

# EPIPHANY 3

## OPENING RESPONSES

Lord, we thank you  
for the great confidence that Mary had in her son.  
As we come before you now  
we pray that you will grant us a love, courage and a faith  
as strong as hers.  
**Amen.**

## IMMORTAL INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all life Thou givest, to both great and small;  
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
And wither and perish, but nought changeth Thee.**

**Great Father of Glory, pure Father of Light  
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;  
All laud we would render, O help us to see:  
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee.**

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.**

 CONFESSIO

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.  
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.’

The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

The grace of God has dawned upon the world  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.  
Let us confess our sins.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.**

**We are truly sorry  
and repent of all our sins.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.**

**Amen.**

The Lord enrich you with his grace,  
and nourish you with his blessing;  
the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil;  
the Lord accept your prayers,  
and absolve you from your offences,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **Amen.**

 I COME WITH JOY A CHILD OF GOD

I come with joy, a child of God,  
forgiven, loved, and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall,  
in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,  
each proud division ends.  
The love that made us makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends.

The spirit of the risen Christ,  
unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known:  
alive and among us here.

Together met, together bound,  
by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world,  
the love that makes us one.

 COLLECT

Almighty God,  
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles  
the wonder of your saving presence:  
renew your people with your heavenly grace,  
and in all our weakness  
sustain us by your mighty power;  
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. **Amen**

 BIBLE READING***John 2.1-11***

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

"Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realise where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

 REFLECTION

 **THIS I BELIEVE**

**Our Father everlasting  
The all creating One  
God Almighty  
Through Your Holy Spirit  
Conceiving Christ the Son  
Jesus our Savior**

**I believe in God our Father  
I believe in Christ the Son  
I believe in the Holy Spirit  
Our God is three in one  
I believe in the resurrection  
That we will rise again  
For I believe in the name of Jesus**

**Our Judge and our Defender  
Suffered and crucified  
Forgiveness is in You  
Descended into darkness  
You rose in glorious life  
Forever seated high**

**I believe in God our Father  
I believe in Christ the Son  
I believe in the Holy Spirit  
Our God is three in one  
I believe in the resurrection  
That we will rise again  
For I believe in the name of Jesus**

**I believe in You  
I believe You rose again  
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord  
I believe  
I believe in You  
I believe You rose again  
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord**

**I believe in life eternal  
I believe in the virgin birth  
I believe in the saints' communion  
And in Your holy Church  
I believe in the resurrection  
When Jesus comes again  
For I believe, in the name of Jesus**

**I believe in God our Father  
I believe in Christ the Son  
I believe in the Holy Spirit  
Our God is three in one  
I believe in the resurrection  
That we will rise again  
For I believe in the name of Jesus**

Writers: Fielding Benjamin David, Crocker Matthew Philip: Hillsong Worship



**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**



## A TIME OF PRAYER



## THE 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.**

 **CHRIST IS THE KING**

- 1 Christ is the King! O friends rejoice;  
brothers and sisters, with one voice  
tell all the world he is your choice.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
- 2 O magnify the Lord, and raise  
anthems of joy and holy praise  
for Christ's brave saints of ancient days.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
- 3 O Christian women, Christian men,  
all the world over, seek again  
the way disciples followed then.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
- 4 Let love's unconquerable might  
your scattered companies unite  
in service to the Lord of light.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
- 5 So shall God's will on earth be done,  
new lamps be lit, new tasks begun,  
and the whole Church at last be one.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**



# ROOTS at home

## Do something different

### Mark 1.14-20

In which, John's work is done, and Jesus' ministry begins in Galilee, a region where Jews and Gentiles lived. Jesus invites people to align their lives with the God whose rule is for all and whose time is now. He calls four fishermen to let go of other commitments to make this message their priority.

Now read **Mark 1.14-20** see p.2 for text.

### A note on the passage

It is tempting to think that there must be a backstory here. Had the fishermen met Jesus before, and were just waiting for the nod to become his disciples? Had they been searching for the Messiah for some time? Mark sticks to the centre-point of the action: there came a moment when Jesus said, 'Follow me,' and they did.



What do you think about the idea that you are chosen by Jesus?



- View a film clip of sunset at the Sea of Galilee and imagine yourself there, on the shore: [youtu.be/PJTvFMtWh98](https://youtu.be/PJTvFMtWh98)
- Now imagine that you are one of the fishermen called by Jesus. How do you feel? What thoughts do you have when he says, 'Follow me'? Does this show you something about yourself?
- In a household, you could act out the scene – freeze the action at various points and discuss, 'What is this person feeling now?'
- Alternatively, imagine the scene in a contemporary context – someone calls your name and you look over your shoulder...

## Plant

**You will need:** some kitchen paper, a jam jar, and a seed that will germinate.

- Jesus described his own calling as being like a seed (see John 12.24).
- Make the kitchen paper damp and roll it into a tube. Place it inside the jam jar. Slide the seed between the paper and the glass. Put the jar somewhere warm and light and check it regularly to keep the paper damp. Watch for growth.
- The seed must split for the new life to start. Think about any endings you have experienced that have also been new beginnings.

## DAILY PRAYER

I love you, Lord Jesus.  
Grant that I may always follow you,  
wherever the path of my life takes me. **Amen.**

- You might also find it helpful to reflect on the Methodist Covenant Prayer.

[www.rootsontheweb.com/content/PDFs/346041/Methodist\\_Covenant\\_Prayer\\_study.pdf](http://www.rootsontheweb.com/content/PDFs/346041/Methodist_Covenant_Prayer_study.pdf)



Read the poem 'The Summer Day' by Mary Oliver: [www.loc.gov/poetry/180/133.html](http://www.loc.gov/poetry/180/133.html) Notice how she finds meaning and wonder by looking very closely at a grasshopper. Take a walk and find something small and marvellous to look at – perhaps a leaf, a seed head or an insect. Allow wonder to fill your thoughts. Pray about this marvel that God has made. Pray about yourself and what you are going to do with your one wild and precious life.

## DISCOVER

- The disciples caught fish; Jesus calls them to catch people – same process, different focus! Find the process that is your gift, rather than always focussing on just one way to express it. Describe what you do with a verb rather than a title – e.g. 'bring joy to others' rather than 'screen writer' or 'comedian'.
- These questions may help you discern your core gift: When do you feel most alive? What would most people who know you describe as your key quality? Is there something that you have been doing with ease your whole life?

Learn more here:

[www.coregift.org/gift-library/#video](http://www.coregift.org/gift-library/#video).

Children can discover their core gift too - here is a questionnaire for children: [www.coregift.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/AltGiftQuestionsChildren.pdf](http://www.coregift.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/AltGiftQuestionsChildren.pdf)



## THE CONCLUSION

We thank you, Jesus, for all the good things you give us:

For our homes:

**shower blessings on them.**

For our families:

**shower blessings on them.**

For our friends:

**shower blessings on them.**

For the people where we live:

**shower blessings on them.**

For our church family:

**shower blessings on them.**

For our schools:

**shower blessings on them.**

For our places of work:

**shower blessings on them.**

We pray that we will always be thankful  
and never take anything for granted.

**Amen.**



## BLESSING

The Lord Jesus Christ,  
Son of the living God,  
teach us to walk in his way more trustfully,  
to accept his truth more faithfully,  
and to share his life more lovingly;  
that by the power of the Holy Spirit  
we may come as one family to the kingdom of the Father.  
And the blessing of God almighty  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among us and remain with us always. **Amen**