

Reflection: Epiphany 2 – John 2: 1-11

In among our search for and interest in all the symbolic meanings in John's Gospel, it's quite easy to overlook the actual narrative of the life of Jesus. So in this Gospel passage, for example, it's worth recalling that Jesus was a guest at the wedding at Cana, so not the principle person at all.

I was reminded of a poem by George Herbert (1593-1632) at another sort of celebration in which we are the guests. This reversal of roles prompts all sort of thinking about how we receive rather than give, how we have the grace to welcome Jesus, how we accept that we are loved.

Love

LOVE bade me welcome; yet my soul drew back,
Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack
From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning
If I lack'd anything.

'A guest,' I answer'd, 'worthy to be here:'
Love said, 'You shall be he.'
'I, the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,
I cannot look on Thee.'
Love took my hand and smiling did reply,
Who made the eyes but I?'

'Truth, Lord; but I have marr'd them: let my shame
Go where it doth deserve.'
'And know you not,' says Love, 'Who bore the blame?'
'My dear, then I will serve.'
'You must sit down,' says Love, 'and taste my meat.'
So I did sit and eat.

Fr David



NEXT SUNDAY 25.01.2025 3rd Sunday of Epiphany
10.30am in the Hall

READINGS: OT Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10
NT 1 Corinthians 12.12-31a
GOSPEL Luke 4.14-21



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St Thomas, Exeter

19th January 2025

2nd Sunday of Epiphany

10.30am in the Hall

Today

Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers

193 Hail to the Lord's anointed

122 Father, Lord of all creation

406 One shall tell another

Tuesday 21st January

7.30pm House Group (at Helen's house)
St Agnes and her Cornish links

Wednesday 22nd January

10am Holy Communion (BCP)
2pm Young at Hearts: New Year buffet

Thursday 23rd January

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots
10.30-12noon Knit & Natter. 19 Maple Rd
Details from Jenny. 01392 498725

Friday 24th January

9.30am Morning Prayer
10am Staff Meeting

Saturday 25th January

11am Noticing Nature Walk (meet outside Hall)
12.30 Ladies Lunch Royal Oak, Okehampton St



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 for ever. **Amen**

Isaiah 62: 1-5

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;
for the Lord delights in you,
and your land shall be married.
For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your builder marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you.

1 Corinthians 12: 1-11

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

John 2: 1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Post Communion

God of glory, you nourish us with your Word who is the bread of life: fill us with your Holy Spirit that through us the light of your glory may shine in all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

Warm Space will return on Thursdays, from 3pm in the Hall. Tea, coffee and biscuits and a chance to meet other people. A start date will be announced once the administration has been completed. **Also there are more spaces for people to volunteer. See David or Ian.** Watch this space for details.

Parish Walk

What: Noticing Nature –Winter edition
When: **Saturday 25th January 11am–12noon**

Where: Meet outside St Thomas Church Hall. Come and join us for a gentle, guided walk around St Thomas Pleasure Ground that will help you slow down and notice the things around you as well as connect with your inner world. This walk will take place on paved paths with the option to go on grass. Bring clothing and footwear appropriate for the weather and meet at St Thomas Church Hall.

Ladies' Lunch – Saturday 25th January at 12.30pm at the Royal Oak, Okehampton Street. Do come and enjoy lunch with good food in the best of company, especially if you have worked up a hearty appetite, walking in the park!

A new **West of the River** magazine is planned starting from April 2025. It is looking for volunteers to help produce the new Community owned print magazine. A variety of roles are available. A pre-launch meeting will be held on Tuesday 21st January at 6.30pm at Theatre Alibi, Emmanuel Road, EX4 1EJ