pattern of his plan for our lives. 'The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any double edged sword but more finely...it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts' (The Letter to the Hebrews 4:12).

THE FIRST READING - The Revelation of John 5: 1 - 5. Read by Peter Tanner

Reader A reading from The Revelation of St John.

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?' And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.'

At the end of the reading:

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Now we hear the Gospel (the Good News) and acknowledge that we are his people and called to be part of his mission to the world inasmuch as we share his message and his life with faith, hope and love.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Sung by Sarah Theaker*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

'You are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.'

cf. John 1: 50

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL READING - JOHN 1: 43 - 51.

The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you .**

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

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

At the end of the Gospel

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE SERMON

We are a Eucharistic community in word and sacrament. Through the readings God has spoken to his people of his redeeming and healing love and of the nourishment which his Spirit gives. Our priest now reflects with us on the readings of the day relating them to our Eucharistic celebration and to our ordinary life.

After the sermon there is a short period of silent reflection.

THE PROFESSION OF CHRISTIAN FAITH - THE CREED

We make the profession of faith in response to the word of God written in the Gospels and spoken in the sermon. We testify that God is our Father who gives us new life through his Son and who calls us together in the power of his Spirit to be a Eucharistic people, a 'thanksgiving people', a living community of his abiding love and care.

All **We believe and trust in God the Father who made the world.**

We believe and trust in his Son, Jesus Christ, who redeemed the world.

We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God. Amen

THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL OR GENERAL INTERCESSION

We are invited to pray for the needs of the Church and all people. Through baptism we have been made one with Christ, our great high priest, and we share in his intercessions before the Father for the needs of his Church and of all people. Our intercessions flow from our listening to the Gospel and sermon by which we have been made more aware of our Christian commitment.

This Prayer of the Faithful or General Intercession is announced and consists of a series of intercessions; we pray for the universal Church and its mission and for our bishop and for our benefice - our parishes, our two Church schools; for the world, for our Queen and country, for our local communities and families; for the sick and all in pain, for all who are working on the front line at this time of Covid 19; and for the departed. And in communion with Blessed Mary, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist and all the Saints of God we entrust one another and all people to God's saving love.

Priest Let us pray for the Church of Christ and for all the world and let us thank God for his goodness.

The deacon or leader continues.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith, strengthen Justin our Archbishop, Steven our bishop, Olivia our area bishop, our benefice, our Church schools of St Mary's and St John's, and all your Church's missions and ministries in the service of Christ, that we may be united in your grace and truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world...

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, bless and guide Elizabeth our Queen; our Government; our Parliament; our District and Village Councils. Give wisdom to all in authority and direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and peace that people everywhere may honour one another and seek the common good...

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, Your Son shared the life of a family: protect in your love our families, our friends, our neighbours, and this community of which we are a part and may we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us...

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we pray to you for all who suffer in body, mind or spirit...; give them hope; and bring them the joy of your salvation...

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we remember before you all who have died recently ...

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Heavenly Father, we rejoice in the fellowship of Blessed Mary, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist and all your saints and we commend ourselves and all your people to your unfailing love...

Priest Merciful Father

All Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

At the Last Supper Christ 'took some bread and when he had given thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying "This is my body which will be given for you; do this in remembrance of me". He did the same with the cup...' (Luke 22:19-20). The Church, joyfully obedient to the Lord's command, celebrates the Eucharist taking care that our 'liturgy' corresponds carefully to the words and actions of Christ: 1) Taking bread and wine in The Preparation of the Gifts we take our gifts to the Altar. Gifts or money for the poor and the Church's ministry to the poor are also presented. 2) Giving thanks (the meaning of the word Eucharist) in the Eucharistic Prayer the priest, in the name of us all, says the great hymn of our thanksgiving to God for the whole work of salvation, in which the offerings become the Body and Blood of Christ. 3) The breaking of the one bread is a sign of the unity of the faithful. 4) And in the giving of Holy Communion we receive the Body and Blood of Christ as the Apostles did from his hands. In this way Sunday by Sunday and day by day the Church carries out in loving obedience to his command what the Lord asked his disciples to do in remembrance of him.

THE PEACE

We acknowledge and give thanks for our unity with one another in Jesus Christ our Lord, which his death and resurrection have brought to us. He is the peace between us. The sign of peace echoes Christ's own resurrection greeting to his disciples. Before we share in the same bread we express our love for one another and pray for peace and unity cf Luke 1.78,79.

Priest To crown all things there must be love, *cf Colossians 3.14,15*

to bind all together and complete the whole.

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you.

THE PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR

The peoples' gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar.

The offerings of money is made and promised to support the ministry and work of the Church.

Taking the Gifts: The priest gives thanks to God for the gifts in the following words.

