

The Parish Eucharist

Epiphany Sunday

7th January 2024

Who is Jesus? Light in our Darkness

The 5pm Service today is Holy Communion (Traditional) on the eve of the feast of the Baptism of Christ

VOLUNTARY

Prayer on screen during Voluntary

God of gold, we seek your glory;
God of incense, we offer you our prayers;
God of myrrh, we cry out to you in our suffering
as we embrace the mystery of
God-with-us.

THE GATHERING

Informal Welcome

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

NEH 47

Dix

The three Kings are taken to crib during this hymn, the cross and bible having already been placed on the altar.

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 God, 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 heaven and earth adore,
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy-seat.

3 As they offered gifts most rare
at that manger rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure, and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee our heavenly King.

4 Holy Jesu, every 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 heavenly 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
alleluyas to our King.

THE GREETING

President In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

President From the One who is, who was,
and who has come to dwell among us,
grace, mercy and peace be with you.

All **And also with you.**

President Please be seated.

The President gives an informal introduction

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

All **Almighty God,**
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Deacon Lord of grace and truth,
we confess our unworthiness
to stand in your presence as your children.

All We have sinned:
forgive and heal us.

President The Virgin Mary accepted your call
to be the mother of Jesus.
Forgive our disobedience to your will.

All We have sinned:
forgive and heal us.

President Your Son our Saviour
was born in poverty in a manger.
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

All We have sinned:
forgive and heal us.

President The shepherds left their flocks

to go to Bethlehem.
Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.

All We have sinned:
forgive and heal us.

President The wise men followed the star
to find Jesus the King.
Forgive our reluctance to seek you.

All We have sinned:
forgive and heal us.

President May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself
and † cleanse you from all your sins,
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

President We stand to sing the Gloria.

THE GLORIA

Mass of St Thomas

Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest.

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest.

Lord Jesus Christ,

only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest.

THE COLLECT

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

A READING FROM THE BIBLE Isaiah 60.1-6 *Claire Clack*

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN

Three Kings Of Orient

1 We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star:

Refrain:

*O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

2 Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
king forever, ceasing never
over us all to reign: (Refrain)

3 Frankincense to offer have I,
incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising, all men raising,
worship him, God most high: (Refrain)

4 Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb: (Refrain)

5 Glorious now behold him arise,
king and God and sacrifice.
Heaven sings: 'Alleluia';
'Alleluia,' the earth replies: (Refrain)

GOSPEL READING

Deacon Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.

All (sung) **Glory to you, O Lord.**
Matthew 2.1–12

All (sung) This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON *Phil Harper*

THE CREED

President As an expression of our joy on this special day,
let us stand and sing our profession of faith.

Lux Eoi

All **We believe in God the Father,
God Almighty, by whose plan
earth and heaven sprang to being,
all created things began.
We believe in Christ the Saviour,
Son of God in human frame,
virgin-born, the child of Mary
upon whom the Spirit came.**

**Christ, who on the cross forsaken,
like a lamb to slaughter led,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
he descended to the dead.
We believe in Jesus risen,
heaven's King to rule and reign,
to the Father's side ascended
till as judge he comes again.**

**We believe in God the Spirit;
in one church, below, above:
saints of God in one communion,
one in holiness and love.
So by faith, our sins forgiven,
Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,
we shall rise with him in glory
to the life that knows no end.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Intercessor In the power of the Holy Spirit, let us present our intercessions to the Father in the name of his Son, Emmanuel, God-with-us.

Please kneel or sit

At the end of each section the following response is used:

All Lord of glory,
hear our prayer.

All Rejoicing in the fellowship of wise men, shepherds and angels, and of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph, we commend ourselves and all people to your unfailing love. Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Please stand

THE PEACE

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there shall be no end

President The peace of the Lord be always with you.
All **And also with you.**

Deacon Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Was Lebet

1 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!

2 Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

3 Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.

4 These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
he will accept for the name that is dear;
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

5 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Lord, accept your people's gifts,
not gold, frankincense or myrrh,
but hearts and voices raised in praise of Jesus Christ,
our light and our salvation.

All **Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

President The Lord be with you.
All **And also with you.**

President Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

President Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Revealing God, you send the light of a star,
and in that light we see the truth of who you are
and the truth of who we are.
Like the magi you call us to worship you,
but like the magi we mistake where you truly belong
and where we truly belong.
Yet in revelation you direct us to yourself
and in incarnation you meet us in yourself.
You become what we are,
that we might become what you are.
And so you draw us to the company
where your angels gather around your eternal throne
singing their hymn of unending praise.

