

## Worship for All – Epiphany 2

**Welcome** in the name of Christ! God's grace, mercy and peace be with you. **And also with you** We have come together into the presence of our Lord. So, let us quieten our hearts and minds, put aside our concerns and distractions. Let us open ourselves to listen for God's voice, for the word God has for his people.



**Opening prayer** Come, let us worship the Lord who made us, who knows our every thought before it is formed. See the one from whom nothing is hidden – hear him speak. Come, let us worship and listen. **Amen.**

**Confession:** Lord Jesus, we are sorry when we do and say things that turn others away from you instead of drawing them closer. Lord, as you use others to speak to us, so you use us to draw people to you. But this does not always require words. People see our lives, our attitudes and character. Lord, we're sorry for the times we've let you down. Lord, as we spend these few moments in personal reflection, we ask you to speak to us. Show us anything for which we need to say sorry – and change our ways.

**Prayers of thanks:** Father God, we thank you that we don't have to earn your forgiveness. It is not based on how worthy we are. We are forgiven through Christ Jesus. It is by grace that our sins are forgiven. Thank you, Lord, that you know us and can see our potential – for you know who we are created to be. **Amen**

**Hymn:** God forgave my sin

**Collect:** Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new; transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; 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 forever. **Amen**

**Reading: Psalm 139** a version written by Jim Cotter  
Light of light, you have searched me out and known me.  
You know where I am and where I go, you see my thoughts from afar.  
You discern my paths and my resting places, you are acquainted with all my ways.  
Yes, and not a word comes from my lips but you, O God, have heard it already.  
You are in front of me and you are behind me, you have laid your hand on my shoulder.  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, so great that I cannot fathom it.  
Where shall I go from your Spirit, where shall I flee from your Presence?  
If I climb to the heavens you are there; if I descend to the depths of the earth, you are there also. If I spread my wings towards the morning, and fly to the uttermost shores of the sea, even there your hand will lead me, and your right hand will hold me.  
If I should cry to the darkness to cover me, and the night to enclose me, the darkness is no darkness to you, and the night as is clear as the day.

For you have created every part of my being, cell and tissue, blood and bone. You have woven me in the womb of my mother; I will praise you, so wonderfully am I made.

Awesome are your deeds and marvellous are your works.

You know me to the very core of my being; nothing was hid from your eyes when I was formed in silence and secrecy, in intricate splendour in the depths of the earth.

Even as they were forming, you saw my limbs, each part of my body shaped by your finger.

How deep are your thoughts to me, O God, how great is the sum of them. Were I to count them they are more in number than the grains of sand upon the sea shore – and still I would know nothing about you – yet still would you hold me in the palm of your hand.

**Always aware of us, ever-present with us, ceaselessly creating us – we respond in love, we tremble and adore, our God, mysterious and faithful. Amen**

### Gospel: John 1:43-51

Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.”

Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”



Philip Brings Nathanael To Jesus by Harold Copping

**Reflection:** Today we hear about two friends who have an unexpected encounter with Jesus and initially react in very different ways. Together, Philip and Nathanael help each other to understand who Jesus is and they begin a journey that will redefine who they are. Nathanael is surprised that Jesus knows not only his name, but much about him too. Jesus knows each of us as individuals but sometimes, like Nathanael, we can wonder ‘Why would God be interested in me?’ Some of us will be like Philip - keen to follow straight away. Some of us will be more like Nathanael – full of questions and concerns. This story shows that wherever we are, Jesus finds us and knows us. Are we looking and listening out for him – and helping others to do so?

**Hymn:** Will you come and follow me if I but call your name

**Intercessions** Thank you, Lord, that when we are hurt, confused or unsure about something, you call us to come to you. You know our hearts and our every thought. Hear as now as we come to you with our prayers today. **Amen.**

*At the end of the prayers, we pray* Lord, come to bless us, **And fill us with your Spirit**

**The Lord's Prayer** Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**The Peace** Jesus said, 'Love one another. As I have loved you, so you are to love one another.' The peace of the Lord be always with you **And also with you**

### **Sending out prayer and Blessing**

Lord, what we have learned this day – help us remember. Teach us to recognise your voice. Teach us how to see you in our lives and encounters. Help us to give others space so that they may hear you too. **Amen**

Now we go forth on the journey before us, knowing that, wherever Christ calls us, He will always be with us. Therefore, we travel in faith, in hope, and in love, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. May the blessing of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon us and upon all who follow Him, now and evermore. **Amen.**

**Hymn:** The Lord's my shepherd Townend

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Amen.**