

Season of Epiphany

11th January 2026

Interactive worship led by Fiona Bennett

Welcome & Gathering

Call

One: The Holy One

ALL: Source of Light

One: Guiding Light

ALL: Creating Light

One: Is here among us,

ALL: Calling us and our world into the light of love and hope.

One: Let us lift our voices to worship the God of Light.



*Baptized & Beloved
by
Jan Richardson*

Hymn: Jesus calls us CH4 510

Jesus calls us here to meet him

As, through word and song and prayer,

We affirm God's promised presence

Where God's people live and care.

Praise the God who keeps the Promise

Praise the One who calls us friends

Praise the Spirit who among us

To our hopes and fears attends.

Jesus calls us to confess him

Word of life and Lord of all.

Sharer of our flesh and frailness

Saving all who fail or fall.

Tell his Holy Human story

Tell his tales that all may hear

Tell the world that Christ in glory

Came to earth to meet us here.

Jesus calls us to each other

Vastly different though we are;

Creed and colour, class and gender

Neither limit nor debar.

Join the hand of friends and stranger;

Join the hand of age and youth

Join the faithful and the doubter

In our common search for truth.

Opening Prayer with movement

(arms crossed in front)

Loving God,

You are in the darkest night and brightest day

In the sunrise

(arms opened)

& sunset

(arms closed)

You are with us, calling us into your light.

We draw our prayers together in the Lord's Prayer or Jesus prayer, using the form of words on the screen or a form more worshipful for us...

Reading: Matthew 3:1-12

3 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 2 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' [a] 3 This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
 make his paths straight.'"

4 Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, 6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

7 But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruit worthy of repentance. 9 Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 10 Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with[c] the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Holy Moly - Jesus Baptism

Reading: Matthew 3:13-17

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. 14 John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' 15 But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. 16 And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

Introducing the theme: BBC - Belonging, Beloved, Called**Hymn: Out of the flowing river CH4 335**

Out of the flowing river
 Jesus ascends
 baptized by John
 waiting the sign.

Out of the open heavens
 God's Spirit comes
 down like a dove
 in peace and power.

Out speaks the voice from heaven:
 'You are my Son,
 chosen and loved,
 my own delight'.

Out through the life of Jesus
 God's word of love,
 calling in grace,
 comes to our lives.

Out in the world we live in
 we will make known
 the love revealed
 through God in Christ.

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BBC Further Reflection

Activity Questions:

What was it about Jesus' life that pleased God?

How can we embody this today as individuals and collectively?

Table Discussion - discuss these questions around your table

Reflection Sheet - using the sheet, quietly on your own consider the questions and use the sheet to write or draw your reflection on.

Craft - Feather the Dove with hearts

Share Reflections

Hymn: God, when I came into this life StF 535

God, when I came into this life,
You called me by my name;
Today I come, commit myself,
Responding to your claim.

You give me freedom to believe
Today I make my choice
And to the worship of the Church
I add my learning voice.

Within the circle of the faith,
As member of Your cast,
I take my place with all the saints
Of future, present, past.

In all the tensions of my life,
Between my faith and doubt,
Let Your great Spirit give me hope,
Sustain me, lead me out.

So, help me in my unbelief,
And let my life be true:
Feet firmly planted on the earth,
My sights set high on You.

StF 535 Fred Kaan
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Prayers of the People with water crosses

Offering & Dedication

Praise God from whom all blessing flow
 Praise God all creature here below
 Praise God above, You heavenly host
 Praise Maker Christ and Holy Ghost

Music: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510-1561.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

Notices

Hymn: I the Lord of sea and sky CH4 251

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
 I have heard my people cry.
 All who dwell in dark and sin
 my hand will save.
 I, who made the stars of night,
 I will make their darkness bright.
 Who will bear my light to them?
 Whom shall I send?
 Here I am, Lord.
 Is it I, Lord?
 I have heard you calling in the night.
 I will go, Lord,
 if you lead me.
 I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
 I have borne my people's pain.
 I have wept for love of them.
 They turn away.
 I will break their hearts of stone,
 give them hearts for love alone.
 I will speak my Word to them.
 Whom shall I send?
 Here I am, Lord.
 Is it I, Lord?
 I have heard you calling in the night.
 I will go, Lord,
 if you lead me.
 I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
 I will tend the poor and lame.
 I will set a feast for them.
 My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord,
if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

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Blessing & Sung Amen

What's on @ AUC this week?

Event	Date	Time	Location	Notes
Sunday Worship	Sun 11 th Jan	11am	AUC & Online	Interactive service led by Fiona
Post Service Zoom Social	Sun 11 th Jan	12 noon	Online	
Neurodivergent Affirming Space (NDAS)	Sun 11 th Jan	3-5:30pm	AUC (Studio)	A space to meet other neurodivergent people, to be heard and feel supported. We will start with an hour of food and relaxation, then an opportunity to chat with others or do your own thing, a focused discussion and finish with a mindful moment and prayer.
AUC Church Meeting	Tue 13 th Jan	7.30-9pm	Online	Everyone is welcome to attend. If you are not a church member or associate member, but would like to receive papers for the meetings in advance, please email the Church Secretary Linda (secretary@augustine.org.uk)
Contextual Bible Study	Wed 14 th Jan	7.30-8.30 pm	Online	<i>Matt 13:31-33 & 45-52</i> Email minister@augustine.org.uk for the Zoom link
Contextual Bible Study	Thu 15 th Dec	12 noon - 1pm	Online	<i>Matt 13:31-33 & 45-52</i> Email minister@augustine.org.uk for the Zoom link
TLC Service at St Columba's by the Castle	Sun 18 th Jan	10am	St Columba's by the Castle	There is no service at AUC this morning, we are worshipping with our ecumenical partners at St Columba's by the Castle, 14 Johnston Terrace, EH1 2PW at the earlier time of 10am . Please join us there if you can!

Zoom ID for worship: 84317815003

Zoom ID for all social events: 3140057633

Password: 1861AUC

Zoom Telephone number: 0131 4601196

