



St Anne with Holy Trinity, Brondesbury

Confidently sharing the love of Christ

Sunday 2nd January 2021

Feast of Epiphany

President: Mo Christine **Preacher** Mo Christine

*Welcome to worship today—it is great to have you with us. We hope that you will feel welcome. If you are new, please do say hello—we would love to get to know you. If you are unsure where to find something, or about what is going on, please do ask and we will be happy to help. Our worship style is quite formal- but we hope relaxed-as we come to worship God in our midst. **Please wear a face mask at all times during worship.** For the time being we have also decided to suspend refreshments after the service. Please let us respect the needs of each other at this challenging time. **All the words you need will be on the screens at the front, but service sheets and hymn books are available if you prefer.***



Today we celebrate the Feast of Epiphany—when the three Magi bring their gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh and present them to the Christ Child. Gold—which has been purified in the fire and so reminds us to be pure in our living. Frankincense—incense—a sign of our prayers rising daily unto God. Myrrh—an ointment to bring healing or to anoint those who are dying—a reminder of the healing God offers to each of us.

*Please stand as the bell is rung as we sing our opening **490—Love came down at Christmas***

**We meet in the name of God who is (+) Father,
Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The President will introduce the service before God with our prayers of confession

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own. Let us confess our sins.

Silence is kept.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in
thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness, through our own
deliberate fault. We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus
Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant
that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your
name. Amen.**

After a period of silent reflection we sing together:

**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

We are reminded of God's forgiveness.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, (+) pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confident in God's forgiveness we sing the Gloria during which 3 people carry the Kings for the front of the church..

**Refrain: 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. Refrain:**

**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. Refrain:**

**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. Refrain.**

The Magi/Kings are placed in the crib as we say

First King is placed:

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe: to you be praise and glory for ever. As gold in the furnace is tried and purified seven times in the fire, so purify our hearts and minds that we may be a royal priesthood acceptable in the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

Second King is placed:

At the offering of incense Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe: to you be praise and glory for ever. As our prayer rises up before you as incense, so may we be presented before you with penitent hearts and uplifted hands to offer ourselves in your priestly service.

Blessed be God for ever.

Third King is placed:

At the offering of myrrh Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe: to you be praise and glory for ever. As you give medicine to heal our sickness and the leaves of the tree of life for the healing of the nations, so anoint us with your healing power that we may be the first-fruits of your new creation.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Collect

The Priest introduces a period of silent prayer and then sings a prayer

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.

Liturgy of the Word *(please sit)*

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Our first reading comes from the Prophet of Isaiah. The liturgical season that Isaiah 60 inaugurates is a season of revelation. Epiphany, in the early church, was not about the arrival of the magi but the revelation of Jesus Christ.

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (*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.

We hear a reading from the New Testament.

The second reading is from the letter to the Ephesians. In this reading God becomes human through the birth of Christ—God both human and divine. The revelation of this unity prepared the way for another, for the Gentiles to be joined with God’s people Israel. It is the revelation of this second mystery that Paul proclaims in Ephesians 3.

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians (3: 1-12)

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We remain seated as we sing hymn 669—Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

The Gospel

Herod the Great was well-known in the ancient world for both his paranoia and his brutality. He had one of his wives and several of his sons murdered because he thought they were plotting against him. Matthew's depiction of Herod fits very well with this picture of a paranoid and brutal despot. According to Matthew, when Herod hears of a baby born to be king of the Jews, he is troubled and begins plotting to do away with him. And it is not surprising that when Herod is troubled, all Jerusalem is troubled with him. There was no telling what a jealous, ruthless tyrant might do. As it turns out, he will have no compunction about slaughtering all the infant boys in Bethlehem. For Herod, and for all who plot evil in dark corners, the bright star of Jesus' birth is not good news. It illuminates a world much larger than Herod imagined, a world in which he is not in control. (*with thanks to Elisabeth Johnson Professor, Lutheran Institute of Theology for her insights*)

The Gospel is announced.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Glory to You, O Lord.

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.

We sit to listen to the sermon.

We stand to affirm our faith in the words of the Apostles creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

We sit as we prayer for the Church, the World and for this community.

Today the wise men knelt before our Saviour. Let us also kneel to worship him with great joy, and to make our prayer to his heavenly Father.

Creator, the wise men came from the east to worship your Son: grant to Christians everywhere a true spirit of adoration.

