



COLLECT, READINGS AND REFLECTION
SUNDAY 18 JANUARY 2026 – Epiphany 2

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.

Psalm 40. 1-12

1 I waited patiently for the Lord; ♦
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
2 He brought me out of the roaring pit, out of the mire and clay; ♦
he set my feet upon a rock and made my footing sure.
3 He has put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; ♦
many shall see and fear and put their trust in the Lord.
4 Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, ♦
who does not turn to the proud that follow a lie.
5 Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God.
How great your designs for us! ♦
There is none that can be compared with you.
6 If I were to proclaim them and tell of them ♦
they would be more than I am able to express.
7 Sacrifice and offering you do not desire ♦
but my ears you have opened;
8 Burnt offering and sacrifice for sin you have not required; ♦
then said I: 'Lo, I come.
9 'In the scroll of the book it is written of me that I should do your will, O my God; ♦
I delight to do it: your law is within my heart.'
10 I have declared your righteousness in the great congregation; ♦
behold, I did not restrain my lips, and that, O Lord, you know.
11 Your righteousness I have not hidden in my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; ♦
I have not concealed your loving-kindness and truth from the great congregation.
12 Do not withhold your compassion from me, O Lord; ♦
let your love and your faithfulness always preserve me,

A reading from the first letter to the Corinthians, chapter 1, verses 1-9.

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

At Morning Prayer, the Gospel is simply the second reading, people sit to hear it and is introduced in the same way as the first:

The second reading is from John, chapter 1, verses 29-42

and then at the end:

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

For Eucharists/ Communion people stand to hear the Gospel. Everywhere except Fitz introduces it with an Acclamation (the blue bit), and then we all use the introduction and ending (the green bit):

Alleluia. **Alleluia.**

Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations and believed in throughout the world.

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John, Chapter 1, verses 29-42.

Glory to you, O Lord

And then at the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."

Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."

The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"

"Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

A Reflection from Dave

Have you ever thought about how you got to know a close friend of yours?

For some, that's a hard question to answer, because whilst there was clearly a time when you weren't friends, it can be hard to put a finger on the exact moment you went from being friendly to becoming friends. It just happened! For others the moment is obvious. You can name the place, the situation, the people who made the introduction, even the time and the date - that moment is etched into your friendship and onto your memory! Both of these are true ways of becoming friends, even if they seem to take different paths.

The same can be said for our relationship to Jesus. There will be those amongst us who know Jesus as a friend and saviour, but couldn't say exactly when that came about. And there will be others whose story is more like the four people in our gospel reading, where the time, place and situation are clearly recalled and remembered.

In our passage, each of their encounters tells us something of what Jesus' friendship is like, whether that be how John the Baptist knows Jesus deeply and truly, or how Simon finds friendship with Jesus personally transformational, even receiving his new name, Peter. However, it is Andrew's journey with Jesus that we will focus on.

Andrew was one of John the Baptist's own disciples, committed to following John. But what should he do when his chosen teacher points him away towards another? Should Andrew stick with the commitment he made to John, or open himself to encountering something new in Jesus?

C.S. Lewis says that "true friendship is the least jealous of loves. Two friends delight to be joined by a third... if only the newcomer is qualified to become a real friend." As Andrew met Jesus, he found a true and real friend, just as many of us have in whatever way that has come about. And when we have a friend that special, a friendship that good, it is only natural to share it.

And so Andrew invited his brother Peter to meet Jesus. After Jesus' resurrection, Peter invited all of Jerusalem to believe in Jesus. And the church that spread from Jerusalem invited the whole world - in the words of our Corinthian reading - "to be together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ - their Lord and ours." And that invitation reached us - this is all part of our story, of how we met their friend and ours, Jesus Christ.

And it's an invitation that we can continue to offer to others, just like Andrew, as we ask people in our words, our actions, and our ways of relating, to come, meet, know and be transformed by our friend Jesus.