

## HOME WORSHIP FOR 24 JANUARY THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

### OPENING PRAYER

Spirit of God moving over the waters, bringing light where there was only darkness; Holy Spirit, move among us, change us, enlighten us.

Spirit of God, there at the baptism of Jesus, claiming, anointing, speaking loving words; Holy Spirit, touch us, enthuse us, claim us.

Spirit of God, calling disciples in days of old and today to follow Jesus, the way, the truth, and the life; Holy Spirit, meet us, convince us, inspire us.

Trust in God! God will give us the challenging task, but also the strength to get it done.

Trust in God! God will call us to discipleship, and give us the insight to work out our following of Jesus.

Trust in God! God will show us our role within the church and community, and sensitivity to the needs of those besides us.

Trust in God! God will love us through all the changing scenes of life, and will be there at life's end to welcome us home. Amen.

MEMORY VERSE – try to memorise these verses from today's readings.

*Then I heard the noise of a huge crowd. It sounded like the roar of rushing waters and like loud thunder. The people were shouting, "Hallelujah! Our Lord God is the King who rules over all. Let us be joyful and glad! Let us give him glory!*

(Revelation 19: 6-7a)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH based on *Philippians 2: 6-11*

Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even death upon the cross. Therefore, God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We pray that the Church may be a vibrant sign of God's life in every generation and locality, serving, listening and loving, with the human face of ordinary people lit with the brightness of God.

Direct us Lord: and we will follow.

We pray that the world's attention may be refocused on what is of lasting value; that in humility, all in authority may hear the real needs, honour them and act upon them.

Direct us Lord: and we will follow.

We pray for our villages, communities and all those who live and worship in them, may we all be alerted to the signs of glory around us in the ordinary, daily miracles, and come to welcome Jesus as Lord.

Direct us Lord: and we will follow.

We pray that those who are searching for God may realise his closeness to them; that wrong lives may be courageously righted, and damaged lives and attitudes mended.

Direct us Lord: and we will follow.

We pray that we may become increasingly aware of God's amazing love for each of us, until our hearts are overflowing with thankfulness and praise.

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

### CLOSING PRAYER

You are the rock, O God! On your foundation we will be strong.

You are the rock, O God, the solid basis of our faith.

You are the rock, O God! Our discipleship of Jesus cannot be shaken.

You are the rock, O God, our refuge in hard times.

You are the rock, O God! Your steadfast love will eternally secure us.

To God the Father, who loved us, and made us accepted in the Beloved:  
to God the Son, who loved us, and loosed us from our sins by his own blood:

to God the Holy Spirit, who spreads the love of God abroad in our hearts:  
to the one true God be all love and all glory for time and eternity. Amen.