



St. Andrew ♦ Holy Cross

14th January 2018 – The Second Sunday of Epiphany

Vicar – Rev. Jane Richards

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Welcome to our Worship this morning.

The Collect

Eternal Lord,

our beginning and our end:

bring us with the whole creation

to your glory, hidden through past ages

and made known

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

First Reading – Revelation 5. 1-10 (Church Bible page 1236)

Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?' But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.'

Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the centre of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. And they sang a new song, saying:

'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.'

Gospel Reading – John 1. 43-51 (Church Bible page 1064)

The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, 'Follow me.' Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, 'We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.'

'Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?' Nathanael asked.

'Come and see,' said Philip. When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, 'Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.'

'How do you know me?' Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, 'I saw you while you were still under the fig-tree before Philip called you.' Then Nathanael declared, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.'

Jesus said, 'You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig-tree.

You will see greater things than that.' He then added, 'Very truly I tell you, you will see "heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on" the Son of Man.'

Post Communion Prayer

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.

Amen

Prayer

If you have a particular need for prayer, please approach a member of the prayer ministry team who will be pleased to help you. If you prefer to write down your prayer request, cards are available in the entrance lobby in St Andrew's and on the welcome table in

Holy Cross. Place your completed card in the box: these prayers are offered during daily Morning Prayer.

For urgent prayer requests please contact Richard (01268 520688) or David and Marion (01268 523565).

What's on this week

Sunday	14 th	11:15am	Holy Communion at Holy Cross.
Monday	15 th	9:00am	Morning Prayer at St Andrew's.
		1:30pm	No Home Group (Joyce and Tom Hancock).
		6:30pm	Youth Club at St Andrew's.
		7:30pm	Evening Home Group (Peter White).
Tuesday	16 th	9:00am	Morning Prayer at St Andrew's.
		10:00am	Home Group (Cyril Phillips).
		7:45pm	Home Group (Barbara Bowhill).
Wednesday	17 th	9:30am	Holy Communion at Holy Cross.
		7:30pm	Course in Christian Studies at St Andrew's.
Thursday	18 th	9:00am	Morning Prayer at St Andrew's.
		12:00noon	Community Lunch at St Andrew's.
Friday	19 th	9:00am	Morning Prayer at St Andrew's.
Saturday	20 th	9:30am	Music Group Practice at St Andrew's.
Sunday	21 st	9:30am	Holy Communion at St Andrew's.
		11:15am	Holy Communion at Holy Cross.

Diary Dates

Churches Together in Basildon

Celebration Service 4th February at 6:30pm

We are hosting the Celebration Service for Churches Together at St. Andrew's - please do come along and join with our Christian brothers and sisters from across the town as we worship together and pray for our communities.

Archdeacon's Visit - 11th February

Archdeacon Mike Lodge will be visiting the parish on Sunday 11th February and will be preaching at both morning services. In order to allow more time for people to chat with Mike, there will be a lunch at 12:30pm at St. Andrew's to which everyone is very welcome.

Lent Modules

The Diocese are holding a number of courses covering a wide range of topics in many venues, including one at St. Andrew's. There are posters and more details on the noticeboards at both churches and if you would like any more information please have a word with Rev. Jane.

Items for news and prayer to Jackie Stubberfield on 01268 288930 or jmstubber@gmail.com by Thursday afternoon, please.

Next Sunday's readings are – Revelation 19. 6-10, John 2. 1-11.

New Year Nibbles!

Following the cancellation of the Mulled Wine and Mince Pies social at the Vicarage due to the unexpected snow, you are invited to come along on Sunday 14th January from 3:00pm – 5:00pm to celebrate (albeit slightly belatedly!) the start of the new year. There are sign-up sheets in both churches just to give me a rough idea of numbers for catering purposes. Happy New Year! **Reverend Jane**

Money, money, money...

As we come to the start of a new year it's an opportunity to say thank-you to everyone who has given financially to support God's work in the parish through 2017. It looks like we will just about hit our target giving through the whole year which is great.

Thank-you !

Moving forward into a new year, money is tight for many of us, so it's always worth making sure that what we can give is done most effectively.

If you are a tax payer, please make sure that you are giving under the GiftAid scheme, which means that we can claim back the tax you've paid on you giving through the Inland Revenue. (over £7,500 claimed back last year !) Whether you pay tax or not, it's a great help if you are able to give even a small amount regularly, either by the envelope scheme (new envelopes will be available by the end of January) or by a standing order from your bank. Please do contact Mark Stubberfield, or one of the churchwardens if you'd like information on *GiftAid*, the envelope scheme or standing orders.



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The News Sheet is available on-line at www.standrewholycross.org

Priestly Ponderings – 14th January 2018

This coming Thursday sees the commencement of the week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Although it is always good to have the opportunity to join with other Christians to pray for a common cause it always strikes me as poignant that there is a need for a specific week in which we focus our prayers on asking God to help us maintain unity within the same faith. Surely as we are all members of the Body of Christ it goes without saying that we are all united in the common cause of participating in God's mission on earth through the proclamation of the Gospel message?

Yet this is not always the case. Almost from the very start of the Church there have been disagreements among Christians about all sorts of issues - we need only look to scripture to read of the discord between those early Church members who wanted to insist that the newly emerging faith remained rooted in Jewish tradition and customs, and those who believed that the new covenant with God that the death and resurrection of Jesus had brought about meant that such practices were no longer necessary. And so it went on, throughout history, different groups of Christians interpreting God's Word in different ways and insisting that their way was the legitimate one, often resulting in violence persecution and exile for those who felt unable to conform with the mainstream. You can almost begin to understand why some non-Christians struggle to accept the concept of a faith which proclaims universal love at its heart yet whose followers are unable to practice this principle in their relationships with each other. Even today there remains bitter divisions between different Christian denominations over issues such as the role of women in the church, sexuality and interpretation of scripture.

God's intention is to be in relationship with all of creation. His mission is inclusive and celebrates the diversity of humanity. In John 17:21 we are reminded of Jesus's prayer for all his disciples "that all of them may be one". Through our unity as the Body of Christ we can do great things for God's glory. So in this week set aside for prayer that Christian unity is strengthened throughout the world, let us give thanks for the opportunity that we have to live out the Gospel values of inclusive love for our neighbours and to look forward to continuing to participate in God's mission walking alongside all Christians regardless of denomination and in celebration of the beauty of diversity. ***Reverend Jane***