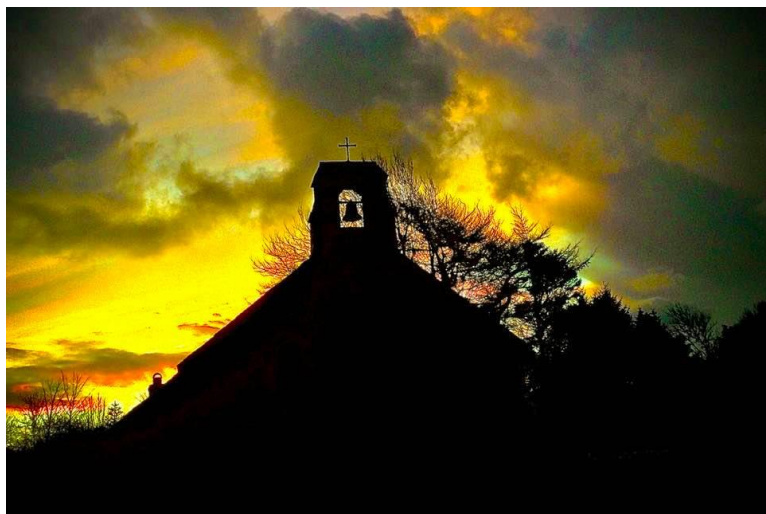


# THE CAMEL ALLEN CHURCHES - WORSHIP AT HOME

SUNDAY 10 JANUARY 2021



*Winter Sunset over St Thomas Church – photo courtesy of Pauline Kent*

**Gen 1.1-5** *<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.*

**Welcome as you worship with us at home.**

*Take a moment of stillness to recognise the presence of the living God with you and within you.*

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,**

**all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen**

**Hymn (we sing or say)**

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh.  
Awake and harken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every breast from sin:  
make straight the way for God within,  
prepare we in our heart's a home,  
where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward.  
Without thy grace we waste away  
like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,  
and bid the fallen sinner stand;  
shine forth and let thy light restore  
earth's own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee  
whose advent dost thy people free,  
whom with the Father we adore,  
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

## Prayers of penitence

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ  
to save us from our sins,  
to be our advocate in heaven  
and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,  
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments  
and to live in love and peace with all.

**Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly, love mercy  
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon us,  
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,  
confirm and strengthen us in all  
goodness and keep us in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen



## Gloria

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

## Collect

Eternal Father,  
who at the baptism of Jesus  
revealed him to be your Son,  
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:  
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,  
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;  
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.

## Hymn

O for a closer walk with God,  
a calm and heav'nly frame,  
a light to shine upon the road  
that leads me to the Lamb.

What peaceful hours I once enjoyed.  
How sweet their mem'ry still!  
But they have left an aching void  
the world can never fill.

The dearest idol I have known,  
whate'er that idol be,  
help me to tear it from thy throne  
and worship only thee.

So shall my walk be close with God,  
calm and serene my frame;  
so purer light shall mark the road  
that leads me to the Lamb.

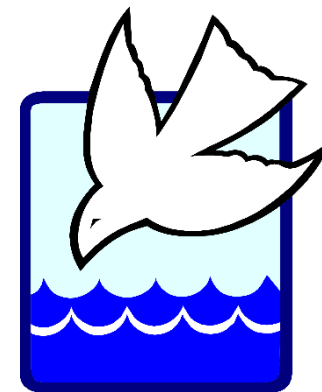


## Bible Readings

### Acts 19.1-7

*<sup>19</sup>While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. <sup>2</sup>He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' <sup>3</sup>Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' <sup>4</sup>Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who*

*was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' <sup>5</sup>On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— <sup>7</sup>altogether there were about twelve of them.*



### Mark 1.4-11

*<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'*

*<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'*

## Reflection

The baptism of Jesus marked the start of his journey of public ministry. He hadn't been idle up to this point, but from now on he would start to gather around him those who were willing to hear and receive his transforming message of reconciliation with God and enter into the radical lifestyle of love that he advocated. From now on he would start to speak about the Kingdom rule of God that was breaking into this world and transforming it from within. From now on he would start to demonstrate what God's rule was like by healings and acts of power: powerful signs, symbols of what God wanted to do to put his creation right.

From now on he would be in conflict with the religious leaders of the day who wanted to maintain things just as they were, to hang on to power and who thought they controlled access to God. From his baptism on, Jesus was set on a road that would lead to Jerusalem and the cross – which was meant as a defeat, but which God turned to good: the means by which we might be forgiven and reconciled with him. His baptism was the public start of this journey.

Jesus baptism was also the occasion of the public acknowledgement of his relationship with God. He is not just some slightly wacky individual with strange ideas, but God identifies him as his own, much loved son – he'd always been that of course, but now anyone who cared to listen knew it too. And Jesus, knew that God the Holy Spirit, like the dove that hovered over him, would be with him, guiding him through everything that lay ahead.

At our baptism we were recognised as the sons and daughters of the living God, part of his family, the church. And we too can know that God the Holy Spirit will be with us guiding us through everything that lays ahead of us, this year as always.



## Song

Ascribe greatness to our God, the rock.  
His work is perfect and all his ways are just.  
Ascribe greatness to our God, the rock.  
His work is perfect and all his ways are just.  
A God of faithfulness and without injustice,  
good and upright is he.  
A God of faithfulness and without injustice,  
good and upright is he.

## **We affirm our faith in the words of the Creed**

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*Let us pray for the church and for the world and let us thank God for his goodness...(add in your thoughts and prayers)*

For all your loving-kindness O God, thank you. Especially today we want thank you for....

We pray for your world, for ...

For the leaders of the nations, we pray for....

We bring before you those suffering in body, mind or spirit, praying especially for ...

We pray for your church, that we might realise who we truly are in Christ Jesus and fulfil our calling in the world. We ask that ...

We pray for one-another, wherever we are worshipping today, for your blessing upon ...

Finally we bring ourselves before you, asking that ...

Merciful Father,  
accept our prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen



## Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

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.



## Hymn

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore,  
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain,  
whence the healing stream doth flow.  
Let the fiery cloudy pillar

lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield,  
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside.  
Death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee,  
I will ever give to thee.

## Blessing

The peace of God,  
which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds  
in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;

and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

*Common Worship Services and prayers for the Church of England*  
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