

Welcome to the Parish Church of St Mark

Serving the people of Broomhill & Broomhall

THE FEAST OF GOD'S KINGDOM



A Service of Christian Hospitality for Epiphany:
Holy Communion for the Season
of Incarnation & Grace

Homelessness Sunday
27 January 2013 at 10.00 am

Welcome

Welcome and greetings, especially if you are new to St Mark's. May you soon discover what you are seeking and find companions for life's journey. This communion is more complete with you being a part of it.



To use the *Induction Loop*, please select the *T Setting* on your hearing aid. We ask that *mobile phones* and *paggers* be switched off or set to silent mode. LARGE PRINT versions of worship materials are available.

Before the service begins, we are all invited to share in a few moments of quietness in preparation for worship.

About this service

The seasons of Christmas and Epiphany invite us to ponder not only the circumstances surrounding Jesus' birth, but also the meaning and significance of incarnation – of how it is that 'Eternity is in love with the productions of time' (William Blake).

As the evangelists recognised, the wonder and vulnerability of new birth draw us into this mystery by challenging our sense of what constitutes power and how authority manifests itself when motivated by love.

Today is also Homelessness Sunday. During the service, we will be reflecting on how being uprooted from the security of home or firmly-held views can be not only disturbing and diminishing, but also potentially creative and enriching.

Preparing for worship

Wait without expectation
which might focus attention too narrowly,
so that we miss the coming.

Wait with expectancy,
alert, hearts, minds, hands, ears
open to receive the gift.

Ann Lewin.

Gathering

Organ Voluntary:

Welcome

Hymn

IN CHRIST there is no east nor west,
in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

In him shall true hearts ev'rywhere
their high communion find.
His service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.

Join hands, united in the faith,
whate'er your race may be;
who serve my Father as their own
are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north;
all Christlike souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

(John Oxenham) (1852-1941).

Tune: Kilmarnock.

Prayers of Approach

The Lord be with you:
and also with you.

**AUTHOR OF LIGHT,
you bring to light things hidden in darkness
and know the shadows of our hearts:
cleanse and renew us by your Spirit,
that we may walk in the light
and glorify your name;
through Jesus Christ,
the Light of the world. Amen.**

If you are able, please remain standing until after the Collect.

Prayers of Penitence

‘Cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice,
rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan,
plead for the widow.’

Isaiah 1.16-17.

This is our vocation; often we have failed.

Silence for reflection.

When we have failed to recognise you
in the faces of the downtrodden
or the cries of the oppressed.

Forgive us, O God.

When we have failed to serve you
through challenging injustice
or pursuing righteousness.

Forgive us, O God.

When we have failed to follow you
through loving the unlovely
or welcoming the stranger.

Forgive us, O God.

May God forgive you,
Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love. **Amen.**

Gloria

Org.

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
peace to his peo-ple on earth. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al-migh-ty God and
Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your

glo - ry. *Org.* *mp* 3 3 3
 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
 Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on
 us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our
 prayer. *mf* 3 3 3
 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a -
 lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit,
 in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Collect

Let us pray.

God of no fixed abode,
 ever reaching beyond yourself
 in pursuit of love's costly way:
 disturb our complacencies
 and uproot our prejudices
 that we may find our home in you,
 through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Journeying together in Faith

As young members prepare to leave for their groups, a prayer is offered.

**May God guide each of us,
 whatever our age or experience,
 in the way of Christ –
 the love of God go with you. Amen.**

Children, teenagers and group leaders set off.

Attending

Reading – Acts 15. 1 – 11, read by Eve Saunders

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

THEN CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, ‘Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.’ ² And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders.

³ So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the believers. ⁴ When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. ⁵ But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, ‘It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses.’

⁶ The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. ⁷ After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, ‘My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. ⁸ And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; ⁹ and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. ¹⁰ Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? ¹¹ On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.’

Let us wait upon the Lord;
in whose word is our hope.

Psalm 130.5.

Pause for reflection.

Hymn

WE DO NOT HOPE to ease our minds
by simple answers, shifted blame,
while Christ is homeless, hungry, poor,
and we are rich who bear his name.
As long as justice is a dream
and human dignity denied,
we stand with Christ; disturb us still
till every need is satisfied.

