

**St Columba and the Northern Saints**  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022**

**PRE WORSHIP**

*Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,  
Open the eyes of my heart.  
I want to see You, I want to see You.  
(Repeat)*

To see You high and lifted up,  
Shining in the light of Your glory.  
Pour out Your power and love,  
As we sing holy, holy, holy.

*Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,  
Open the eyes of my heart.  
I want to see You, I want to see You.  
(Repeat)*

To see You high and lifted up,  
Shining in the light of Your glory.  
Pour out Your power and love,  
As we sing holy, holy, holy.

*Holy, holy, holy,  
Holy, holy, holy,  
Holy holy holy,  
I want to see You.  
(Repeat)*

**WELCOME**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Eternal God and Father,  
you are the source of all life,  
the fount of all wisdom,  
the wellspring of all grace.  
Your days are without end,  
your loving mercies without number.  
We depend on you:  
and we remember your goodness to us  
and to those who have gone before us.  
We tell your story in every generation:  
God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,  
God of Sarah, Rebekah and Rachel.  
God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
God of a pilgrim people, your church.  
You are our God,  
ahead of us, leading us,  
guiding us and calling us;  
you are the Lord God,  
the all wise, the all compassionate.  
To you we lift up our hearts  
and we worship you,  
one God for ever and ever. **AMEN**

SONG 1      Make way, make way

Make way, make way,  
for Christ the King  
In splendour arrives.  
Fling wide the gates and welcome Him  
Into your lives.

*Make way! (Make way!)  
Make way! (Make way!)  
For the King of kings. (For the King of kings.)  
Make way! (Make way!)  
Make way! (Make way!)  
And let His kingdom in.*

He comes the broken hearts to heal,  
The prisoners to free.  
The deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance,  
The blind shall see.

**(chorus)**

And those who mourn with heavy hearts,  
Who weep and sigh;  
With laughter, joy and royal crown  
He'll beautify.

**(chorus)**

We call you now to worship Him  
As Lord of all.  
To have no gods before Him,  
Their thrones must fall!

**(chorus)**

PSALM 19

- <sup>1</sup> The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
- <sup>2</sup> Day after day they pour forth speech;  
night after night they reveal knowledge.
- <sup>3</sup> They have no speech, they use no words;  
no sound is heard from them.
- <sup>4</sup> Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,  
their words to the ends of the world.  
In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.
- <sup>5</sup> It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,  
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.
- <sup>6</sup> It rises at one end of the heavens  
and makes its circuit to the other;  
nothing is deprived of its warmth.
- <sup>7</sup> The law of the Lord is perfect,  
refreshing the soul.  
The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy,  
making wise the simple.
- <sup>8</sup> The precepts of the Lord are right,  
giving joy to the heart.  
The commands of the Lord are radiant,  
giving light to the eyes.
- <sup>9</sup> The fear of the Lord is pure,  
enduring for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are firm,  
and all of them are righteous.  
<sup>10</sup> They are more precious than gold,  
than much pure gold;  
they are sweeter than honey,  
than honey from the honeycomb.  
<sup>11</sup> By them your servant is warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.  
<sup>12</sup> But who can discern their own errors?  
Forgive my hidden faults.  
<sup>13</sup> Keep your servant also from wilful sins;  
may they not rule over me.  
Then I will be blameless,  
innocent of great transgression.  
<sup>14</sup> May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart  
be pleasing in your sight,  
Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.  
**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

#### COLLECT

God of all mercy,  
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,  
release to the captives,  
and freedom to the oppressed:  
anoint us with your Holy Spirit,  
and set all your people free  
to praise you in Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

#### SONG 2      I give You all the honour

I give you all the honour  
And praise that's due Your name,  
For You are the King of glory,  
The Creator of all things.

*And I worship You,  
I give my life to You,  
I fall down on my knees.  
Yes, I worship You,  
I give my life to You,  
I fall down on my knees.*

As Your Spirit moves upon me now  
You meet my deepest need,  
And I lift my hands up to Your throne,  
Your mercy I've received.

#### **Chorus**

You have broken chains that bound me,  
You've set this captive free;  
I will lift my voice to praise Your name  
For all eternity.

#### **Chorus**

## BIBLE READING - Luke 4:14-21

<sup>14</sup> Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. <sup>15</sup> He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

<sup>16</sup> He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

<sup>18</sup> 'The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
and recovery of sight for the blind,  
to set the oppressed free,

<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

<sup>20</sup> Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. <sup>21</sup> He began by saying to them, 'Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.'

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

SERMON by Kevin Montgomery

Chapter 4 of Luke.

Here we are at the beginning of the ministry of Jesus on earth.

When you open your Bible you'll spot those little headers that they use to announce what the next chapter or the next few verses of scripture are about.

