

# The Cotteridge Church

**Epiphany 3** Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January



## Bible Readings

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21

## Collect for Epiphany 3

God of all mercy,  
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,  
release to the captives,  
and freedom to the oppressed:  
anoint us with your Holy Spirit  
and set all your people free  
to praise you in Christ our Lord.  
Amen

## Hymn

Heaven shall not wait  
for the poor to lose their patience,  
the scorned to smile, the despised to find a friend:  
Jesus is Lord;  
he has championed the unwanted;  
in him injustice confronts its timely end.

Heaven shall not wait  
for the rich to share their fortunes,  
the proud to fall, the elite to tend the least:  
Jesus is Lord;  
he has shown the master's privilege –  
to kneel and wash servants' feet before they  
feast.

Heaven shall not wait  
for the dawn of great ideas,  
thoughts of compassion divorced from cries of  
pain:  
Jesus is Lord;  
he has married word and action;  
his cross and company make his purpose plain.

Heaven shall not wait  
for triumphant hallelujahs,  
when earth has passed and we reach another  
shore:  
Jesus is Lord;  
in our present imperfection:  
his power and love are for now and then  
forevermore.

## Epiphany 3

A cab driver reaches the Pearly Gates and announces his presence to St. Peter, who looks him up in his Big Book. Upon reading the entry for the cabby, St. Peter invites him to grab a silk robe and a golden staff and to proceed into Heaven. A preacher is next in line behind the cabby and has been watching these proceedings with interest. He announces himself to St. Peter. Upon scanning the preacher's entry in the Big Book, St. Peter furrows his brow and says, "Okay, we'll let you in, but you will have only a cotton robe and wooden staff."

The preacher is astonished and replies, "But I am a man of the cloth. You gave that cab driver a gold staff and a silk robe. Surely, I rate higher than a cabby."

St. Peter responded matter-of-factly: "Here we are interested in results. When you preached, people slept. When the cabby drove his taxi, people prayed."