

**Informal Morning Worship**  
**16<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – 9:30am – Holy Cross, Ramsbury**



**The Second Sunday in the Church's season of Epiphany**

Text printed in **plain bold-face type** is for everyone to say; instructions are in *italics*.

Welcome, your news and notices

This is the day that the Lord has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Our Theme for today (*remain seated*)

Our theme today is 'Being open to the Holy Spirit'.

In this season of Epiphany, the church looks at the ways that God revealed himself to the world – following on from the announcement by the angels to the shepherds at the birth of Jesus in the stable; we have heard of the journey of the Magi – wise men from the East – Gentiles not Jews – Jesus first revealed beyond Israel; Jesus recognised as the Messiah by Simeon and Anna when Jesus is taken to be presented at the Temple; Jesus recognised by John when Jesus presents himself to be baptised in the River Jordan – the moment when the Holy Spirit descends like a dove on Jesus – and the voice from heaven declares “This is my Son”.

When the Holy Spirit alights on Jesus, he goes off to better understand what the Holy Spirit is calling Him to do – He is tempted in the wilderness, but the Holy Spirit upholds Him and he shuns the artful, enticing temptations of the devil.

Today, let's think about how we, declared by Jesus to be children of God – how open are we to the workings of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

The dove is a symbol of the Holy Spirit – another symbol of God's presence with us is light – light dispelling the darkness in our world, in our lives:

So we light candles, and sing together:

**God is here with us, God is in the light, Now there is no dark Candles  
burning bright.**

As we focus on our theme this morning – let us welcome God’s Holy Spirit into our lives today:

We stand to sing our first Hymn number 241

**Holy Spirit we welcome you**

please sit or kneel as we come to say sorry and ask God for forgiveness

God our Father in Heaven, we pray in the name of Jesus and through the Holy Spirit:  
we know we fail to achieve levels of righteousness in our thinking and doing.

We come before You to say sorry:

sorry for our wrong thoughts, incorrect words and actions to others: we see this as Sin

**Lord, direct us; save us and help us.**

For behaving just as we wish, without thinking of you;

Father, forgive us: **save us and help us.**

For failing you by what think, and say, and do;

Father, forgive us: **save us and help us.**

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you by temptations in the world about us;

Father, forgive us: **save us and help us.**

We have not loved you with all our heart, nor our neighbours as ourselves;

Father, forgive us: **save us and help us.**

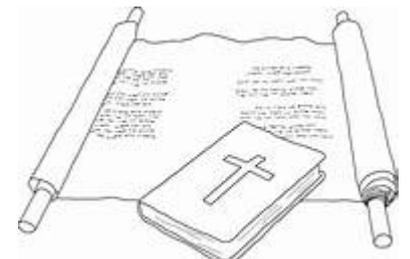
God, who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour, has promised to forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world - through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

please sit for our First reading:

1 Corinthians Chapter 12 verses 1-11

Paul teaches the early Christian church in Corinth about spiritual gifts



Reflection: **The Holy Spirit: Gifts – Service – Action**

please stand for our Gospel reading: John Chapter 2 verses 1-11

please sit for further Reflection: **The Holy Spirit: Activating our Faith**

Our next hymn continues our reflection on God's Holy Spirit:

We stand to sing Hymn number 611      **Spirit of holiness**

We remain standing as we affirm our Christian Faith and what we believe, saying

together:

**As children of God,  
We believe and trust in Him who we can call Father;**

**As Jesus the Son of God came to be one of us,  
We believe and trust in Him who we can call friend and brother;**

**As the Holy Spirit comes to us all,  
We believe in trust in Him who strengthens us in our faith and guides us in our lives:**

**This is the faith of the church, this is our faith,  
we believe and trust in one God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Please sit or kneel for our prayers:



In the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray together:

**Lord, take our minds and think through them;  
Take our lips and speak through them;  
Take our hearts and set them on fire with the desire to do your holy will;  
Turn our eyes away from vain things, that they may always look on your glory.  
For you are our God, the God of compassion and salvation; we glorify you,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
Amen.**

**O gracious and Holy Father, Give us wisdom to perceive You, Diligence to  
seek You,  
Patience to wait for You, Eyes to behold You,  
A heart to meditate upon You... And a life to proclaim You;  
That in all we say and do, we may know You more clearly,  
Love You more dearly, Follow You more nearly, Day by glorious day.  
Amen**

*prayers for our community, for our world in which we live, for the sick and the poor.*

In response to “Come Holy Spirit” we respond **“Send us your power”**

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

**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.**

Our final hymn celebrates the work of the Holy Spirit – in the church – in our lives:

*We stand to sing Hymn number 151:*                    **For I’m building a people of power**

*Blessing our days and weeks ahead*

*As we come to the end of our service,  
we blow out the candles, and stand to sing to each other:*

**May God’s blessing be upon you now  
May you know of his great love for you  
May God’s blessing be upon you now  
Right where you are.                    (twice)**



Let us all go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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**Church for the younger generations!**

We are expanding our offerings for families with young children:

As well as our regular **Team Family Service at 4pm on the first Sunday of each month**

(alternating venue between Holy Cross Ramsbury and St Michael’s Aldbourne),

we have also introduced a special **Children’s Group activity at Holy Cross** (in the vestry)

during our second Sunday Matins service at 9:30am.

Our third Sunday Informal Service at 9:30am, and of course all of our services, continue to welcome all ages!

***Please note:*** *as we continue to ensure everyone is kept as safe as possible in these COVID times,  
a reminder that face coverings are mandatory in church (unless exempt).*