

Epiphany Words

An Advent to Candlemas Course from the Diocese of Aberdeen & Orkney



Taste

Tuesday 21st January



Photo by Erika Fletcher on Unsplash

Scripture: Psalm 111

Praise the Lord!
I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them.
Full of honour and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures for ever.
He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;
the Lord is gracious and merciful.
He provides food for those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.
He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the heritage of the nations.
The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.
They are established for ever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.
He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant for ever.

Holy and awesome is his name.
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practise it have a good understanding.
His praise endures for ever.

To reflect

In Sunday's Gospel we hear that the wine resulting from Jesus turning water into wine was the best tasting, the best quality wine of the whole feast.

Psalm 34.8 proclaims 'Taste and See that the Lord is good' but how can we taste and see God at work in the world around us? Perhaps this is a challenge to use all our senses in our worship of God, in how we discern God at work in the world around us?

Today you're invited to consider how you use all five of your senses: taste, touch, hearing, sight and smell to worship God and to see God's Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. How might you try a different practice to do this?

Epiphany at Cana by Malcolm Guite

Here's an epiphany to have and hold,
A truth that you can taste upon the tongue,
No distant shrines and canopies of gold
Or ladders to be clambered rung by rung,
But here and now, amidst your daily living,
Where you can taste and touch and feel and see,
The spring of love, the fount of all forgiving,
Flows when you need it, rich, abundant, free.
Better than waters of some outer weeping,
That leave you still with all your hidden sin,
Here is a vintage richer for the keeping
That works its transformation from within.
'What price?' you ask me, as we raise the glass,
'It cost our Saviour everything he has.'

[From Sounding the Seasons; seventy sonnets for the Christian Year, Canterbury Press]

To Listen (these and other suggestions can be found on a Spotify playlist at

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0F5bU2sf4OiOtQY3q78Rf2?si=a99cbbf61e7d4587>)

- 'O Taste and See' by Ralph Vaughan Williams, one version is by the St Martin's Chamber Choir. This is a Motet based on the text of Psalm 34 – O Taste and See the Lord is Good (Ps 34.8)
- 'Taste and See' by Emily Franklin, Ethan Hulse, Jess Cates, Nicole Serrano, one version is by Red Rocks Worship. This is more contemporary setting of Psalm 34.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.