

Reflection for Epiphany 2

On the face of it our three readings today have little in common. The familiar story from 1 Samuel tells of Samuel's childhood and his call by God. It is likely that the story dates from around 1000 years before Christ. In contrast, the Book of Revelation includes prophetic instructions about situations which would have been current at the time of writing and also passages such as our reading today which speak of events beyond time. John's Gospel draws upon an encounter towards the start of Jesus' ministry and seems far more mundane.

What can you see that draws these readings together?

One suggestion is to look to the season we are in. The season of Epiphany encourages us to look for times of revelation. What does revelation look like in the three readings?

To begin with, Samuel fails to recognise the voice which calls to him, until he is guided by Eli. The writer of Revelation shares with his readers all that has been revealed to him. Through his encounter with Jesus, Nathaniel comes to recognise him as the Son of God, the King of Israel.

As Christians, we have already declared ourselves to be followers of God. What stories could we share of our own epiphany moments?

Revd Sarah





Happy New Year

NEXT SUNDAY 21.01.2024 3rd Sunday of Epiphany
10.30am in the Hall

READINGS: OT Genesis 14: 17-20
NT Revelation 19: 6-10
GOSPEL John 2: 1-11



CONTACT US

Fr David Nixon 01392 667192. Day off: Mondays
rev.dave@virgin.net

Revd Sarah Cumming Assistant Priest 07543604115
rev.sarahcumming@gmail.com

Revd Alison Whiting Associate Priest
rev.alisonwhiting@gmail.com

Revd Mike Clark Associate Priest
mike.clark@exeter.anglican.org

Phil Baker, Reader 07970 216740
lionelbaker@outlook.com

Revd Terry Litherland 07594633195
tlitherland36@gmail.com

Ian Totterdell Church Warden 01392 848674
07536459096 ian.totterdell@cantab.net

Email: parishoffice@stthomaschurhexeter.co.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/sttexeter
Website: www.stthomaschurhexeter.co.uk
Twitter: @sttexeter
Office Tel: 01392 437486 Messages at any time.



St Thomas, Exeter

14th January 2024

2nd Sunday of Epiphany

10.30am in Hall

Today

10.30am in the Hall

Hymn Numbers

103 Crown him with many crowns

235 I, the Lord of sea and sky

560 Will you come and follow me

12 noon Holy Baptism of Jensen and Jenna Hill and Darren Hayes

Wednesday 17th January

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

5.30pm Standing Committee

Thursday 18th January

9.30—11am St Thomas Tots

10.30-12.30pm Knit & Natter, 9 Maple Rd.

Details from Jenny 01392 498725

3-5pm Warm Space in the Hall

Friday 19th January

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting



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**

1 Samuel 3: 1-10 (11-20)

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening." ' So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.' Then the LORD said to Samuel, 'See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering for ever.' Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, 'Samuel, my son.' He said, 'Here I am.' Eli said, 'What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he

told you.' So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, 'It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.' As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

Revelation 5: 1-10

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?' And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.' Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song: 'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth.'

John 1: 43-end

The next day 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 towards him, he said of him,

'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come 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.'

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

Community Larder There will be a collection box in the hall on Sundays for food donations. The need remains great so please be mindful of our wider community.

Pioneering Parishes:

What: A series of four fortnightly webinars to help parishes start to move their energy outwards and become more pioneering.

When: Tuesday 9th January, Tuesday 23rd January, Tuesday 6 & Tuesday 20th February.

Time: 14.00-15.30.

Please refer to weekly email and/or speak to Fr David or Revd Sarah.

House Group will meet fortnightly from 9th January until 13th February in either Helen or John's house. Throughout Epiphany they will study the Book of Proverbs. Details from Mic, John or Ian.

Lesley Albrow's funeral is at the Methodist Church on **Friday 19th January at 2pm.**