We cannot ask to live at peace
in comfort and security
while Christ is tried in Pilate's hall
and drags his cross to Calvary.
As long as hatred stifles truth
and freedom is betrayed by fear,
we stand with Christ; give us no peace
till his peace reigns in triumph here.

We will not pray to be preserved
from any depths of agony
while Christ's despairing cry rings out:
God, why have you abandoned me?
As long as we have hope to share
of life renewed beyond the pain,
we stand with Christ all through the night
till Easter morning dawns again.

*Marnie Barrell (b.1952).
Tune: Ye Banks and Braes.*

Gospel of Mary 6 – 7

The good news is proclaimed from the heart of the worshipping community.

The Gospel of Mary is an ancient Christian document purportedly written by Mary Magdalene, the apostle to the apostles.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mary.
Glory to you, O Lord.

PETER SAID TO MARY, 'Sister, we know that the Saviour loved you more than all other women. Tell us the words of the Saviour that you remember, the things that you know that we don't because we haven't

heard them. Mary replied, 'I will teach you about what is hidden from you.' And she began to speak these words to them. She said, 'I saw the Lord in a vision and I said to him, 'Lord, I saw you today in a vision.' He answered me, 'How wonderful you are for not wavering at seeing me! For where the mind is, there is the treasure.' I said to him, 'So now, Lord, does a person who sees a vision see it with the soul or with the spirit?' The Saviour said, 'A person does not see with the soul or with the spirit. Rather the mind, which exists between these two, sees the vision.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – The Rev'd Sue Hammersley

Followed by a period of silence for reflection.

Responding

Prayers of Solidarity & Concern, led by Peter Fisher

The following chant is sung at the beginning and end of the intercessions.

Through our lives and by our prayers, your king- dom come.

Wild Goose Resource Group.

After each petition.

Light of the world.

Bring healing, bring peace.

At the end.

Christ, Light of the world.

**May your healing peace
bring hope to our troubled world;
be born in us, we pray. Amen.**

Greeting of Peace

Let love be genuine. Never pay back evil for evil.
As far as it lies with you, live at peace with everyone.

Romans 12. 9 & 18.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Gestures of peace and goodwill are shared, especially with those who are unfamiliar or from whom we are estranged.

Hymn

A collection is taken for the ministry of St Mark's. If you are a taxpayer and are not currently a member of the church's planned giving scheme, please place your gift in one of the envelopes provided, writing your name and address on the front. Thank you.

GREAT GOD, your love has called us here,
as we, by love for love were made.
Your living likeness still we bear,
though marred, dishonoured, disobeyed.
We come, with all our heart and mind
your call to hear, your love to find.

We come with self-inflicted pains
of broken trust and chosen wrong,
half-free, half-bound by inner chains,
by social forces swept along,
by powers and systems close confined,
yet seeking hope for humankind.

Great God, in Christ you call our name
and then receive us as your own,
not through some merit, right or claim,
but by your gracious love alone.
We strain to glimpse your mercy seat
and find you kneeling at our feet.

Then take the towel, and break the bread,
and humble us, and call us friends.
Suffer and serve till all are fed,
and show how grandly love intends
to work till all creation sings,
to fill all worlds, to crown all things.

Great God, in Christ you set us free
your life to live, your joy to share.
Give us your Spirit's liberty
to turn from guilt and dull despair
and offer all that faith can do
while love is making all things new.

Brian Wren (b 1936).

Tune: Melita.

Abiding

Preparation

Tokens of our response to God, bread and wine, and the collection, are offered.

What do you bring to Christ's table?

**We bring bread, made by many people's work,
from an unjust world where some have plenty
and most go hungry.**

At this table all are fed, and no-one is turned away.

Thanks be to God.

What do you bring to Christ's table?

**We bring wine, made by many people's work,
from an unjust world where some have leisure
and most struggle to survive.**

At this table all share the cup of pain and celebration
and no-one is denied.

Thanks be to God.

These gifts shall be for us the body and blood of Christ.

**Our witness against hunger, our cry against injustice,
and our hope for a world where God is fully known
and every child is fed. Thanks be to God.**

Brian Wren (b 1936).

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray. (*please sit or kneel*)

Ever-beckoning God,
we thank you that in every age
you are calling people to venture forth in faith -
leaving behind the securities of self-interest
in pursuit of justice, truth and peace.

We thank you that in Jesus
your word has been fulfilled –
through life,
through death,
through life beyond death –
drawing humanity into your presence
that all may find their integrity in you.

