

# Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

## January 29, 2023

Words of Welcome

Gathering Hymn: "Brightest and Best"

Hymn #118

**2 Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining;  
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
angels adore him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.**

**REFRAIN:**

**Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;  
star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

**3 Shall we then yield him, in costly devotion,  
odours of Edom, and offerings divine,  
gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,  
myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?    REFRAIN**

**4 Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
vainly with gifts would his favour secure:  
richer by far is the heart's adoration,  
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.    REFRAIN**

The Confession & Absolution

*Officiant*

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth God's praise, to hear the holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind for worship, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

*A substantial silence for reflection is kept.*

*Officiant* You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:  
Lord, have mercy.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Officiant* You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart:  
Christ, have mercy.

*People* **Christ, have mercy.**

*Officiant* You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided:  
Lord, have mercy.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Celebrant* The almighty and merciful God grant us pardon and remission of all our sins, renewal of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## The Invitatory and Psalter

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

*People* **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

**Glorify to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.**

*Officiant* Rise, O shine, for your light has come! For, look, darkness covers the earth, and gloom enshrouds the peoples; but the glory of the LORD has dawned upon us.

## Song of Faith: Psalm 15

O God, who may dwell in your tabernacle; \*

**who may abide upon your holy hill?**

Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right, \*

**who speak truthfully from the heart.**

There is no guile upon their tongues; they do no evil to their friends; \*

**they do not heap contempt upon their neighbors;**

In their sight the wicked are rejected, \*

**but they honor those who fear God.**

They have sworn to do no wrong \*

**and do not take back their word.**

They do not give their money in hope of gain, \*

**nor do they take a bribe against the innocent.**

Whoever does these things \*

**shall never be overthrown.**

*Reader* A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

Now, seeing the crowds, Jesus ascended the mountain; and when he seated himself his disciples approached him; and opening his mouth he taught them, saying,

“How blissful\* the destitute, abject in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of the heavens;

How blissful those who mourn, for they shall be aided;

How blissful the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth;

How blissful those who hunger and thirst for what is right, for they shall feast;

How blissful the merciful, for they shall receive mercy;

How blissful the pure in heart, for they shall see God;

How blissful the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God;

How blissful those who have been persecuted for the sake of what is right, for theirs is the Kingdom of the heavens.”

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

\* Greek *makarios*: “Blessed,” “happy,” “fortunate,” “prosperous,” but originally with a connotation of divine or heavenly bliss.

## The Epiphany Pageant

*The script is available for separate download and reading along with, or afterwards.*

## The Prayers

*Officiant* We now enter a time of prayer. You may wish to bow your head, open your hands, or prepare your body for prayer in some other way.

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Officiant* Now, let us pray as God’s beloved children, using the prayer Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

## The Prayers of the People

*Send prayer requests to to [prayers@stdunstans.com](mailto:prayers@stdunstans.com).*

*Officiant* Let us continue in prayer. We will hold up our needs and blessings to God. You can speak your prayers out loud, type them into the Chat area, or hold them in your heart. As you are able, please hold others’ prayer requests before God in your heart as well.

- Officiant* Let us pray for all churches and their leaders, and for all God's people everywhere.  
*The people may offer their prayers aloud.*
- Officiant* Let us pray for all those in authority.  
*The people may offer their prayers aloud.*
- Officiant* Let us pray for all nations and peoples.  
*The people may offer their prayers aloud.*
- Officiant* Let us pray for the earth and the whole created order.  
*The people may offer their prayers aloud.*
- Officiant* Let us pray for our local communities.  
*The people may offer their prayers aloud.*
- Officiant* Let us pray for those in any need or trouble, especially those on our parish prayer list:  
... You are invited to name others in need of prayer, and to hold up your own struggles  
to the light of God's love.  
*The people may offer additional names.*
- Officiant* Let us pray for all who have died, and for those who mourn.  
*The people may offer additional names.*
- Officiant* Let us pray for our common life and work as God's people.  
*The people may offer their prayers aloud.*

## The Collect of the Day

*Officiant*

Radiant Morning Star, you are both guidance and mystery. Visit our rest with disturbing dreams, and our journeys with strange companions. Grace us with the hospitality to open our hearts and homes to visitors filled with unfamiliar wisdom bearing profound and unusual gifts. **Amen.**

*The Officiant may read one of the following Collects as well:*

### *A Collect for Peace*

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### *A Collect for Grace*

Lord God, almighty and everlasting One, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*A Collect for Guidance*

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Sharing of Blessings

*Officiant* Does anyone have any blessings or celebrations to share with the assembly today?

The Peace

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you!

*All* **And also with you!**

*Celebrant* Let us speak Christ's peace to one another. ...

Announcements

The Blessing

*Celebrant* May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ shine in our hearts and fill our lives with joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen!**

Dismissal

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God!**