



Email: manseltonurc@gmail.com

EPIPHANY 2 - 15 JANUARY 2023

JOHN 1.29-42

'GOD HAS SEIZED YOUR IMAGINATION'

As with John the Baptist and the future disciples, Peter and Andrew, you too have experienced the gift that Jesus Christ is the 'One'.

Perhaps today it is a good time to remember that God has found you. In all your different ways, you have 'fallen for' your creator, the source for being your true self.

For on a particular occasion, or over a period of time, God seized your imagination, your understanding and in many ways your heart. As you began to walk with God, you began to understand why life is given, and step by step it has been revealed to you how you can and ought to live your life.

At times, being faithful to your experience of finding God has been difficult to make sense of.

God sees your struggles and the sanctity in your life.

Remember, Jesus is responsible for your life. Remember He seized your imagination, so yes, allow yourself to fall in love again, and find the inner discipline to stay in love. Continue to allow your imagination to be rekindled, for this will enable you to search, to seek, to act.

Christ's invitation to walk with him is always there, and so enjoy God as a person. For you know that getting to know God as a person enables you to have a personal encounter with Him, which will also help you to discover who you are, a child of God who has dignity – The dignity of a human person called to have an authentic relationship with God your creator, and with God's creation – your neighbours.

Today you are invited to renew your firm trust in the Lord. Let His arms enfold you in the certainty that His arms will always make it possible for you to go forward, day by day, even when things are difficult. So allow yourself to feel loved by God, who gave his Son to you to seize your imagination, and once again discover the joy of being a Christian. Why? Because the future belongs to God. This is God's earth – God's future

Stephen.

Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom, will be led by Rev Neil Riches, from his Church in Weymouth. Bible Readings: John 1.29-34: John 1.35-42

Cycle of Prayer in the Swansea Region – we will pray for Tabernacle, Mumbles

Tea and Chat/Winter Hub in Christ Well - Tuesday, 17th January.

Thanks

On behalf of the other Trustees at Unity & Diversity I thank you very much for the donation of £215 to go towards the work of UiD. I was also given a personal donation from a member of the church on Christmas Day for which I am very grateful. All your continued support for UiD is much appreciated.
Adella



The Christian Aid collection on Christmas Day amounted to £687. Thank you very much to all who donated to this appeal.



'Be-Longing: Praying for Unity amidst Injustice' is the theme of the
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2023 – 18-25th January

We thank God for the unity we share as Christian people from different traditions, and for the various activities and projects that we are all involved in during the year.

As we join with other Christians around the world for this year's Week of Prayer we pray that our hearts will be open to see and hear the many ways in which racism continues to destroy lives, and to discern the steps we can take as individuals and communities to heal the hurts and build a better future for everyone.



A new date for the Service celebrating 50 years of the United Reformed Church has been announced,
and will now be held on
Saturday, 15th April 2023

Jesus of many names (Lectionary readings: Isaiah 49.1-7: Psalm 40.1-11: 1 Corinthians 1.1-9: John 1.29-42)

Jesus, called Lamb of God, named and known for your sacrifice,
for your life offered up as service, as offering, as gift.

In you evil loses its power, and wrong and sin and fault and blame
are overcome by love and pardon and hope.

Jesus, resting place for the dove of heaven, you release the Spirit across the earth
to flow as living water in parched and painful places,
to bring green and gladness amid the deserts of our days,
to slake and satisfy the thirst of our years.

Jesus, summoning and speaking as teacher,
in your company there is a world of new understanding.

You fulfil our dreams and deep desires, we start to see ourselves as you see us,
and grow in ways we had not expected.

Jesus, of many names – love and life and truth.
We turn to you – to receive, to discover, to be changed.
And to you we give our trust and praise

John Proctor (URC Prayer Handbook 2023)

