

Entrance Hymn

1. All my heart this night rejoices,
As I hear, Far and near,
Sweetest angel voices;
“Christ is born,” their choirs are singing,
Till the air, Ev’rywhere
Now with joy is ringing.

2. For it dawns, the promised morrow
Of his birth, Who the Earth
Rescues from its sorrow.
God in human form descending;
Of his grace, To our race
Here his Son is lending.

3. Come then, let us hasten yonder;
Here let all, Great and small,
Kneel in awe and wonder.
Love Him who with love is yearning;
Hail the Star, That from far
Bright with hope is burning!

4. Blessèd Saviour, let me find you!
Keeping me, Lovingly,
Cast me not behind you!
Life of life, my heart you’re stilling;
Calm I rest, On thy breast,
While this void you’re filling.

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**

Old Testament 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.**

Responsorial Psalm 72.10–15

The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice.

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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. **The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice.** For he shall deliver the poor that cry out, the needy and those who have no helper. He shall have pity on the weak and poor; he shall preserve the lives of the needy. He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, and dear shall their blood be in his sight. **The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice.** Long may he live; unto him may be given gold from Sheba; may prayer be made for him continually and may they bless him all the day long. **The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice.**

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel : 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 Gospel of the Lord* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Offertory Hymn

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 thy 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.

Post Communion Prayer

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**

The Sending Hymn

1. 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.*

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

3. Frankincense to offer have I,
incense owns a Deity nigh,
prayer and praising, gladly raising,
worship him, God most high.

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

5. Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and sacrifice;
alleluia, alleluia,
earth to heav'n replies.



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**Church of the Holy Ghost: Epiphany
Eucharist**

4th January 2026
Chaplain: The Revd Robert Morley

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