



SAINT JOHN'S MALONE



THE EPIPHANY
SUNDAY 7TH JANUARY 2024
(transferred from 6th January)

HYMN: 189

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.



As with joyful steps they sped
Saviour, to thy lowly bed;
there to bend the knee before
thee whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek the mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
at that cradle 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.



Holy Jesus! 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.

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
alleluias to our King.



PREPARATION

THE CHRIST IS REVEALED TO THE MAGI

A star leads the Wise Men to the manger.

THE GREETING

Arise, shine; for your light has come
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Nations shall come to your light
and Kings to the brightness of your dawn.

They shall bring gold and frankincense
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

(Isa. 60:1, 3, 6)

The figurines of the Magi are placed in the Crib

What gifts are fitting for Christ our Lord?

Bring gold for the King of the nations
who rules us in justice and peace.

Bring frankincense for the Son of God
who reveals the Father's love.

Bring myrrh for the Son of Man
who shared our sorrows and died for our sins.
Blessed be God for ever.

PENITENCE

The story of the Wise Men challenges us about our commitment to God:

When we have grown tired of searching for truth or seeking God's will,
Lord, have mercy.

When we have strayed from the command to love and serve our neighbour,
Christ, have mercy.

When we have offered less than the best in our worship and service of God,
Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,
bring us his pardon and peace, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE COLLECT

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Reading:

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72

- 1 Give the king your judgements, O God, ♦
and your righteousness to the son of a king.
- 2 Then shall he judge your people righteously ♦
and your poor with justice.
- 3 May the mountains bring forth peace, ♦
and the little hills righteousness for the people.
- 4 May he defend the poor among the people, ♦
deliver the children of the needy and crush the oppressor.
- 5 May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, ♦
from one generation to another.
- 6 May he come down like rain upon the mown grass, ♦
like the showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall righteousness flourish, ♦
and abundance of peace
till the moon shall be no more.

Hymn 201

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



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

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King for ever, ceasing never
over us all to reign. **Refrain**

Frankincense to offer have I:
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising,
worship him, God Most High. **Refrain**

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

Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
heaven sings alleluia; alleluia
the earth replies. **Refrain**



Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 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.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "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." ' Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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.' 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

ADDRESS:

THE RESPONSE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith in God:



Do you now, at the start of a New Year, renew your allegiance to Christ?

We do, and with God's grace we will follow him as our Saviour and Lord.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Hymn 202

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 laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.



Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through,
The cross be borne, for me, for you:
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh
The babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high!
The virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary!



PRAYERS: INTERCESSIONS

The Wise Men offered gold to Christ, the King of all. Father, we pray that you would give wisdom and integrity to all who lead, that their service will promote justice, peace and human well-being.

Your Kingdom come,
your will be done.

The Wise Men offered frankincense to Christ, the Son of God. Father, we pray for the Church's life of worship and prayer, and for all who lead, teach and minister among us ...

Your Kingdom come,
your will be done.

The Wise Men offered myrrh to Christ, the Son of Man. We pray for all who suffer from the injustices and frailties of human life ...

Bring deliverance to those who are trapped in grinding poverty, terrifying conflict or brutal oppression ... Be close to all who suffer from pain or ill-health ... Grant healing and hope to them all.

Your Kingdom come,
your will be done.

(Special thanksgivings and prayers ...)



THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour Christ has taught us: **Our Father**

Hymn 195 *(Collection)*

Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus light of the world, shine upon us,
Set us free by the truth you now bring us,
Shine on me, shine on me.

Shine, Jesus shine,

Fill this land with the Father's glory;

Blaze, Spirit, blaze,

set our hearts on fire.

Flow, river flow,

flood the nations with grace and mercy;

Send forth your word, Lord,

and let there be light.

2. Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
From the shadows into your radiance;
By the blood I may enter your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me. **Refrain**

3. As we gaze on your kindly brightness,
So our faces display your likeness,
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me. **Refrain**

When the Collection is received this prayer is said:

Lord Jesus Christ, you emptied yourself, taking the form of a servant.

Through your love, make us servants of one another.

Lord Jesus Christ, for our sake you became poor.

May our lives and gifts enrich the life of your world.

THE DISMISSAL CONCLUDING PRAYER

Christ our Lord, to whom kings bowed down in worship and offered gifts, reveal your glory to us, pour down the riches of your grace, and strengthen us to serve you in all the world. **Amen.**

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 you also in your 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 your hearts and fill your lives with his joy and peace.

Amen.

And the blessing of God.... **Amen.**

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Services this week

Wednesday 7.30pm Zoom Compline

Thursday 10.30am Eucharist with intercessions for those in any kind of need
A cup of tea/coffee is available after this service.

Next Sunday 14th January

9.00 a.m. **Eucharist**
10.30 a.m. **Sung Eucharist**

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The Parish Office can be contacted on any administrative matters, or for information about organisations connected with St John's (90667861) or E-mail secstjohns@btconnect.com

Please have any notices in the Office for the Sunday Pewsheet by Tuesday morning 10am

The Rector, Rev Canon Stephen Fielding can be contacted on pastoral matters
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