We thank you that through him
we can approach this table,
no matter who we are
or where life has led us,
no matter what our confusion
or how deep our doubts.

And so we praise you
with the faithful of every time and place
who have struggled to embody your word
and live out your wisdom, singing,

Moderate speed

The musical score is written on two staves in G major and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a rest for two measures, followed by a melody starting on G4. The second staff continues the melody, starting on G4 and ending on G5. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *f* (forte).

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of truth and love,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry Ho - sa - na in the high - est.

Without hurrying *mp*

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - sa - na in the high - est.

And now, in obedience to his command,
it is our privilege and our joy,
to remember the night he gave himself up
and was handed over to death.

One final time, among friends,
gathered round a table,
Jesus took bread, and after giving you thanks,
he broke it
and offered it to them, saying,
'This is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me'

Afterwards, he took the cup of wine,
blessed it,
and offered it to them, saying,
'This is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.'

As we remember his life,
proclaim his death and celebrate his resurrection,
may your Holy Spirit inspire this communion
that all who share this bread and wine
may feed on Christ and become one with him.

**Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your people
and kindle in us the fire of your love. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer & Communion

Rejoicing in the presence of God among us,
we pray as 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.
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.**

The bread is broken.

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

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

Words of invitation follow.

Christ's table has been prepared
and Christ is the one who beckons.
Come take your place and feed on him.

*Everyone is invited to share in the communion through receiving the bread
and wine or if preferred, a prayer of blessing. Please approach the altar
rail with those around you. Gluten-free bread rolls are used.*

During administration, we sing together the following chant:

Take, oh take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart
and live in me.

Wild Goose Resource Group.

*Afterwards, the choir will sing, Blessed are the Pure in Heart, Henry Walford Davies
(1869-1941)*

At the conclusion, silence is shared.

Venturing

Prayers of Commitment

Let us pray.

**God of the open hand,
in whom all find a welcome:
help us to feed the hungry,
give refreshment to the thirsty,
provide covering for the naked,
care for the sick,
and extend a hand of friendship to the lonely,
as fellow pilgrims of Love's embrace. Amen.**

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

Notices

Blessing

MAY CHRIST, who draws the nations to himself,
teach us to love our enemies;

may Christ, who enters the water of baptism,
lead us to die to all but love;

may Christ, who gives new wine for the world,
turn our bitterness into joy;

and the blessing of God,
Creator, Christ and Sacred Spirit,
rest upon you and those whom you love,
both living and departed, now and always. **Amen.**

Hymn

Christ in us the hope of glory!
Christ the dying, living Lord!
Summoned by the Holy Spirit,
we are called to live for God.
In a world of thrilling science,
in an age of threatening force,
in a time of moral questions:
Lord, direct the Church's course.

Christ in us the hope of glory!
Christ, God's love among us here:
greeting outcasts, helping widows,
blessing children, conquering fear.
This same love the Spirit brings us:
let it overflow today
on our neighbours' nest of troubles;
send the peace for which they pray.

Christ in us the hope of glory!
Christ, the Father's trusted Son,
help us now - your diverse body -
to attend to everyone.
As with thoughtful care we listen
and Christ's wisdom firmly seek,
may we gain the right perspective,
glimpse the truth we need to speak.

Christ in us the hope of glory!
Sown the seed, yet harvest waits.
Christ our Lord, the world is longing
for good news at city gates.
Usher in your promised kingdom,
nourish justice, put down wrong!
Let earth join God's Easter people,
sing the alleluia song.

*David Mowbray (b 1938).
Tune: Abbots Leigh.*

Commission *(please face the back of church)*

Jesus invites us to a way of celebration,
meeting and feasting with the humble and poor.

Let us walk his way with joy.

Jesus beckons us to a way of risk,
letting go of our security.

Let us walk his way with joy.

Jesus challenges us to listen
to the voices of those who have nothing to lose.

Let us walk his way with joy.

Jesus points us to a way of self-giving,
where power and status are overturned.

Let us walk his way with joy.

Jesus calls us to follow the way of the cross,
where despair is transformed by the promise of new life.

Let us walk his way with joy. Amen.

Jan Berry.

Organ voluntary

Refreshments are served in the lounge. Everyone is invited!



Printed on Recycled Paper.

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