

PALGRAVE

January 07, 2024

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

**Sing a New Song.**

**The lighting of the Christ Candle**

**Introit**

**Welcome and Announcements.**

**Acknowledging the Land**

**Call to Worship**

We are called to serve in the name of Jesus, God's beloved Son,

**God calls us because, like Jesus, we are beloved.**

God calls us to be a light in our world.

**We wait in anticipation of God's teaching and empowerment.**

God's grace and mercy have brought us to this new year.

**In this time of worship, we offer to God our praise and thanks.**

As we move into this time of worship, let us centre ourselves on God.

**Hymn:**

God of Life VU 528

God of life, in Christ you lead us,  
guiding us along the way.

In our past, through joys and sorrows,  
you have been our strength and stay.

Keep us faithful, true disciples,  
in our learning and our praise

celebrating past and present, consecrating future days.

God of words and Word incarnate,  
words that challenge and embrace,  
grant us boldness in our speaking,  
while we know your loving grace.

Give us words both clear and winsome,  
loving hearts and listening ears,  
celebrating past and present, consecrating future years.

God of music, psalms and anthems  
help us sing your faith anew:  
melodies expanding worship,  
harmonies enriching too.  
May our lives be hymns in action,  
turned to Christ in note and rhyme,  
celebrating past and present, consecrating future time.

God of days and years and eons,  
still you call as in the past.  
Work undone demands our labour;  
justice yearns for peace at last.  
Yours the vision and the challenge;  
ours the mission and the praise,  
celebrating past and present, consecrating future days.

### **Gathering Prayer**

**God of new beginnings and possibilities, we thank you for this new week and this new year. We thank you for your love, which perseveres, touching our lives, not just in an hour of worship but every day. Your grace and mercy attend our lives, day in and day out, year in and year out. And for that, we offer our praise and thanks.**

**You chose to become one of us in Jesus Christ, sharing our joys and sorrows, displaying your greatness in the child of the manger. We praise you for your amazing love, great enough to embrace the universe, yet close enough to enter our humble hearts.**

**In this time of worship, we gather to sing, pray, listen, reflect and commit ourselves to you. You call us to be your instruments of love and hope in a hurting world, and so we gather to answer your call. Embrace us again with your love as we open our hearts to you and surprise us with your grace once again, that we, with the whole Church and your precious creation, may praise and honour your holy name, O God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. AMEN.**

### **Prayer of Confession.**

Let us offer our prayer of confession, acknowledging what is broken in our lives, knowing that we are loved and that grace awaits us.

**Gracious God, who gives us life; you hold us in your love, you cradle us in our need, and you nurture us into growth.**

**We confess to you that all is not well.**

**We grieve the loss of many things and people.**

**We hurt in part because we find it so hard to make things better for ourselves, for those we love, for our congregation and for the world.**

**We find it easy to succumb to fear and despair.  
Gracious God, forgive us.**

**We pray for healing, strength, and courage and for grace to meet the Challenges and demands of this New Year.**

**We pray to find you in the midst of our failures and to be cradled by your love and Spirit once again.**

**In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

**Hymn:**

God of the Bible MV 28

God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,  
hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,  
you are our center, daylight or darkness,  
freedom or prison, you are our home.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.

God in our struggles, God in our hunger,  
suffering with us, taking our part,  
still you empower us, mothering Spirit,  
feeding, sustaining, from your own heart.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.

Those without status, those who are nothing,  
you have made royal, gifted with rights,  
chosen as partners, midwives of justice,  
birthing new systems, lighting new lights.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.

Not by your finger, not by your anger  
will our world order change in a day,  
but by your people, fearless and faithful,  
small paper lanterns, lighting the way.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.

Hope we must carry, shining and certain  
through all our turmoil, terror and loss,  
bonding us gladly one to the other.  
till our world changes, facing the Cross.



**Pastoral Prayer**

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Hymn:**

I Am the Light of the World VU 87

*I am the Light of the World  
You people come and follow me.  
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery  
Of what you were meant to do and be.*

When the song of the angels is stilled.  
When the star in the sky is gone.  
When the kings and the shepherds have found their way home.  
The work of Christmas is begun!

*I am the Light of the World  
You people come and follow me.  
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery  
Of what you were meant to do and be.*

To find the lost and lonely one,  
To heal that broken soul with love,  
To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,  
To feel the earth below the sky above!

*I am the Light of the World  
You people come and follow me.  
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery  
Of what you were meant to do and be.*

To free the prisoner from his chains,  
To make the powerful care,  
To rebuild the nations with strength and goodwill,  
To call a man your brother everywhere.

*I am the Light of the World  
You people come and follow me.  
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery  
Of what you were meant to do and be.*

To bring hope to every task you do,  
To dance at a baby's new birth,  
To make music in an old man's heart,  
And sing to the colors of the earth!

*I am the Light of the World  
You people come and follow me.  
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery  
Of what you were meant to do and be.*

**Blessing and Benediction**

**Closing Chorus:**

May God's Sheltering Wings MV 214

May God's sheltering wings  
God's gathering wings protect you  
May God's nurturing arms,  
God's cradling arms sustain you  
And hold you in God's love,  
And hold you in God's love

**Postlude**