

# Season of Epiphany

16th Feb 2025

Led by Kathleen Ziffo & Helen M Mee



## Welcome & Gathering

### Call to worship

One: The Holy One is here amongst us;  
ALL: Source of Wisdom  
One: Guide of Vision  
ALL: Weaver of Insight,  
One: The Holy Three-in-one  
ALL: Is shining the light of love into our lives and world.

*You have known me  
Jan Richardson*

### Hymn: Jesus calls us here to meet him CH4 510

Jesus calls us here to meet him  
As, through word and song and prayer,  
We affirm God's promised presence  
Where God's people live and care.  
Praise the God who keeps the Promise  
Praise the One who calls us friends  
Praise the Spirit who among us  
To our hopes and fears attends.

Jesus calls us to confess him  
Word of life and Lord of all.  
Sharer of our flesh and frailness  
Saving all who fail or fall.  
Tell his Holy Human story  
Tell his tales that all may hear  
Tell the world that Christ in glory  
Came to earth to meet us here.

Jesus calls us to each other  
Vastly different though we are;  
Creed and colour, class and gender  
Neither limit nor debar.  
Join the hand of friends and stranger;  
Join the hand of age and youth  
Join the faithful and the doubter  
In our common search for truth.

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## **Opening Prayer with movement**

ALL:

Above us, *(arms above)*

Below us, *(arms down)*

Within us, *(hands clasped at heart)*

The Light of Love is shining.

*We unite our prayers together in the Jesus Prayer or Lord's Prayer using the form of words on the screen which are most worshipful for you...*

Source of Life,

Father and Mother of us all:

Creation honours you!

May your Realm of Justice & Joy

Sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another,

forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen

## **Time for all ages: Open Letter to God (CTBI Racial Justice Sunday abridged)**

Dear God,

We wish it were as simple as saying stop. So, we say it—STOP!

We ask in Your name, we cry out from our deepest selves—STOP!

Stop the violence, the hatred, the exclusion—anything that turns our differences into weapons.

We pray for love. Your love—the force that binds the universe—

Let it descend like rain on parched earth.

Breathe life, Lord—

Into the dust and ashes of war-torn streets.

Into hospitals and schools shattered by bombs.

Into the corridors of power where weapons are traded like currency.

May Your justice roll like a mighty river, sweeping away lies, hate, and deceit.

Make way for compassion, grace, and mercy.

God of the heavens, make Your Kingdom here on earth.

Make it now.

Why delay? Why wait?

What about those who could not wait—

Who lost their lives, loved ones, or even hope?

Please, make it real.

Your Kingdom, here and now.

NOW! NOW! NOW!

Signed,

All Your children

**Hymn: Blessed are the ones I call poor** (\* lines repeat each verse)

Blessed are the ones I call the poor,

*\*Hey my love and ho my joy;*

Blessed are the ones I call the poor,

*\*Who dearly love me;*

Blessed are the ones I call the poor,

God shall their Kingdom's place ensure;

*\*God's Kingdom is of Heaven, of Earth, of Fire, of Love.*

Blessed are ones who deeply mourn,

God's comfort in their hearts is known:

Blessed are the ones who know their need,

In them God's promises take seed:

Blessed are the ones who thirst for right,

Their journey's end is filled with light:

Blessed are the ones who pardon all,

With equal grace they'll hear God's call:

Blessed are the ones whose pure hearts shine,

they'll see their Lord and with him dine:

Blessed are the ones how work for peace,

As God's own children they'll increase:

Blessed are the ones the world puts down,

They'll have the Kingdom for their own:

*From Heaven Shall Not Wait, JL Bell & G Maule.*

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**Readings read by Francis Nunez**

**Genesis 37:1-4**

37 Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. 2 This is the story of the family of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives;

and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. 3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves.[a] 4 But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

### **Luke 6:17-26**

17 He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. 18 They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. 19 And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

20 Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

'Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.

21 'Blessed are you who are hungry now,  
for you will be filled.

'Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

22 'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. 23 Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

24 'But woe to you who are rich,  
for you have received your consolation.

25 'Woe to you who are full now,  
for you will be hungry.

'Woe to you who are laughing now,  
for you will mourn and weep.

26 'Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

### **Colossians 2:1-5 from the Message**

2 I want you to realize that I continue to work as hard as I know how for you, and also for the Christians over at Laodicea. Not many of you have met me face-to-face, but that doesn't make any difference. Know that I'm on your side, right alongside you. You're not in this alone.

