

The Parish Eucharist
Epiphany Sunday
8th January 2023

The 5pm Service today is Choral Evensong

Voluntary

Prelude on 'Greensleeves'

Richard Purvis

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
QR code for Order of Service in pews

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Dix

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.**

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.**

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

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN

Epiphany

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.

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All (sung) **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON *Phil Harper*

THE CREED

Please stand with the President

President In this season of the Incarnation, let us proclaim the
Church's faith in Jesus Christ.

All **We believe and declare that our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Son of God, is both divine and human.**

President God, of the being of the Father,
the only Son from before time began;
human from the being of his mother, born in the world;

All fully God and fully human;
human in both mind and body.

President As God he is equal to the Father,
as human he is less than the Father.

All Although he is both divine and human
he is not two beings but one Christ.

President One, not by turning God into flesh,
but by taking humanity into God;

All truly one, not by mixing humanity with Godhead,
but by being one person.

President For, as mind and body form one human being
so the one Christ is both divine and human.

All The Word became flesh and lived among us;
we have seen his glory,
the glory of the only Son from the Father,
full of grace and truth.

From the Athanasian Creed

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

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

All Lord of glory,
hear our prayer.

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,

All 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.**

Lord of all life,
you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.

We give you thanks
that, by the leading of a star,
you have revealed your only Son to the world,
and when we follow him

we are led from darkness into his marvellous light.

You made us all,
each wonderfully different,
to join with the angels
and sing your 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.**

We thank you, loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died,
when darkness had fallen,
Jesus took bread.

He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.
As you feed us with these gifts,
send your Holy Spirit,
and change us more and more
to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Help us, Father, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day
when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with the Wise Men and all your saints
we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ,
in the strength of the Spirit,
today 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.**

ANTHEM

In the bleak mid-winter

Harold Darke

*In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid-winter long ago.*

*Our God, heaven cannot hold Him nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.*

*Enough for Him, whom cherubim worship night and day,
a breastful of milk and a manger full of hay;
enough for Him, whom angels fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel which adore.*

*What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man I would do my part;
yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.*

COMMUNION HYMN

Greensleeves

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
haste, haste to bring him praise
the Babe, the son of Mary.

2 Why lies he in such mean estate,
where ox and ass are feeding?
Come, have no fear, God's son is here,
his love all loves exceeding:
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you:
hail, hail, the Saviour comes,
the Babe, the son of Mary.

3 So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,
all tongues and peoples own him,
the King of kings salvation brings,
let every heart enthrone Him:
Raise, raise your song on high,
while Mary sings a lullaby,
joy, joy for Christ is born,
the Babe, the son of Mary.

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

The First Nowell

1 The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as
they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep:

Refrain:

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.*

2 They looked up and saw a star,
Shining in the east, beyond them far:
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night:

(Refrain)

3 And by the light of that same star,
Three Wise Men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went:

(Refrain)

4 This star drew nigh to the north-west;
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay:

(Refrain)

5 Then enter'd in those Wise Men three,
Full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence
Both gold and myrrh and frankincense:

(Refrain)

6 Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath bought:
(Refrain)

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

Johann Sebastian Bach

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern, BWV 739