

St Michael and All Angels Galleywood

Sunday 7th January



Service of the Word

Epiphany

Welcome

Introduction (Based on Isaiah 60)

This day a star leads the wise men to the Christ-child.

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.

Hymn 83

Come and join the celebration,

It's a very special day;

Come and share our jubilation,

There's a new King born today!

See the shepherds

Hurry down to Bethlehem;

Gaze in wonder

At the Son of God who lay before them.

Wise men journey,
Led to worship by a star,
Kneel in homage,
Bringing precious gifts from lands afar, so

'God is with us,'
'round the world the message bring;
He is with us,
'Welcome!' all the bells on earth are pealing.

Valerie Collison

MP 644

The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
Born is the King of Israel!*

They lookèd up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.

This star drew nigh to the north-west;
Over Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

Then entered in those wise men three
Full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in His presence
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,
And with His blood mankind hath bought.

Author unknown.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Confession

Lord Jesus Christ, wise men from the East worshipped and adored you;
they brought you gifts – gold, frankincense and myrrh.

We too have seen your glory, but we have often turned away.

Lord in your mercy

Forgive us and help us.

We too have gifts but we have not fully used them or offered them to you.

Lord in your mercy

Forgive us and help us.

We too have acclaimed you as King, but we have not served you with all our
strength .

Lord in your mercy

Forgive us and help us.

We too have acknowledged you as God, but we have not desired holiness.

Lord in your mercy

Forgive us and help us.

We too have welcomed you as Saviour, but we have failed to tell others of
your grace. Lord in your mercy

Forgive us and help us.

Make our trust more certain,

Make our love more real,

Make our worship more acceptable;

For your Glory's sake. Amen.

Absolution

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw *us* to himself

and cleanse *us* from all *our* sins,

that *we* may behold the glory of his Son,

the Word made flesh,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Collect for Epiphany

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer for Sonlight and Mega as they leave

Mission : Make Lunch and Friendship Plus

Hymn 529

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.

Low at His feet lay thy burden of carefulness,
High on His heart He will bear it for thee,
Comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
Guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

Fear not to enter His courts in the slenderness
Of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine;
Truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
These are the offerings to lay on His shrine.

These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
He will accept for the name that is dear;
Mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
Trust for our trembling, and hope for our fear.

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.

John S. B. Monsell.

1st Reading - Matthew 2 ¹⁻¹²

The Magi visit the Messiah

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.'

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ 'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they replied, 'for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, 'Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.'

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

2nd reading - Isaiah 60 ¹⁻⁶

The glory of Zion

'Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

² See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the Lord rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.

³ Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ 'Lift up your eyes and look about you:
all assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the hip.

⁵ Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;

the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.
⁶ Herds of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah.
And all from Sheba will come,
bearing gold and incense
and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

Sermon

Hymn 740

We three kings of orient are
Bearing gifts we travel 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 plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again
King for ever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign

Frankincense for Jesus I have
God on earth yet priest on high
Prayer and praising voices raising
Worshiping God on high

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Tells of His death and Calvary's gloom
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God, and sacrifice!
Heaven sings out "Alleluia"
"Amen" the earth replies

John Hopkins (altered H Leavers)

Affirmation of faith

Let us declare our faith in God:
**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Thanksgiving for our Offerings

Prayers

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven,
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Notices and family news

Hymn 39

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 God, may we
Led by you for ever be

As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour, to your lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
You whom heaven and earth adore,
So may we with one accord
Seek forgiveness from our Lord

As they offered gifts most rare
Gold and frankincense and myrrh,
So may we cleansed from our sin,
Lives of service now begin,
As in love our treasures bring,
Christ, to you, our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every 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.

In the heavenly country bright
Need they no created light;
You its light, its joy, its crown,
You its sun, which goes not down.
There forever may we sing
Hallelujahs to our King.

W. C. Dix (altered H Leavers)

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 in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

Amen.

May God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness,
give us a place with the saints in light
in the kingdom of his beloved Son.

Amen.

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
shine in our hearts and fill our lives
with his joy and peace.

Amen.

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