

## WEEKLY WORSHIP SHEET – EPIPHANY 1

### Call to worship based on Ps 29 (Roots)

Lord, your glory and strength are all around us. Lord, we come to worship you. Your voice brought forth creation's splendour. You speak to us in word and song, through the lives of your people. Your voice brings challenge and rebuke. You, Lord, give us strength in times of need. You, Lord, give us peace.

**Glory to the Lord. Amen**

### A prayer of thanksgiving (Roots)

Let us give thanks to God: for the wonder of creation; for the variety of plants and animals within creation; that the provision of creation enables us all to be fed, for his/her creating power, which brings each new day and each new life to birth. Let us thank God for Jesus, God's own Son, for revealing the way of love, for his death on the cross, for his resurrection and the new life we have with God through him. Let us give thanks to God for the Church, the body here on earth. We thank God that the Church reveals God's love in so many ways, through its caring, through its speaking, through its challenging of the ways of the world. Gracious and loving God, we offer you our thanks and praise through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord. Amen

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalms 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

### Prayer of confession (Roots)

Lord, we have turned away from you:  
In our church...  
In our work...  
In our homes and families...  
In our individual lives... forgive us Lord.  
We turn to you again. Amen

### Prayer of adoration (Roots)

Lord God, we need only to look around your creation to catch a glimpse of your splendour; for within the beauty of the flowers, the rivers, the mountains and the ocean depths, your glory is reflected and for this we praise you. Gracious God, we praise you that through your Son Jesus, a new beginning with you is possible. We praise you that Jesus came, revealing your love and compassion for the whole of your creation. We praise you for his obedience to you, and that he lived in perfect union with you, setting an example for us to follow. Life-giving God, we praise you for your gift of the Holy Spirit who comes into our lives, revealing your ways and your truth to each one of us. Lord God, gracious, life-giving God, reveal your glory. Speak your word to us. Draw us to new understandings of yourself as we worship you. Amen

### Alternative version of the Lord's Prayer (by Andrew Smith)

Creator of all, remember us as we remember you, let your ways be our ways, let our deeds be your deeds, may we all have what we need for today, as we let go of the wrongs we have suffered, let go too of the wrongs we have inflicted, guide us away from temptation, and safe from those whose ways are not your ways, for you sustain and inspire us now and for ever. Amen

### Time to reflect

Creation brings with it the promise of newness. And newness brings with it a kind of perfection, like the crispness of freshly fallen thick snow, unspoilt by footprints, a newness unspoilt by human touch. Well, we haven't had snow... yet... but the year has turned and we are now in the third decade of

the 21<sup>st</sup> century, can you believe it? But this time it feels a bit odd because of the pandemic. We haven't quite celebrated Christmas the way we normally do and life hasn't sprung back to the way it used to be. However, it is still a new beginning if we choose to make it so. We have celebrated the coming of Christ into the world as the baby in the manger and we are now into the season of Epiphany, that time when we reflect on the revelation of God in Jesus Christ, which began with the coming of the Wise Men. What we forget is that the Wise Men made two journeys. The first was the journey following the star to the manger, with a brief diversion to Herod's palace. The second journey we know absolutely nothing about, the journey eastwards back home. It is a journey which puts footprints in the snow, leaving their mark and revealing the dirt. It is a journey back into the world, from that miraculous moment when the Wise Men were able to offer their gifts and worship the new born infant, the saviour of the world. We don't know how that visit changed their lives, we don't even know if they made it home. But every journey and every encounter changes us, so how much more would an encounter with God have changed the visitors? And they would have taken that encounter, that experience, back into the world as they made their way home. Their story speaks of movement, our reading from Genesis speaks of movement as God begins the great work of creation. Neither story stands still and motionless. The Wise Men return home, forever changed. Creation comes into being and evolves and turns and changes. Our encounter with Christ at Christmas propels us back into the world, forever changed and forever changing, growing and developing.

### [A prayer for all ages \(Roots\)](#)

God, you know me and you love me. Your love for me is wider than the widest ocean, and deeper than the deepest sea. It flows like a river through me, and pours over me like rain. You named me in your heart before the world began. God, you know me and you love me. Amen

### [Reflective prayer \(Roots\)](#)

Listen to the voice of the Lord thunder.  
Listen to the voice of the Lord flash.  
Listen to the voice of the Lord as it tears through the forest.  
Listen to the voice of the Lord coming close, giving you strength.  
Listen to the voice of the Lord as it whispers a blessing.  
Listen, and say 'Glory!' Amen

### [Bible readings for this week](#)

Monday 11 January

Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36

Genesis 17:1-13

Romans 4:1-12

Tuesday 12 January

Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36

Exodus 30:22-38

Acts 22:2-16

Wednesday 13 January

Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36

Isaiah 41:14-20

John 1:29-34

Thursday 14 January

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Judges 2:6-15

2 Corinthians 10:1-11

Friday 15 January

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Judges 2:16-23

Acts 13:16-25

Saturday 16 January

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Samuel 2:21-25

Matthew 25:1-13