

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH, CANTERBURY

AN EPIPHANY JOURNEY



Sunday 30th January 2022

6.00pm

Welcome to our worship at St Stephen's today

Nine weeks ago, we began Advent with a special service of readings and music, looking forward with hope and expectation to the birth of Jesus; at our Christmas Carol Service we celebrated God's coming into the world bringing comfort, relief and joy. Today, on the day that we have celebrated The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (also known as Candlemas), we mark the end of our journey. Our special service this evening draws together the themes that have run through the weeks of Epiphany: The King of all the world revealed to the Magi, the New Creation revealed in the water turned into wine, and Christ revealed in the waters of Baptism.



An induction loop system for the hard of hearing is installed in our Church. Hearing aid users should adjust their aid to 'T'



Large print orders of service are available from the sidespersons. Please ask.



Toilet facilities are available in the Church Hall. Please ask a Sidesperson for directions.



This service is being live-streamed for those who are unable to join us in church; By attending this service, you are giving permission and acknowledging that you may briefly appear on this stream. If you have any queries or concerns about this, please speak to a churchwarden or member of the clergy before the service begins.

As the vestry bell rings, we STAND to sing the opening hymn

Hymn

The first Nowell

NEH 36

Introduction

Today the Lord is presented in the Temple
in substance of our mortal nature.

All **Alleluia.**

Today the Blessed Virgin comes
to be purified in accordance with the law.

All **Alleluia.**

Today old Simeon proclaims Christ
as the light of the nations and the glory of Israel.

All **Alleluia. Praise to Christ, the light of the world.**

A Prayer for Candlemas

Lord God, the springing source of everlasting light,
pour into the hearts of your faithful people
the brilliance of your eternal splendour,
that we, who by these kindling flames
light up this temple to your glory,
may have the darkness of our souls dispelled,
and so be counted worthy to stand before you
in that eternal city where you live and reign,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

We SIT.

¶ *The King of all the world is revealed to the Magi*

Choir

Arise, shine, for your light has come

Words: The Third Song of Isaiah (Isaiah 60: 1–3, 11, 14)

Music: MARTIN HOW (b. 1931)

*Arise, shine, for your light has come,
And the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.*

For behold, darkness covers the land;
Deep gloom enshrouds the peoples,
But over you the Lord will rise,
And his glory will appear upon you.

Nations will stream to your light
And kings to the brightness of your dawning.
Your gates will always be open;
By day or night they will never be shut.

They will call you, the City of the Lord,
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

Reading

Isaiah 61:1–5

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks,
foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines;

Thanks be to God.

Choir

Three extracts from Christus

Music: FELIX MENDELSSOHN (1809–1847)

When Jesus, our Lord, was born in Bethlehem, in the land of Judaea;
behold, from the east to the city of Jerusalem there came wise men, and said:

Say, where is He born, the King of Judaea?
for we have seen His star, and are come to adore Him.

There shall a star from Jacob come forth,
and a sceptre from Israel rise up,
and dash in pieces princes and nations.
There shall a star from Jacob come forth.

How brightly beams the morning star!
What sudden radiance from afar
With light and comfort glowing!
Thy Word, O Lord,
Radiance darting, life imparting,
Gives salvation;
Thine be praise and adoration!

Reading

Matthew 2:1–2, 8–11

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.’

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.

Thanks be to God.

Collect

Let us pray.

Eternal God,
who by the shining of a star
led the wise men to worship your Son:
guide by his light the nations of the earth,
that the whole world may behold your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

We three kings of orient are

A&M 105

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 forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign:
- 3 Frankincense to offer have I,
Incense owns a deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, all men raising,
Worship him, God on 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.
Heav'n sings: 'Alleluia';
'Alleluia', the earth replies:

Words & Music: EDWARD JOHN HOPKINS (1818–1901)

We SIT.

Reading

Revelation 21:1–7

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

‘See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.’

And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ Then he said to me, ‘It is done! 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. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Thanks be to God.

Choir

Psalm 96

Anglican chant: HENRY MACLEOD HAVEGAL (1902–1989)

- 1 O SING unto the Lord a new song:
sing unto the Lord, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing unto the Lord, and praise his Name:
be telling of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his honour unto the heathen:
and his wonders unto all people.
- 4 For the Lord is great, and cannot worthily be praised:
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the heathen, they are but idols:
but it is the Lord that made the heavens.
- 6 Glory and worship are before him:
power and honour are in his sanctuary.
- 7 Ascribe unto the Lord, O ye kindreds of the people:
ascribe unto the Lord worship and power.
- 8 Ascribe unto the Lord the honour due unto his Name:
bring presents, and come into his courts.
- 9 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.
- 10 Tell it out among the heathen that the Lord is King:
and that it is he who hath made the round world so fast that it cannot be moved;
and how that he shall judge the people righteously.

- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad:
let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is.
- 12 Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it:
then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord.
- 13 For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth:
and with righteousness to judge the world, and the people with his truth.

