



Sermon

'And one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist'

Epiphany 4, 2021, Year B, 1 Cor 8:1-13



As Christmas comes to an end next Sunday, we are invited to reflect on our journey this year, along with the magi, to Jesus Christ. Where did *you* find your kneeling place this year, before the new born king? When were *you* brought to your knees, at his manger throne? Where did your long journey come to an end, like the wise men from the east, in worship of the Christ child?

In our epistle reading this morning, we hear of the Christ child, that all things exist through him, that through him we each have our being.

Listening to much Christian preaching today, you may be forgiven for thinking that Christ came, to an alien place. So sublime his majesty. So sovereign his rule. So holy his grace. That the world, and ourselves within it, are somehow alien to him.

But does this not create the impression that God is therefore absent from us. Alien from us. Does this not create a dualism, does this not put a gap, between Christ, and ourselves. So that, where his coming is meant to make us one with God, such preaching leads us instead, away from God. Into alienation from God.

In our epistle reading this morning, we hear that, amidst the many idols of this world, that are really nothing, 'For us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist. And one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.'

The world is the good creation, of the one God. From whom all things are made. For whom we exist. The one God, our Father, in whom we live and move and have our being. Along with every creature under heaven. Along with a whole world of creaturely being. Living before the one, divine majesty.

Christianity is a monotheistic faith. We believe in God. But a God in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The son of God, born of Mary. By the Holy Spirit.

Today is the epiphany. The epiphany of God, long hidden, now in the world. The once and for all unveiling, of God in the world. God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit

The long awaited manifesting – the Epiphany - of the Creator God, in this world that he has made.

'For us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist. And one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.'

The very existence of the world, and each one of our individual lives, exist not only by God the Father, but by God the Son. All that is, all that we are, we are because of the Father, **through** the Son, by the Spirit.

Jesus is one with the Father. Before the world world began. All things were made through him.

When the fulness of time had come, and Jesus was born of Mary, he came, not to an alien place. But to his own home.

This world, and each one of us, were created, are sustained, are destined, for him.

The Word of God, who came down out of heaven.

In the words of John:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of the world. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it...And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only Son, full of grace and truth.