The first three chapters contain so much already before we even get to today's reading;

- The Birth of John the Baptist is Foretold
- The Birth of Jesus Foretold
- Mary Visits Elizabeth
- Mary's Song of Praise
- The Birth of John the Baptist
- Zechariah's Prophecy
- The Birth of Jesus
- The Shepherds and the Angels
- Jesus is Named
- Jesus is Presented in the Temple
- The Return to Nazareth
- The Boy Jesus in the Temple
- The Proclamation of John the Baptist
- The Baptism of Jesus
- The Ancestors of Jesus
- The Temptation of Jesus

I did hear someone say to me recently that they don't like the headers, because they feel like spoilers, they give away what's going to happen next rather than just letting you read it.

I can sort of understand what they're saying - after all if you were reading a novel you wouldn't want it to contain headings that gave away what was coming up in the plot, Chapter 10, "The Death of the Hero's Father." It would be kind of deflating wouldn't it?

Even worse if they felt like they were misleading. If you read, "Chapter 11, The Hero runs the London Marathon", and when you read it the Hero went for a jog around the local park, you might feel a bit cheated.

Speaking of London, I remember many years ago being at a London Underground station waiting for a Circle line Tube train to arrive.

The little display board told me that a Circle line train would be arriving at platform 3 in approximately 4 minutes. So I, and a few others were all standing at platform 3 waiting for the train to arrive.

Lo and behold, a tube train duly arrived. People got off.

I and those few others got on. Nothing happened. The doors closed, but we didn't depart.

Then a couple of minutes later an announcement came over the tannoy and said "Due to an issue further down the line the train at platform 3 is now a District line train. The train at platform 3 is a district line train."

Now if you know the London Underground you'll know that the Circle line and the District line share quite a few stations, so for those only going a short journey that change may not matter, but for those going a bit further, it was no good to them. I was one of those.

So, I, and a few others, got off the train. A few others got on.

We waited for it to depart. Nothing happened.

A couple of minutes after that, "Ladies and Gentlemen, the train at platform 3 is now a circle line train. The train at platform 3 is now a circle line train."

I, and the few others, all duly got back on the train. A few people on the train got off.

Nothing happened.

Then after a couple of minutes - well can you guess? That's right, "The train at platform three is now a district line train, a district line train"

Off we got. Other people got on. Nothing happened.

A few minutes went by. Then, finally, the train at platform 3, now a district line train, slowly pulled out of the station, leaving a few bemused passengers wondering what on earth was going on.

As it happens, a circle line train arrived two minutes later, everyone got on and the train pulled out of the station a few minutes later.

But for those few minutes there was a great deal of uncertainty, a great deal of wondering what on earth was going on.

And then we get to today's passage; there is no doubt in today's passage. In fact the header probably undersells it.

"The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry"

and then "The rejection of Jesus at Nazareth" - now we don't actually get to that bit as our reading stops before that part. So in some ways that is a spoiler, if you read past verse 21 and up to verse 30 you'll see why they've named this passage as they have.

But for today, we get this part, "Then Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit", not a bad opening line for a reading. Some people will tell you that the opening line of a book can tell you whether it's going to be a good read or a bad one.

Genesis famously starts with "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth", which is as good an opening as you'll find. "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife." - from that little known novel *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. "Mr and Mrs Dursley of number four, Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much.", penned by a certain J.K. Rowling in a book called *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, I suspect a few of you may have heard of it.

If I was going to start a book with a great line, then I think I'd be pretty happy with, "Then Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit". There is nothing uncertain or unclear about it.

Indeed, if I could say, "Kevin returned to St Columba filled with the power of the Spirit", I'd be pretty happy with that - I'm sure you would too - do feel free to put your own name in instead of mine.

"...a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in the synagogues and was praised by everyone."

Not always to be the case for Jesus of course, indeed the section after verse 21 shows clearly that he wasn't being praised by everyone anymore.

Truth is universal, what Jesus was saying was true, but in the end it may not always have been popular. Praise can be fleeting, and is not always to be relied on to validate what has been said. It's nice to get it of course, but the truth of God's message is true whether it is praised or not.

Before it gets to the point where suddenly not everyone is happy, Jesus come to Nazareth, goes to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom.

There's a truth in that as well, Jesus habitually went to church - and we should too. Sometimes there are good reasons why we can't and God knows that and understands, but it's clear to me that Jesus had a habit of going to church, and we should be no different.

He stands up to read, in those days you stood up to read the scripture but sat down to preach, a little different to how we do things now.

Jesus reads the passage from Isaiah, which we now know to be the beginning of Chapter 61 of Isaiah.