We STAND for the Gloria, and then remain STANDING for the hymn

Hymn

Songs of thankfulness and praise

*NEH 56 (omit *)*

At the end of the hymn, we SIT

Reading

John 2:1–11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, ‘They have no wine.’ And Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.’ His mother said to the servants, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’ Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, ‘Fill the jars with water.’ And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, ‘Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.’ So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, ‘Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.’ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Thanks be to God.

Collect

Let us pray.

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 our Lord.

All **Amen.**

We STAND to sing the hymn, during which the ministers process to the font, and we turn to face them.

Hymn

Jesus, come! For we invite you

A&M 102

- 1 Jesus, come! for we invite you,
Guest and Master, Friend and Lord;
now, as once at Cana's wedding,
speak, and let us hear your word:
lead us through our need or doubting,
hope be born and joy restored.
- 2 Jesus, come! transform our pleasures,
guide us into paths unknown;
bring your gifts, command your servants,
let us trust in you alone:
though your hand may work in secret,
all shall see what you have done.
- 3 Jesus, come in new creation,
heaven brought near in power divine;
give your unexpected glory
changing water into wine:
rouse the faith of your disciples
come, our first and greatest sign!
- 4 Jesus, come! surprise our dullness,
make us willing to receive
more than we can yet imagine,
all the best you have to give:
let us find your hidden riches,
taste your love, believe, and live!

Words: CHRISTOPHER IDLE (b. 1938) based on John 2:1–4

Music: 'Neander' – JOACHIM NEANDER (1650–1680)

Words © Christopher Idle / The Jubilate Group. Administered by The Jubilate Group, Kitley House, St Katherine's Road, Torquay, TQ1 4DE <copyrightmanager@jubilate.co.uk> Used by permission. CCL No. 357666

We remain STANDING and facing the font as the readings are read from the back of the church.

¶ *The Christ is revealed in the waters of baptism*

Reading

Ezekiel 36:22 – 28

Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. I will sanctify my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them; and the nations shall know that I am the Lord, says the Lord God, when through you I display my holiness before their eyes. I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

The sinless one to Jordan came

NEH 58

Reading

Mark 1:1–11

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight”,

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’

Thanks be to God.

Choir

Listen, sweet dove

Words: From 'Whitsunday', GEORGE HERBERT (1593–1633)

Music: GRAYSTON IVES (b. 1948)

Listen sweet dove unto my song,
and spread thy golden wings in me;
hatching my tender heart so long,
till it get wing and flie away with thee.

Such glorious gifts thou didst bestow
the earth did like a heav'n appeare,
the starres were coming down to know
if they might mend their wages and serve here.

The sunne which once did shine alone,
hung down his head and wisht for night,
when he beheld twelve sunnes for one
going about the world and giving light.

Lord though we change thou art the same,
the same sweet God of love and light:
restore this day for thy great name,
unto his ancient and miraculous right.

Collect

Let us pray.

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealing 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 fulfilled 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.

All **Amen.**

- 1 When Jesus came to Jordan
To be baptized by John,
He did not come for pardon,
But as his Father's Son.
He came to share repentance
With all who mourn their sins,
To speak the vital sentence
With which good news begins.
- 2 He came to share temptation,
Our utmost woe and loss,
For us and our salvation
To die upon the cross.
So when the Dove descended
On him, the Son of Man,
The hidden years had ended,
The age of grace began.
- 3 Come, Holy Spirit, aid us
To keep the vows we make,
This very day invade us,
And every bondage break.
Come, give our lives direction,
The gift we covet most:
To share the resurrection
That leads to Pentecost.

Words: FRED PRATT GREEN (1903–2000)

Music: 'Offertorium' – Melody adapted from JOHANN MICHAEL HAYDN

Words © 1980, Stainer & Bell Ltd, London, England <www.stainer.co.uk> Used by permission. CCL No. 357666

Choir

Nunc Dimittis

From 'The Marlborough Canticles' – HOWARD GOODALL (b. 1958)

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :
according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen :
thy salvation;
Which thou hast prepared :
before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

The Sending out

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
fill you with radiance
and scatter the darkness from your path.

All **Amen.**

Christ, the Sun of Righteousness,
gladden your eyes and warm your heart.

All **Amen.**

Christ, the Dayspring from on high,
draw near to guide your feet into the way of peace.

All **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Hymn O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

NEH 52

Final Responsory

Father, we have sung your praise with shepherds and angels:
may Christ be born in our hearts today.

All **Praise to Christ our light.**

We have shared in the joy of Simeon and Anna;
help us, like them, to trust your word.

All **Praise to Christ our light.**

We have greeted Jesus, the light of the world;
may we be filled with the light of your love.

All **Praise to Christ our light.**

The Conclusion

We stand near the place of new birth.

All **Let us shine with the light of your love.**

We turn from the crib to the cross.

All **Let us shine with the light of your love.**

We go to carry his light.

All **Let us shine with the light of your love.**

Thanks be to God.

Organ

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern

Buxtehude (c. 1637–1707)

