

SAINT MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS BARNES



Epiphany Carols

Sunday 10th January 2021

6.00pm

“Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?”

Matthew 2.2

THE feast of the Epiphany on 6th January commemorates the visit of the Magi (often called Kings or Wise Men) to the infant Jesus at Bethlehem. It also marks the end of the Twelve Days of Christmas, a period of celebration for the birth of Christ. However, the Christmas season continues until the 2nd February and the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, popularly known as Candlemas.

Epiphany in Greek means ‘showing’. In the case of the Magi, they see the wonder of God in the Christ-child. God revealing himself to these foreigners and gentiles (non-Jews) is a sign that God’s love and salvation has been extended to all people and the whole world. For this reason, the Magi have often been shown as representing different ethnic groups, although ancient images often depict them in Persian dress suggesting that they may have been Zoroastrians from modern day Iraq and Iran. There are many Epiphanies in the Gospels, in which individuals and communities glimpse the Divine through Jesus - but at this time we remember three particular Epiphanies:



The **visit of the Magi** in which the Saviour is revealed to the whole world.



The **Baptism of Christ** in the river Jordan that reveals the Trinity.



The **Wedding at Cana** and miracle of water into wine revealing Christ’s ‘glory’.

Many of us will have given and received gifts this Christmas as an expression of our love for each other and thankfulness for the Christ-child. In part this derives from the symbolic gifts of the Magi - gold for kingship, frankincense for holiness, and myrrh as the anointing spice for the bodies of the dead (a prefiguring of Jesus’ death and Resurrection). In this service, three items of a similar nature will be presented and placed on the Altar to represent these gifts and our offering of ourselves to God’s service. Compared to the gift of Christ, everything we have to offer seems insignificant, but Our Lord accepts anything that is offered to him in faith, hope and love, for his glory and praise.

Finally at the end of this service chalk is blessed so that each of us might bless our homes at the start of this new year, invoking the traditional names of the Magi. They travelled far and wide to find Christ, but by blessing our homes in this way we affirm that Christ, in his great love, has come to dwell with us in our daily lives wherever we are.

Music before the service:

Prelude on 'This endris nyght' - *Healey Willan*

The Holy Boy - *John Ireland*

Stand when the bell rings for the Procession.

PROCESSIONAL INTROIT

Lo! star-led chiefs

Words: Reginald Heber.

Music: from Palestine by William Crotch

Lo! star-led chiefs Assyrian odours bring,
And bending Magi seek their infant King!
Mark'd ye, where, hovering o'er His head,
The dove's white wings celestial glory shed?

During this Introit the Magi are carried in Procession and placed in the Epiphany House.

Remain standing

BIDDING PRAYER

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.

From the rising of the sun to its setting your name is proclaimed in all the world.

Brothers and sisters, we celebrate with joy the appearance of God's glory in the world in the birth of Jesus Christ, who is Emmanuel, God with us. Let us rejoice in the revelation to the gentiles through the visit of the Magi who paid Christ homage and offered rare gifts. Let us give thanks for the God made known to us as Father, Son and Spirit, Holy Trinity, at Christ's Baptism in the Jordan. Let us wonder at the miracle of Cana of Galilee, by which Christ manifested his glory. As we rejoice at the Word made flesh, who has called us out of darkness into his marvellous light, let us pray for the unity Christ's Church and all who minister his Gospel, that all may come to know the Good News. At this time, let us pray in particular for the revealing of his love to those who are lonely, anxious, sick and afraid, and those who have no-one else to pray for them. May God the Father who has been made known to us in his Son, the Beloved, open our eyes to behold his glory, full of grace and truth.

Believing in the promises of God, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

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.

Sit

I. THE ADORATION OF THE MAGI

FIRST READING

Matthew 2.1-2, 9-12.

Read by: Andrew Brannon

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.' 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.

CHOIR ANTHEM

'We three kings' – *arr. Martin Neary*

During this Anthem a chalice representing the gift of Gold is presented as a sign of Christ's Kingship. Presented by Nia Mabere

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 forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign:

Frankincense to offer have I:
Incense owns a Deity nigh:
Prayer and praising, all men raising
Worship him, God most high:

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb:

Glorious now, behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice!
Heav'n sings Alleluia,
Alleluia the earth replies:

SECOND READING
Read by: Bruce Houlder

'Epiphany' – R. S. Thomas

Three kings? Not even one
any more. Royalty
has gone to ground, its journeyings
over. Who now will bring

gifts and to what place? In
the manger there are only the toys
and the tinsel. The child
has become a man. Far

off from his cross in the wrong
season he sits at table
with us with on his head
the fool's cap of our paper money.

PRAYER *for the Adoration of the Magi.*

Let us pray.

Kneel

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 forever. Amen.



II. THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

Stand

HYMN

Sung by the choir

NEH 49, Tune 1

Words: Reginald Heber.

Music: Albyn Surplice, and Antony Caesar (verse 5).

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining;
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.

Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,
odours of Edom, and offerings divine,
gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would his favour secure:
richer by far is the heart's adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Sit

THIRD READING

Matthew 3.13-17

Read by: Mother Judith Roberts, *Assistant Priest*

JOHN 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

Or else give tears to drown them, as they grow.
In you Redemption measures all my time,
And spreads the plaister equall to the crime.
You taught the Book of Life my name, that so

What ever future sinnes should me miscall,
Your first acquaintance might discredit all.

PRAYER *for the Baptism of Christ.*

Let us pray.

Kneel

ETERNAL Father, who at the Baptism of Jesus, revealed him to 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 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 forever. Amen.



III. THE WEDDING AT CANA

Stand

HYMN *Sung by the choir*

NEH 56

Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise,
manifested by the star
to the sages from afar;
branch of royal David's stem
in thy birth at Bethlehem;
anthems be to thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.

Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest and King supreme;
and at Cana, wedding guest,
in thy Godhead manifest;
manifest in power divine,
changing water into wine;
anthems be to thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.

Manifest in making whole
palsied limbs and fainting soul;
manifest in valiant fight,
quelling all the devil's might;
manifest in gracious will,
ever bringing good from ill;
anthems be to thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.

Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,
mirrored in thy holy Word;
may we imitate thee now,
and be pure, as pure art thou;
that we like to thee may be
at thy great Epiphany;
and may praise thee, ever blest,
God in man made manifest.

Sit

FIFTH READING

John 2.1-11

Read by: Frederick Appleby

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM ‘O worship the Lord’

Words; adapted from J S B Monsell.

Music: Martin Neary

During the anthem a dish containing Holy Oils representing the gift of Myrrh is presented as a sign of Christ's sacrifice and death on the Cross. Presented by Freddie Light.

Alleluia! Arise, shine, for your light is come,
Worship the Lord.

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
Worship the Lord.

Alleluia!

Let the whole earth stand in awe of him,
Worship the Lord.

Adore him, the Lord is his name,
Worship the Lord. Alleluia!

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim!
With gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
Kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!

SIXTH READING

‘Epiphany at Cana’ – *Malcolm Guite*

Read by: Jeremy Preston

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.
‘What price?’ you ask me, as we raise the glass,
‘It cost our Saviour everything he has.’

PRAYER *for the Wedding at Cana.*

Let us pray.

Kneel

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.**

Remain kneeling for the INTERCESSIONS.

From the rising of the sun to its setting let us pray to the Lord.

That the people of God in all the world may worship in spirit and in truth, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

That the Church may discover again that unity which is the Father's will, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

That the nations of the earth may seek after the ways that make for peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

That the whole creation, groaning in travail, may be set free to enjoy the glorious liberty of the children of God, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

That all who with Christ have entered the shadow of death may rest in peace and rise in glory, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

Let us commend the world, ourselves and all whom we live to the mercy and protect of God this night; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sit for the NOTICES and the PROCLAMATION OF THE DATE OF EASTER and other movable feasts of the year (see back page).

CHOIR ANTHEM

‘The Shepherds’ Farewell’ - *Hector Berlioz*
from *L’enfance du Christ*

Thou must leave Thy lowly dwelling,
The humble crib, the stable bare.
Babe, all mortal babes excelling,
Content our earthly lot to share.
Loving father, Loving mother,
Shelter Thee with tender care!

Blessed Jesus, we implore Thee
With humble love and holy fear.
In the land that lies before Thee,
Forget not us who linger here!
May the shepherd’s lowly calling,
Ever to Thy heart be dear!

Blest are ye beyond all measure,
Thou happy father, mother mild!
Guard ye well your heav’nly treasure,
The Prince of Peace, The Holy Child!
God go with you, God protect you,
Guide you safely through the wild!

After the Anthem, stand for the BLESSING

The Word became flesh.
And dwelt among us.

We have seen his glory.
Full of grace and truth.

The Wise Men followed the star and found Christ who is light from light. May you too find the Lord when your pilgrimage is ended; and the blessing of God almighty ✠ the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Remain standing as the RECESSION takes place.

VOLUNTARY - Fugue on 'Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern' Max Reger

If you have enjoyed this service we invite you to make an EPIPHANY OFFERING:

To donate by text simply text SAINT MICHAEL to 70470 followed by the amount you wish to give (e.g. SAINT MICHAEL£15) up to the value of £20 – although you can donate more by texting again.

Alternatively to **donate in cash** you can collect a blue Gift Aid envelope from church and put your offering in the wall safe at the back of church or deliver it to the Vicarage in Elm Bank Gardens. Please do fill out your details on the envelope, which increases your gift by 25%.

Thank you.





PROCLAMATION OF THE DATE OF EASTER

and other movable feasts of the year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty one.

Know dear brothers and sisters that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy, we announce to you also, the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Saviour.

On the 17th day of February will fall **Ash Wednesday**, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season.

On the 4th day of April you will celebrate with joy **Easter Day**, the paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the 13th day of May will be the **Ascension** of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the 23rd day of May the feast of **Pentecost**.

On the 6th day of June the feast of the **Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ**.

On the 28th day of November the First Sunday of **Advent** of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be all honour and glory for ever and ever. **Amen**.