2-4 I want you woven into a tapestry of love, in touch with everything there is to know of God. Then you will have minds confident and at rest, focused on Christ, God's great mystery. All the richest treasures of wisdom and knowledge are embedded in that mystery and nowhere else. And we've been shown the mystery! I'm telling you this because I don't want anyone

leading you off on some wild-goose chase, after other so-called mysteries, or “the Secret.”

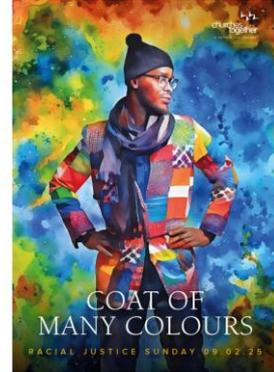
5 I'm a long way off, true, and you may never lay eyes on me, but believe me, I'm on your side, right beside you. I am delighted to hear of the careful and orderly ways you conduct your affairs, and impressed with the solid substance of your faith in Christ.

## Reflection by Rev Helen M Mee

### Prayer for others: God of the Garden (from CTBI Racial Justice Sunday)

### Offering & Dedication

Praise God from whom all blessing flow  
Praise God all creature here below  
Praise God above, You heavenly host  
Praise Maker Christ and Holy Ghost



*Music: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510-1561. Words: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711*

## Communion

One: May the God of blessings be with you!

**ALL: And with you!**

One: Let us lift our hearts to the One who plants us by living water.

**ALL: We open our hearts, to be filled with God's grace.**

One: Let us sing glad songs to God, who takes delight in us.

**ALL: We will sing of our blessings to the One we trust in all things.**

**ALL: Holy, holy, holy are you, God who blesses.**

**All creation trusts in your goodness.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who has been raised from the dead.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

## Notices

### Hymn: Beauty for Brokenness CH4 259

Hymn: Beauty for brokenness CH4 259

Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair

Lord, in your suffering, this is our prayer.

Bread for the children, Justice, joy, peace

Sunrise to sunset, Your kingdom increase.

Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills

Work for the craftsman, trade for their skills.  
Land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak  
Voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak.

God of the poor, friend of the weak  
Give us compassion we pray  
Melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain  
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame

Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear  
Cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share.  
Peace to the killing-fields, scorched earth to green  
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain.  
God of the poor, friend of the weak  
Give us compassion we pray  
Melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain  
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame

Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams  
Plundered and poisoned, our future, our dreams.  
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed  
Make us content with, the things that we need.  
God of the poor, friend of the weak  
Give us compassion we pray  
Melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain  
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame

Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame,  
Until your justice burns brightly again.  
Until the nations learn of your ways,  
Seek your salvation and bring you their praise.  
God of the poor, friend of the weak  
Give us compassion we pray  
Melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain  
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame

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## **Notices**

## **Blessing & Sung Amen**

## What's on @ AUC this week?

Event	Date	Time	Location	Notes
Sunday Worship	Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	11am	AUC & Online	Kathleen is leading and Helen M. Mee is preaching
Post Service Zoom Social	Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	12 noon	Online	
Becoming a Better Listener Part 2	Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	12.45-3pm	AUC	Rescheduled from before Christmas, for those who had signed up previously
Contextual Bible Study	Weds 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	7.30pm	Online	<i>1 Corinthians 15:35-50</i> . Email <a href="mailto:minister@augustine.org.uk">minister@augustine.org.uk</a> for the Zoom link
Contextual Bible Study	Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	12 noon	Online	<i>1 Corinthians 15:35-50</i> . Email <a href="mailto:minister@augustine.org.uk">minister@augustine.org.uk</a> for the Zoom link
Sunday Worship	Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	<b>10am</b>	St Columba's by the Castle, 14 Johnston Terrace	A joint service with our ecumenical partners, St Columba's by the Castle and Greyfriars Kirk. <b>Note the earlier start time!</b>
Our Tribe Coffee Social	Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	1.30pm	Coffee Saints, 2A Little King Street, EH1 3AR	All welcome!

**Zoom ID for worship: 84317815003**

**Zoom ID for all social events: 3140057633**

**Password: 1861AUC**

**Zoom Telephone number: 0131 4601196**