

It has been an extraordinary and unsettling week, what with the dramatic events in Washington DC as Joe Biden's election victory was being confirmed and the latest Covid figures in the UK. And it is not only the actions of the mob on Capitol Hill and reports of the NHS being overwhelmed that unsettle, but the insistence of President Trump's supporters that the election was rigged and of Covid-deniers that the pandemic is a fiction. It is at a times like this when we need to look at the bigger picture. Recent events remind us, in particular, how important the concept of truth is for the well-being of society and for us as individuals. How do we know what is really going on?

The season of Epiphany is a time of revelation, of seeing things as they really are. The wise men find their king in a stable, not a palace. John the Baptist recognises the Son of God among the crowds being baptised, seeing the Holy Spirit rest on him like a dove. The baptism of Jesus is one of those decisive moments when we see, or hear, what's really going on.

Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and marked out as God's Son. The voice from heaven said, 'You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased.'

And the good news of the gospel is that God sees us, not simply as we are in ourselves, but as we are in *Jesus Christ*. As we remember our own baptism, we too, may hear these words as addressed to ourselves by God, our Father:

'You are my dear, dear child, I am delighted with you'

And as we hear these words, may they mould us through our renewal in Christ. May we learn to hear and see in the life of Jesus the heavenly vision and the heavenly voice.

And may the moments of revelation – of truth, of glory and of eternity - in this Epiphany season guide, equip and sustain us all in difficult and uncertain times, now and always:

'Eternal Father...grant that we...may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord' **Amen.**