Priest **BREAD**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

All Blessed be God for ever.

WINE

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

OUR TIME, TALENTS AND TREASURE/MONEY

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have the gifts of our time, talents and money to offer. May our offerings of our gifts be a sincere sign of our gratitude and our dedication to your service.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

The priest prays quietly: Lord God, we ask you to receive us and be pleased with the sacrifice we offer you with humble, contrite and thankful hearts. The priest washes hands as an expression of the desire for inward purification, praying quietly: Lord, wash away my iniquity; cleanse me from my sin.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

We are all invited to draw near in prayer:

Priest Pray my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father.

All **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

Priest Amen.

Gracious God, accept the offering of your Church, the hearts of your people joined in praise and thanksgiving, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

All **Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Eucharistic Prayer is the centre and high point of the whole Christian celebration. This great prayer of praise and thanksgiving proclaims the wonderful works of God and through it we join ourselves with Christ in praise and thanksgiving to God the Father and in offering ourselves to him in union with Christ's self-offering on the cross. We express our share in the prayer, which is said by the priest on behalf of all the people, by listening inwardly and joining in the acclamations (joyful shouts or songs) and the Sanctus (the Holy, Holy, Holy which concludes the preface), the memorial acclamation and the great 'Amen' which concludes our Eucharistic Prayer.

Priest The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

The Preface praises God for his mighty acts:

And now we give you thanks because you have revealed your eternal plan of salvation, and have shown your Son Jesus Christ to be the light to the peoples. Therefore in our joy we sing to your glory with all the choirs of angels:

The Acclamation Sung by Sarah Theaker

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
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.**

We pray to the Father for the sending down of the Holy Spirit and recall the Lord's Supper.

Priest We thank you, loving Father, because when we turned away you sent to us your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. He gave his life for us upon the cross. He 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.

Do this to remember me.’

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 upon us 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 Mary, the Blessed Mother of our Lord, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist, and all your saints, we give you glory, through Jesus Christ and in the strength of your Holy Spirit, today and for ever.

All Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

The communion rite of the Church lays strong emphasis on peace, unity and our prayer for forgiveness. We come together to the Lord's table in accordance with the Lord's command, 'Take, eat... take, drink', as a community bound together by love. We are confident in Christ's mercy as we respond to his call to come to his table. Our communal recitation of the Lord's Prayer - the prayer he taught us - prepares us for Holy Communion with our Lord.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Priest Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Saviour gave us:

**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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The priest takes the host and breaks it over the cup, praying quietly:

May this mingling of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it.

'Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread' (1 Corinthians 10:17)

Christ's gesture of breaking bread with his disciples at the Last Supper gave the entire Eucharist the name of the 'breaking of bread'. This gesture signifies that we who share one bread and one cup are made one. Through the breaking of the host the Eucharist is seen more clearly as a sign of unity and charity since the one bread is being distributed among the members of one family of God.

Priest We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

The priest prepares quietly for Holy Communion. We may all join quietly in this prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, by the will of the Father and the work of the Holy Spirit your death brought life to the world. By your holy body and blood free me from all my sins and from every evil. Keep me faithful to your teaching, and never let me be parted from you.

PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Priest Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. *cf. John 1: 29*

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

The sign of communion is more complete when given under both kinds since then the sign of the eucharistic meal appears more clearly. However, we live in exceptional times when, for the time being, communion can only be given in one kind for those who can come to church. Whilst others join faithfully online. Please God, may we all soon be able to come together again to receive Holy Communion under both kinds at the Lord's table. The priest takes the host, raises it a little and shows it saying: The Body of Christ. And the same with the cup saying: The Blood of Christ.

When receiving Holy Communion the response and assent to Christ is:

+ Amen.

HYMN DURING HOLY COMMUNION *Sung by Viv Bailey*

**Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown.
Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?**

**Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r
in you and you in me?**

**Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me.**

*The vessels are cleansed and put away. You may wish to join with the priest who prays quietly:
Lord, may these gifts give me purity of heart. May they bring me healing and strength, now and ever. Amen*

After Holy Communion we may keep a further period of silence.

PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION

Priest Let us pray

*The priest invites us all to pray that the Holy Eucharist will have its effect in transforming our lives and bring us to God's kingdom.
All pray together silently for a while before the Post Communion prayer.*

Priest God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life:
fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

THE NOTICES FOR THE COMMUNITY ARE GIVEN.

THE CONCLUDING RITE

Priest The Lord be with you.
All and also with you.

THE BLESSING

Priest May the light of the gospel of Christ shine in your lives and fill you with his joy and peace;
+ and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

This Eucharist is ended. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN *Sung by Gwen Adshead*

**I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.**

**I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?**

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

**I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.**

**Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?**

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