(allow moment of silence)

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Creator, your Son is the King of kings and Lord of lords: grant an abundance of peace to your world. We pray for places of conflict and injustice at this time – that your peace might be a reality. We give thanks for all who are peace makers and those who work for reconciliation. *(allow moment of silence)*

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Loving God, the Holy Family shared the life of the people of Nazareth: protect in your mercy our neighbours, families and friends; together with the whole community of which we are part. We pray for all across your world who are affected by the pandemic. Bless all health care professionals; and those developing vaccines and undertaking research to bring an end to this situation. *(allow moment of silence)*

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Father, your Son was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor: show your love for all in need of your love and care. Strengthen all who are on our hearts and minds at this time, amongst them Bob, Piers, Gill, Michael, Joyce, Jackie, Mavis, Hada, June, Michael, Kay, Comfort, Joyce, Fr Robert, Jean, Peter, Pearl, Rute, Josephine, John, Cecilia and Ruth

(allow moment of silence)

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Creator, the wise men presented to your Son gold, incense and myrrh:

accept the gifts we bring, and the offering of our hearts at the beginning of this new year. Bless the year ahead and give us courage to respond to the opportunities you offer to us. *(allow moment of silence)*

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Almighty One, you are the King of heaven, the hope of all who trust in you: give to Isobel Robinson, Desmon Tutu, Sidney Hinks, Don Hawkes, Bob Lewis, Harold Hamilton and Albert Laurencin and all the faithful departed the wonders of your salvation.

+Rest Eternal, Grant unto them O Lord

And may light perpetual shine upon them.

May they rest in peace

And rise in Glory

Rejoicing in the fellowship of wise men, shepherds and angels, and of the Blessed Mary and Saint Joseph, we commend ourselves and all Christian people to your unfailing love as in a moment of stillness we offer our own prayers to God.....*(allow moment of silence)*

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Liturgy of the Sacrament *(please stand)*

Christ is our peace. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. The old has passed away: behold, everything has become new

The peace of the Lord be always with you

and also with you.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace in a Covid friendly way.

We sing our offertory Hymn 805 We Three Kings

We give thanks for God's gifts

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this bread to set before you, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this wine to set before you, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Lord be with you,
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

The preface continues until we sing.

**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.**

After the Consecration

Great is the mystery of faith
**Christ has died: Christ is risen:
Christ will come again**

At the end we say—Amen

**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**

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

We sing the Agnus Dei.

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
Grant us peace.**

The Elevation

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

Lord (+) I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

All who are baptised are welcome to receive. We currently receive in one kind only. That means we receive the bread only. The Priest receives the wine on our behalf. Once all have received the bread and returned to our seat we consume together with the words

The body of Christ **Amen**

During Communion we listen to The Three Kings. You may also like to light a candle during this time as a symbol of your prayers rising toward God.

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.

Notices are given

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God almighty, the (+) Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Go in the peace of Christ

Thanks be to God

We sing our final hymn **89—Brightest and Best**

Notices

Laurence's Larder

You can still leave your donations, tinned fish or any non perishable food in the basket at the top of the stairs. You can see updates on this work at www.laurenceslarder.org.uk

A Huge Thank you!!

A huge thank you to everyone for all your help in making a Advent and Christmas celebrations such a success. For everyone who arranged and cleaned, delivered leaflets, cooked and served food and drink, helped in services, welcomed our guests, made donations to our charities and those who encouraged us. It really was team effort and we should be very proud of what we achieved. Thank you!

And Thank you...

Mo Christine would like to wish you a happy and safe Christmas. We pray that 2022 will bring you hope. I would like to express my thanks for the cards and wishes I have received.

Coming to Church

Please wear a mask at all times this is now required by law.

Please 'wrap up' as windows will be open! For now, we are not offering refreshments after the service.



For our prayers— Bob, Piers, Gill, Michael, Joyce, Jackie, Mavis, Hada, June, Michael, Kay, Comfort, Joyce, Fr Robert, Jean, Peter, Pearl, Rute, Josephine, John, Cecilia and Ruth. We remember those who have died recently including David, Isobel Robinson and

Desmond Tutu and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time including Sidney Hinks, Don Hawkes, Bob Lewis, Harold Hamilton and Albert Laurencin .

Services during the week 2nd January 2021

8.30am Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

Morning Prayer in the Chapel and on Zoom

Sunday 9th January

8.30am—Morning Prayer in the Chapel and on Zoom

9.30am—Eucharist

5pm—Zoom Service of the Day

Parish contact details

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