



Epiphany Carol Service

The joyful Christmas season continues throughout the weeks of Epiphany. The three key stories which help us reflect deeply on the mystery of the 'Word made flesh,' are the coming of the Magi, the baptism of Christ and the miracle at Cana. Each in their own way are epiphany moments where the glory of God in Jesus is revealed, taking us from the babe in the manger to the man of Galilee and ultimately therefore points us to what lies ahead in the way of the cross.

The festive season returns full circle to the nativity scene at the beginning of February on the Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas) when Mary and Joseph present their child in the temple and we hear the words of Simeon that Jesus is both 'a light to lighten the Gentiles' and 'the glory of God's people Israel.' The glory of God made manifest in a vulnerable child is the deep truth of the Christmas and Epiphany season;

'The incarnation is not an aberration, a temporary laying aside of omnipotence. It is the way God is. It is the self-constraint in which he has wrapped himself, so that his sharing of our world comes not from interventionist power, but from self-effacing yet passionate love.' *

In this service, through music and words we shall meditate on the three great stories of Epiphany and on the theme of the mission of the church.

The music at this service is sung by The Choir of All Saints, with Organist and Director of Music, Simon Headley

Our choirs are open to new people joining either for regular Sunday services or to sing on special season occasions such as this evening. No auditions or previous experience required. You will find a supportive environment and excellent tuition. To find out more, speak to Simon after the service or contact him on: music@allsaintsloughborough.org.uk.

The sonnets are written by Malcolm Guite, priest, poet and songwriter and are taken from his book *Sounding the Seasons*.

* from The Glory in our Midst by Michael Perham, SPCK 2005

You are invited to stand, if you feel able, for the congregational hymns, the words for which are in the red hymn book.

Introit The Shepherd's Farewell, *Hector Berlioz* (1803-1869)

The minister welcomes the congregation.

Collect for the season of Epiphany

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
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

Hymn 96 Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning

I: THE KING OF THE WORLD IS REVEALED TO THE MAGI

*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.*

Psalms 72.10-11

Minister

A star leads the wise men to the Christ-child.

Responsory

Arise, shine out, for your light has come;
the glory of the Lord is rising upon you.

The nations will come to your light,
and kings to your dawning brightness.

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

Your gates will lie open continually,
shut neither by day nor by night.

No more will the sun give you daylight,
nor moonlight shine upon you.

But the Lord will be your everlasting light,
your God will be your splendour.

Anthem No small wonder, *Paul Edwards* (b.1955)

Bible Reading Matthew 2:1-12

Hymn 105 We three kings of orient are
Verses 2, 3 & 4 will be sung by the choir

Sonnet

It might have been just someone else's story,
Some chosen people get a special king.
We leave them to their own peculiar glory,
We don't belong, it doesn't mean a thing.
But when these three arrive they bring us with them,
Gentiles like us, their wisdom might be ours;
A steady step that finds an inner rhythm,
A pilgrim's eye that sees beyond the stars.
They did not know his name but still they sought him,
They came from elsewhere but still they found;
In temples they found those who sold and bought him,
But in the filthy stable, hallowed ground.
Their courage gives our questing hearts a voice
To seek, to find, to worship, to rejoice.

Silence is kept

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

II. THE CHRIST IS REVEALED IN THE WATERS OF BAPTISM

*A voice from heaven said,
'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'*

Matthew 3.17

Minister

Jesus is revealed as the Christ in the waters of baptism.

Responsory

I will take you from the nations,
and gather you from all the countries.

I will sprinkle clean water upon you,
and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness.

A new heart I will give you,
and put a new spirit within you.

You shall be my people,
and I will be your God.

Anthem Arise, shine for thy light is come, *George J Elvey* (1816-1893)

Bible Reading Matthew 3:3 to end

Hymn 108 When Jesus came to Jordan

Sonnet

Beginning here we glimpse the Three-in-one;
The river runs, the clouds are torn apart,
The Father speaks, the Spirit and the Son
Reveal to us the single loving heart
That beats behind the being of all things
And calls and keeps and kindles us to light.
The dove descends, the spirit soars and sings
'You are beloved, you are my delight!'
In that quick light and life, as water spills
And streams around the Man like quickening rain,
The voice that made the universe reveals
The God in Man who makes it new again.
He calls us too, to step into that river
To die and rise and live and love forever.

