

# Epiphany Three

## The Conversion of Paul Enthusiasm to Enlightenment

## Hymns

- 266 I can not tell why he whom angels worship  
111 Dear Lord & Father  
857 I the Lord of sea and sky

## Psalm 67

- 1 God be gracious to us and bless us  
◆ and make his face to shine upon us,  
2 That your way may be known upon earth,  
◆ your saving power among all nations.  
3 Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
◆ et all the peoples praise you.  
4 O let the nations rejoice and be glad,  
◆ for you will judge the peoples righteously and govern the nations upon earth.  
5 Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
◆ et all the peoples praise you.  
6 Then shall the earth bring forth her increase,  
◆ and God, our own God, will bless us.  
7 God will bless us,  
◆ and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

## New Testament Reading Acts 9:1-22

### The Conversion of Saul

**9.1** Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest **2** and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. **3** Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. **4** He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' **5** He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.' **6** But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' **7** The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. **8** Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. **9** For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

**10** Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' **11** The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying. **12** and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' **13** But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; **14** and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' **15** But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; **16** I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' **17** So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said,

'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' **18** And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, **19** and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

### Saul Preaches in Damascus

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, **20** and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.' **21** All who heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?' **22** Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

## Gospel Matthew 19:27-30

The Gospel of Christ according to Matthew

### Glory to you, O Lord.

**27** Then Peter said in reply, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?' **28** Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. **29** And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. **30** But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

### Praise to you, O Christ

## Management Committee Meeting

7pm Tuesday 10th February.

Zoom Link to be issued late

## Ash Wednesday Service

12:30 pm Wednesday 18th February.

with Dave, Bishop of Buckingham

## Charity Directors' Meeting

7pm Wednesday 25th February.

Zoom Link to be issued late

## Chatterbox

Every Wednesday 10:30 am to 12:30pm.  
All Welcome - tea - coffee - cakes - meet & chat.

## Zoom Prayers & Bible Study

Friday 2pm Zoom Prayers.

## Community Larder

Every Tuesday from 11- 12:30

## Stantonbury Churches Newsletter

Available by email or ask for a hard copy.  
Copy on inside Notice Board.

**The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU)** is an annual global observance, traditionally between Ascension Day and Pentecost in the Southern Hemisphere and between 18 January and 25 January in the Northern Hemisphere. Related to the feasts of St. Peter and St. Paul. Christians of different traditions pray together for visible unity, reflecting Jesus' prayer "that they may all be one" (John 17:21).

# THE CROSS AND STABLE

## Apostle

The 25th of January is the day the Church keeps the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. However often told or re-told, it is still an astonishing story. That Saul, the implacable enemy of Christianity, who came against the faith 'breathing threats and slaughter', should be chosen by God to be Christianity's greatest proponent and apostle is just the first of a series of dazzling and life-changing paradoxes that flow from Paul's writing. At the heart of these is the revelation of God's sheer grace; finding the lost, loving the violent into light, and working everything through the very weakness of those who love him. - Ayodeji Malcolm Guite

An enemy whom God has made a friend,  
 A righteous man discounting righteousness,  
 Last to believe and first for God to send,  
 He found the fountain in the wilderness.  
 Thrown to the ground and raised at the same moment,  
 A prisoner who set his captors free,  
 A naked man with love his only garment,  
 A blinded man who helped the world to see,  
 A Jew who had been perfect in the law,  
 Blesses the flesh of every other race  
 And helps them see what the apostles saw;  
 The glory of the lord in Jesus' face.  
 Strong in his weakness, joyful in his pains,  
 And bound by love, he freed us from our chains.



### Contacts

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### TODAY

Epiphany Three  
 Family Breakfast Club  
 Led by Sam

### THIS SUNDAY

Psalm 67  
 Acts 9: 1 to 22  
 Matthew 19:27-30

### NEXT SUNDAY:

I Kings 17:8-16  
 Psalm 36:5-10  
 I Corinth 1:18-31  
 John 2:1-11

### NEXT SUNDAY

Epiphany Four  
 Signed Communion  
 Led by Peter

### Zoom Link to 11 am Sunday 25th January

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85922248518?  
 pwd=Tm4vd00wancwVk52cCtqNm5tMWRZdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85922248518?pwd=Tm4vd00wancwVk52cCtqNm5tMWRZdz09)

Meeting ID: 859 2224 8518. Passcode: 830413