

Service for Week 29th December- 4th
Jan 2026 by Chaplain Andy

Opening Prayer

Loving God, we thank you for the great truth at the heart of this season- your coming into this world in Christ. We praised you that you go on coming day after day, meeting and working within us, through your Holy Spirit.

Speak your word, grant your guidance, and fill us with your love, so that we may serve you faithfully as you have served the world in Christ Jesus.

Amen

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 who 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

Bible Reading John 1: 1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'"

From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known

*Holy words, Holy wisdom,
Thanks be to God.*

Reflection

In our reading from the beginning of John's gospel Jesus is referred to as "the Word" (from the Greek 'Logos'). In ancient Greek culture the 'Logos' was the power or force which ordered and controlled the universe. The 'Word' also connects with references in the bible's Old Testament to God's power through the 'Word of God' such as from Psalm 107 'He sent forth his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.'

John in his gospel, in bringing these Greek and Hebrew concepts together was declaring that Jesus is an integral part of God's divine reason for creating the universe. It was through the divine, that Jesus was human but also 'of God'. It was the way that the 'Logos' the power behind the universe chose, through Jesus, to connect with humanity, to each of us.

John also makes clear that the divine in Jesus didn't start when the baby Jesus was born in that stable in Bethlehem. He writes that he was 'with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.' In other words, Jesus was an

eternal part of God's divine reason for the universe.

It was always what God had intended and what had been prophesied in the scriptures. 'Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.' (Isaiah 7:14) 'For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.' (Isaiah 9:6)

In our reading John went on to write 'For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.' This was as Jesus said, not to deny the scriptures but to fulfill God's promise that one would come to bring the truth.

As we go into this New Year let us remember through the words and teachings of Jesus the grace and truth that Jesus brought of God. It is a grace and truth from the creator of our world, the power, the Logos, the Word.

Amen

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, child in a manger,
man on a cross,
risen Saviour,
Lord of all,
be born in me today.

Amen

Prayers inspired by 'Prayerfully Yours' by Nick Fawcett