Silence is kept

Collect

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;
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

III. THE NEW CREATION IS REVEALED IN WATER MADE WINE

*I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice from the throne, saying,
'Behold, the dwelling of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them and they shall be his peoples, and God himself
will be with them.'*

Revelation 21.2-3

Minister

Water is made wine at the wedding feast.

Responsory

I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice from the throne, saying,
'Behold, the dwelling of God is among mortals.'

He will dwell with them and they shall be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them.

Behold, I make all things new:
I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

To the thirsty I will give water as a gift
from the spring of the water of life.'

Anthem O sacrum convivium, *Roger Williams* (b.1943)

Translation

O sacred banquet, wherein Christ is received; the memorial of his passion is renewed; the soul is filled with
grace; and a pledge of future glory is given to us. Alleluia. Amen
St Thomas Aquinas (1225 -1274)

Bible Reading John 2:1-11

Hymn 104 Songs of thankfulness and praise
omit v4

Sonnet

Here's an epiphany to have and hold,
A truth that you can taste upon the tongue,
No distant shrines and canopies of gold
Or ladders to be clambered rung by rung,
But here and now, amidst your daily living,
Where you can taste and touch and feel and see,
The spring of love, the fount of all forgiving,
Flows when you need it, rich, abundant, free.
Better than waters of some outer weeping,
That leave you still with all your hidden sin,
Here is a vintage richer for the keeping
That works its transformation from within.

Silence is kept

Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
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

IV. THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples.

Psalm 96.3

Bidding

In the light of Christ's Epiphany the Heavens are opened by the Father's love; the ordinary things of earth are transformed as a sign of the richness of heaven; and the people of far-off nations are brought together in the unity of the worship of Christ.

Responsory

Lord Jesus Christ, honoured by the gifts of the wise men,
Strengthen us to offer our lives in your service.

Lord Jesus Christ, shown to the world as Son of God at the Jordan,
Strengthen us to preach the Gospel to all the nations.

Lord Jesus Christ, revealed to the disciples by the new wine of Cana,
Strengthen us to believe in your generosity towards us.

Anthem How beautiful upon the mountains, *John Stainer* (1840-1901)

Bible Reading Luke 10:1-9

Prayers of Intercession

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

God of our salvation,
hope of all the ends of the earth,
we pray:
Your kingdom come.

That the world may know Jesus Christ
as the Prince of Peace,
we pray:
Your kingdom come.

That the Church may be one in serving
and proclaiming the gospel,
we pray:
Your kingdom come.

That we may be bold to speak the word of God
while you stretch out your hand to save,

we pray:

Your kingdom come.

That the Church may be generous in giving,
faithful in serving, bold in proclaiming,

we pray:

Your kingdom come.

That the Church may welcome and support
all whom God calls to faith,

we pray:

Your kingdom come.

That all who suffer for the gospel
may know the comfort and glory of Christ,

we pray:

Your kingdom come.

That the day may come when every knee shall bow
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,

we pray:

Your kingdom come.

Almighty God,

by your Holy Spirit you have made us one

with your saints in heaven and on earth:

grant that in our earthly pilgrimage

we may ever be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer,

and know ourselves surrounded by their witness

to your power and mercy;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Uniting our prayers with all the saints we pray as Jesus taught us, each in the language that is closest to our hearts:

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.

Hymn 507 We have a gospel to proclaim

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 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.
Amen.

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

And the blessing of God Almighty,
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always
Amen

Organ Voluntary

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern (BuxWV 223),
Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Thank you for joining us this evening. Our choir sings every Sunday morning at 10.45am for our morning Holy Communion, except on the third Sunday, when they sing for Choral Evensong at 4pm.

FORTHCOMING SERVICES OF CHORAL EVENSONG

Next month there will be an additional Choral Evensong for Candlemas:

Sunday 1st February 4pm.

Sunday 15th February 4pm Choral Evensong

Sunday 15th March 4pm Choral Evensong

Our choir sings every Sunday morning at 10.45am for our morning Holy Communion, except on the third Sunday, when they sing for Choral Evensong at 4pm.

If you are able to make a gift this evening to support the ongoing costs of maintaining this historic place of worship and help us continue to invest in the music tradition of this church you can do so using the card machines at the back of church, leave a cash donation in the offertory plates or use the QR code.

Any gift is gratefully received.



Make a gift