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to set the oppressed free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of all the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Amazing. We've just had it read to us - imagine if instead of "This is the word of the Lord", the person reading it had said, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing". You might be slightly taken aback, slightly surprised.

The amazing part is that it's true.

The Spirit of the Lord us on me, on you. God's Spirit is with us, because of all that happened on the day of Pentecost two thousand years ago, the gift of the Holy Spirit being given to the followers of Jesus, we can clearly say that. We can have God's spirit with us, upon us.

When we come to faith, when we believe in God's message of salvation we are given access to his Holy Spirit, we are anointed by Him.

We are called to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the prisoners, and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

Who are the poor? It's not necessarily those who are simply financially not well off. It is a thing of the Spirit. Those who have relationship with God are spiritually rich, those who do not are spiritually poor.

Those who have relationship with God have release from captivity, captured by the world, by the weight of sin, the wrong things they've done. We can proclaim release from that captivity.

Those who are not in relationship with God can be said to be spiritually blind, unable to see God for who He is. Yet we can open the eyes of the spiritually blind through the good news of relationship with God.

We can let the oppressed go free, and we can proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

Many of these things can be applied to the physical as well, bringing good news to the poor, release for those unjustly imprisoned, a miracle restoring sight to someone who is blind, an oppressed person being set free - perhaps recovery from addiction or mental health issues. Can God do this? Of course he can, but is it as important as the spiritual truth of these words? The physical is of the moment, of the here and now, but the spiritual is eternal and everlasting.

You might be sitting there thinking, all very well for Jesus to say that, look at who he is.

Yes, Jesus, was the son of God, and he boldly proclaimed this passage over his own life. He was entitled to.

The wonder of it is this. If we accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour then we can too. We are adopted into God's family, sons and daughters of God, and these words can equally apply to us.

This is a proclamation of God's call on our lives as his children. Jesus knew it, he knew it as truth and so should we.

There are two things I would want you to take away from today's message.

First this, If you're thinking about purpose, thinking about your relationship with God, thinking about what it is to be a Christian then do this.

Take this passage, these couple of verses, 18 and 19 and read them over yourself, knowing that as it was true for Jesus it is true for you. Of course, it is God who brings freedom, who sets people free it's not done on our own - but that's why it's in the power of the Spirit!

If you want to stand in front of a mirror and say them to yourself. They're true about the person looking back at you in the mirror - and that person is you.

Secondly, having proclaimed them, live them.

Live these words, make them part of who you are, you are anointed to bring good news, to proclaim release, recovery of sight, freedom from oppression and proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

This is the truth. It was Jesus's truth. It is our truth.

As we finish, if you know God, if you have relationship with him then say it with me, if you don't know him, then talk to someone today and you can, but if you do know him, say it these words of scripture together with me now:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to set the oppressed free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.”  
Amen!

### SONG 3      Take us to the river

Take us to the river,  
Take us there in unity to sing  
A song of Your salvation  
To win this generation for our King.  
A song of Your forgiveness,  
For it is with grace that river flows;  
Take us to the river  
In the city of our God.

Take us to Your throne room,  
Give us ears to hear the cry of heaven;  
For that cry is mercy,  
Mercy to the fallen sons of man:  
For mercy it has triumphed,  
Triumphed over judgement by Your blood;  
Take us to the throne room  
In the city of our God.

*For the Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon us:  
This is the year of the Lord.  
The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon us,  
This is the year of the Lord.*

Take us to the mountain,  
Lift us in the shadow of Your hands;  
Is this Your mighty angel,  
Who stands astride the ocean and the land?  
For in his hand Your mercy  
Showers on a dry and barren place;  
Take us to the mountain  
In the city of our God.

**(chorus)**

### INVITATION TO CONFESSION

In the presence of the God and Father of us all,  
we meet together to give thanks  
for the spiritual unity which is already ours  
as members of the Body of Christ.



Let us acknowledge our sin,  
that this unity may, by God's grace,  
become a visible unity,  
so that his church in every place  
may demonstrate the healing power of the gospel, and be an instrument of his peace  
in the life of the world.

There is one Body and one Spirit,  
and one hope of our calling.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

There is one God and Father of us all,  
above all, and through all, and in all.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God cleanse us from sin  
and make us worthy of the kingdom of his glory. **AMEN.**

#### CALL TO UNITY

It is our conviction that our churches must work and serve together,  
in search of the unity for which Christ prayed  
and in common evangelism and service of the world.

By God's grace will you do your best to hold the Christian faith  
and to continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship?

**We will**

Will you, together with other Christians in this place and community,  
proclaim the good news by word and deed, serving Christ in all people?

**We will**

Will you, together with other Christians in this place and community,  
work for justice and peace, honouring God in all that he has made?

**We will**

Will you, together with other Christians in this place and community,  
pray and work for the unity of all Christian people?

