

# **Epiphany**

## **Sunday 3 January 2021**

### **Welcome**

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute;  
the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring gifts.  
All kings shall fall down before him;  
all nations shall do him service.

*Psalm 72:10-11*

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus  
be with you  
**and also with you**

We meet in the name of God;  
**Father, Son and Holy Spirit**

### **Saying sorry**

The grace of God has dawned upon the world  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.

Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of peace:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary:  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh and splendour of the Father:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

## **Receiving Forgiveness**

May Christ who came into the world to save sinners,  
bring us his pardon and his peace,  
now and forever.

**Amen**

## **Collect for Epiphany**

God our Father, in love you sent your Son that the world may have life: lead us  
to seek him among the outcast and to find him in those in need, for Jesus  
Christ's sake

**Amen.**

## Song – As With Gladness Men of Old

- 1      As with gladness men of old,  
          did the guiding star behold,  
          as with joy they hailed its light,  
          leading onward, beaming bright,  
          so, most gracious Lord, may we  
          evermore be led to thee.
  
- 2      As with joyful steps they sped,  
          to that lowly manger-bed,  
          there to bend the knee before  
          him whom heav'n and earth adore,  
          so may we with willing feet  
          ever seek thy mercy-seat.
  
- 3      As their precious gifts they laid,  
          at they manger roughly made,  
          so may we with holy joy,  
          pure, and free from sin's alloy,  
          all our costliest treasures bring,  
          Christ, to thee, our heav'nly King.
  
- 4      Holy Jesu, ev'ry day  
          keep us in the narrow way;  
          and, when earthly things are past,  
          bring our ransomed souls at last,  
          where they need no star to guide,  
          where no clouds thy glory hide.
  
- 5      In the heav'nly country bright  
          need they no created light;  
          thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
          thou its sun which goes not down;  
          there for ever may we sing  
          alleluias to our King.

## Reading

### Matthew 2:1-12

**2** In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,<sup>2</sup> asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;<sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.<sup>5</sup> They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

**6** “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

**7** Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. **8** Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’<sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. **11** On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. **12** And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

### Talk – Edward Hine (churchwarden)

## Song – O Thou Who Camest From Above

- 1        O thou who camest from above  
          the fire celestial to impart,  
          kindle a flame of sacred love  
          on the mean altar of my heart.
  
- 2        There let it for thy glory burn  
          with inextinguishable blaze,  
          and, trembling, to its source return  
          in humble prayer and fervent praise.
  
- 3        Jesus, confirm my heart's desire  
          to work and speak and think for thee;  
          still let me guard the holy fire  
          and still stir up the gift in me.
  
- 4        Ready for all thy perfect will,  
          my acts of faith and love repeat,  
          till death thy endless mercies seal,  
          and make the sacrifice complete.

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## Affirming our Faith – The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.

Amen.

## **Prayers**

*The prayers conclude with*

Merciful Father

**accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Looking for the coming of his kingdom, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours**

**now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

## Song – Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

- 1      Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
        does his successive journeys run;  
        his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
        till moons shall wax and wane no more.
  
- 2      People and realms of ev'ry tongue  
        dwell on his love with sweetest song,  
        and infant voices shall proclaim  
        their early blessings on his name.
  
- 3      Blessings abound where'er he reigns:  
        the pris'ners leap to lose their chains;  
        the weary find eternal rest,  
        and all the humble poor are blest.
  
- 4      To him shall endless prayer be made,  
        and praises throng to crown his head;  
        his name like incense shall arise  
        with ev'ry morning sacrifice.
  
- 5      Let ev'ry creature rise and bring  
        peculiar honours to our King;  
        angels descend with songs again,  
        and earth repeat the loud amen.

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## Blessing

May God the Father,  
who led the wise men by the shining of a star  
to find the Christ, the Light from light,  
lead us also in our pilgrimage to find the Lord.

**Amen.**

May God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness,  
give us a place with the saints in light  
in the kingdom of his beloved Son.

**Amen.**

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ  
shine in our hearts and fill our lives  
with his joy and peace.

**Amen.**

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore.**

**Amen.**

## Ending

We are called and loved by God the Father  
and kept safe by Jesus Christ.

May mercy, peace and love be ours in abundance,  
from God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**