



Bowthorpe
Church

A FRESH START – IN HIM WAS LIFE

John 1:4 – 9 10th January 2021



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CALL TO WORSHIP

‘When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him.’ (Matthew 2:10-11).



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HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING





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OPENING PRAYER

God our source and guide and goal: you have made us in your image and set us in a world full of beauty; you dwell in unapproachable light, yet



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you have come among us, full of grace and truth. You have revealed yourself in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Help us by your Spirit to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSION



The Bible tells us that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom. 3.23). If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.



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If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sins (1 John 1.8-9). Let us confess our sins and seek God's forgiveness.



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**Almighty God, we confess
before you our own sin, the
sin of the Church and the
sin of the world, in which we
share. We have not loved
you with our whole being;**

**we have not loved our
neighbour as ourselves. In
your mercy, forgive us when
we turn to you; release us
from the burdens of the
past, and remake us in your
image and likeness through**



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**Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**



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If anyone is in Christ, there is a
new creation (2 Cor. 5.17).

Through him your sins are
forgiven. **Amen.**

Thanks be to God.



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OFFERTORY

Almighty God, out of the fulness of your gifts we bring before you this bread and wine, our gifts and our lives. Blessed be your holy name forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord.



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READING: JOHN 1:4 - 9

In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.



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There was a man sent from
God whose name was John. 7
He came as a witness to testify
concerning that light, so that
through him all might believe. 8
He himself was not the light; he
came only as a witness to



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the light. 9 The true light that gives
light to everyone was coming into
the world.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION: A FRESH START : IN HIM WAS LIFE



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CHRIST IS THE WORLD'S LIGHT



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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord our God, as we enter into the season of Epiphany, where the Magi were overjoyed, may we know that same joy deep within us. We pray



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this morning for all those who
have lost their joy because of
the new lockdown or because
they have lost their way in life.

Lord of life and light

Shine in our dark world.

Lord our God, we pray for the church during this time, that despite our disconnectedness we may know ourselves to be part of your community of joy and loved and prayed for by our brothers and sisters in Christ.



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Lord of life and light

Shine in our dark world

Lord our God, we pray for our family, friends and neighbours, thanking you for them. We pray for our wider community of Bowthorpe, that all within its embrace may know they are



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remembered in love. Bless them
with joy despite the difficulties.

Lord of life and light

Shine in our dark world



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Lord our God, we pray for the NHS
as it begins vaccinating the most
vulnerable against covid-19. We thank
you for their dedication and
endurance.

Lord of life and light

Shine in our dark world



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Lord our God, we pray for schools as they remain shut after the Christmas break. We pray for staff as they seek to teach remotely, and for students as they learn using technology.



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Lord of life and light

Shine in our dark world



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Lord our God, we pray for those who have lost their joy completely. Help them to realise that you are still present, that you are still a loving God who cares.



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We pray for the family of Carol
Adcock especially her daughter
Sandra and family.

Lord of life and light

Shine in our dark world



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Lord our God, finally we pray for ourselves, that we may be carriers of the life and light of Jesus in our dark world.



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Lord of life and light
Shine in our dark world

All these things we pray in Jesus'
name. Amen.



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THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name.

**Your kingdom come, your will be
done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.



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**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin
against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and
the glory are yours now and for
ever. Amen.**

LIGHT OF THE WORLD



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THE PEACE

Christ is the Light of the world,
it's true Life.

The peace of the Lord be always
with you and also with you.



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**Let us offer one another a
sign of peace.**



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HOLY COMMUNION

As we gather at this table, we remember that Jesus was born of Mary; he lived our common life on earth; he suffered and died for us; on the third day God raised him



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from the dead; and he is always present with us through the Holy Spirit. In his presence, and in the company of all the people of God, past, present, and to come, we celebrate the Supper of the Lord. Listen! I am standing at the door,

knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.'

(Revelation 3: 20)



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Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our
God.

**It is right to give our thanks
and praise.**



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We give thanks to you, O God, that from the earth you cause the grain to come for the making of bread and that you cause the vine to yield fruit. We praise you for Christ, the bread of life and true vine, whose body was given for us and whose blood was poured out for us.



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By your Holy Spirit sanctify us and
these your gifts of bread and wine,
that the bread which we break may be
the communion of the body of Christ,
and the cup which we bless may be
the communion of the blood of Christ.
As we share the sufferings of Christ,



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so give us grace to know the power of his resurrection, that we may be made one and evermore abide in him, to your praise and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



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When Jesus had given thanks he broke the bread and said: 'Take, eat: this is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' When Jesus had given thanks, he gave the cup to his disciples and said: 'Drink this, all of you; for this is my blood



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of the new covenant, which is
shed for you and for many, for the
forgiveness of sins. Do this, as
often as you drink it, in
remembrance of me.' **Amen.**



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The Body of Christ broken for you.

The Blood of Christ shed for you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of a love stronger than death, you have given us new birth into a living hope through the gift of your Son. God with us, like a mother you have fed us with yourself and strengthen us for the



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journey ahead. God of truth and power, you take our weakness and our sin and refashion us by your grace.



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**Gracious God, may the love
which bids us welcome at this
table gather all your children
into one, in your eternal
presence, whole and free at
last. Amen.**

AS WITH GLADNESS



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CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

Now, Lord let your servant go
in peace: your word has been
fulfilled. My own eyes have seen
the salvation which you have



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prepared in the sight of every
people: a light to reveal you to
the nations, and the glory of
your people Israel.



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And the blessing of God
Almighty, the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit, be with you
and all whom you love, now
and for evermore.

Amen.



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Go in peace to love and serve
the Lord.

**In the name of Christ.
Amen.**