**We will**

As the seed grows secretly in the earth,  
as the yeast rises in the dough,  
may the power of God be at work in us.  
May we be like a city set on a hill,  
like a lamp shining in the darkness,  
May we witness together with all Christians  
to the glory of God and the fulfilment of his kingdom. **AMEN**

#### SONG 4 The church's one foundation

The church's one foundation  
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
She is His new creation  
By water and the word;  
From heaven He came and sought her  
To be His holy bride,  
With His own blood He bought her,  
And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation,  
Yet one o'er all the earth,  
Her charter of salvation—  
One Lord, one faith, one birth;  
One holy name she blesses,  
Partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses  
With every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder  
Men see her sore oppressed,  
By schisms rent asunder,  
By heresies distressed,  
Yet saints their watch are keeping,  
Their cry goes up, 'How long?'  
And soon the night of weeping  
Shall be the morn of song.

'Mid toil, and tribulation,  
And tumult of her war,  
She waits the consummation  
Of peace forever more;  
Till with the vision glorious  
Her longing eyes are blessed,  
And the great church victorious  
Shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union  
With God the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion  
With those whose rest is won:  
O happy ones and holy!  
Lord, give us grace that we,  
Like them, the meek and lowly,  
On high may dwell with Thee.

#### PRAYERS by Trevor Wade

Heavenly Father, Almighty God, we come before You this morning to worship You and to offer our prayers. We thank you time and time again for the blessing of Your son, our Lord Jesus Christ. You sent him to earth with a mission, a mission of good news, that is our salvation, our freedom and our healing. Much of this we have seen, but there is so much more to do. People need to be reached and that task becomes harder as the world's values seize more and more of people's minds. Injustice becomes more common and greed is rife, this is the world we now live in. This beautiful world that You have created deserves so much more, man is destroying it slowly but surely. The people of today need Your good news so much and we pray that they would hear it, understand it and fully accept it and rejoice in their salvation.

Lord it doesn't help when we see the current situation we have with the politicians at the moment. We pray that the truth would be made clear, that politicians who have truth and justice as their true way of life come to the 'fore' and that the general public can have respect and trust in them. Lord help each one of us live our lives as a clear statement to our friends and neighbours of our belief and trust in you, may we have the right words to share with them when an opportunity arises,

Lord we are thankful that the Covid crisis seems to be improving, we pray this to be so. We also ask that the easing of restrictions is a wise step and that this would not lead to another rise in

infections. We pray also Lord that there would be an easing of pressure on the National Health Service both for the people who work within the organisation and for those who are waiting for treatment. Lord the back log of operations and appointments has grown and grown and many people are suffering because of this. We pray Lord that the suffering of many will be eased and healing will become more apparent.

Lord we give thanks that Tearfund is helping the Local Houses Of Prayer (LHOP) that are increasing around the world, small groups of people gathering together in their local areas, they worship and pray for Your Kingdom to break through, for Your good news to be heard. Lord we give thanks for the work that Tearfund is doing all around the world.

Lord we have read in the emails that Ian has circulated, we have learnt from our conversations with others of the illnesses, bereavements and desperate situations our brothers and sisters have been facing recently. And so we take a time of silence to lift up to Your loving arms those known to us who are in need of your help.

Father, we offer these prayers to You in the name of Your precious Son, our Lord Jesus.  
**AMEN.**

#### LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

SONG 5      By faith we see the hand of God

By faith we see the hand of God  
In the light of creation's grand design;  
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness,  
Who walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith our fathers roamed the earth  
With the power of His promise in their hearts:  
Of a holy city built by God's own hand –  
A place where peace and justice reign.

*We will stand as children of the promise,  
We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward.  
'Till the race is finished and the work is done,  
We'll walk by faith and not by sight.*

By faith the prophets saw a day  
When the longed-for Messiah would appear  
With the power to break the chains of sin and death,  
And rise triumphant from the grave.

By faith the church was called to go  
In the power of the Spirit to the lost,  
To deliver captives and to preach good news  
In every corner of the earth.

### **Chorus**

By faith this mountain shall be moved  
And the power of the gospel shall prevail,  
For we know in Christ all things are possible  
For those who call upon His name.

### ACCLAMATION

There is one body and one spirit.  
**There is one hope to which we were called;**  
one Lord, one faith, one baptism,  
**one God and Father of all.**

### DISMISSAL GOSPEL

Jesus said, 'As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.'  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### BLESSING

May God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
three persons in one God,  
inspire you to live as one,  
that you may witness to the perfect unity of his love;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**AMEN**

### DISMISSAL

One in heart and one in mind,  
and empowered by the Spirit,  
go in the peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**