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

Mass of St Thomas

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Please kneel or sit

God of wonder, as the magi brought gifts
of gold, frankincense and myrrh,
so we bring these gifts of bread and wine.
In those gifts we see your grief
at the way we crucified your Son, the holy one among us,
but also the wonder of how you raised him
to be our king in glory for ever.

Send down your Holy Spirit, that we may discover
what it means to be of you and in you,
and that this bread of honest toil
and this wine of joyous celebration
may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Who, at supper with his disciples,
took bread, gave you thanks,
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,
'Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup.
Again he gave you thanks,
and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

All

Great is the mystery of faith
Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

God of wisdom, as the magi brought gold,
bring your whole church, living and departed,
to the vision of your glory.
As the magi brought frankincense,
infuse all who seek you with the beauty of your holiness.
As the magi brought myrrh, embrace all who suffer
until the time comes when you flood the whole creation
with justice and mercy.

In this banquet restore us in your image,
surround us with your company
and prepare us for your freedom,
that we may come to resemble your Son,
through whom and with whom and in whom,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours,
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Please sit or kneel as the President bows

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The President introduces the Lord's Prayer

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The President breaks the consecrated bread

President We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

THE INVITATION

The President invites the people to receive Holy Communion

President Behold the Lamb of God,
Jesus our Emmanuel
who takes away the sin of the world.

All **Lord I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be made whole.**

AGNUS DEI

Mass of St Thomas

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

*The President and people receive Communion or a blessing.
Please come to a communion station when indicated by a Warden.*

ANTHEM

Here is the little door

Herbert Howells

*Here is the little door, lift up the latch, oh lift!
We need not wander more, but enter with our gift;
Our gift of finest gold. Gold that was never bought or sold;
Myrrh to be strewn about his bed; Incense in clouds about His head;
All for the child that stirs not in His sleep,
But holy slumber hold with ass and sheep.*

*Bend low about His bed, For each He has a gift;
See how His eyes awake, Lift up your hands, O lift!
For gold, He gives a keen-edged sword. (Defend with it thy little Lord!)
For incense, smoke of battle red, Myrrh for the honored happy dead;
Gifts for His children, terrible and sweet;
Touched by such tiny hands, and Oh such tiny feet.*

(Frances Chesterton)

COMMUNION HYMN

Epiphany

NEH 49

1 Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
star of the East, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

2 Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining,
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall:
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.

3 Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion
odours of Edom and offerings divine?
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?

4 Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would his favour secure;
richer by far is the heart's adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

5 Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
star of the East, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Lord God,
the bright splendour whom the nations seek:
may we who with the wise men
have been drawn by your light
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

All

THE DISMISSAL

The notices

THE BLESSING

Please stand

President The Lord be with you.
All **And also with you.**

President May God the Father
who led the wise men by the shining of a star
to find the Christ, the Light from Light,
lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.
All **Amen.**

President May God the Son
who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana,
transform your lives and make glad your hearts.
All **Amen.**

President May God the Holy Spirit,
who came upon the beloved Son
at his baptism in the river Jordan,
pour out his gifts on you
who have come to the waters of new birth.
All **Amen.**

President And the blessing of God almighty, †
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
All **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN

St Edmund

NEH 56

1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesu, Lord, to thee we raise,
manifested by the star
to the sages from afar;

branch of royal David's stem
in thy birth at Bethlehem;
anthems be to thee addressed,
God in Man made manifest.

2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
and at Cana, wedding-guest,
in thy Godhead manifest;
manifest in power divine,
changing water into wine;
anthems be to thee addressed,
God in Man made manifest.

3 Manifest in making whole
palsied limbs and fainting soul;
manifest in valiant fight,
quelling all the devil's might;
manifest in gracious will,
ever bringing good from ill;
anthems be to thee addressed,
God in Man made manifest.

4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,
mirrored in thy holy word;
may we imitate thee now,
and be pure, as pure art thou;
that we like to thee may be
at thy great Epiphany;
and may praise thee, ever blest,
God in Man made manifest.

Deacon

We have seen his glory
the glory revealed to all nations.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All

In the name of Christ. Amen.

VOLUNTARY