



A Liturgy of the Word : Feast of Epiphany

9 January 2022



Ven. Moses Thabethe



Rev. Matthew Wright



Rev. Sharmain James



Rev. Margaret Place



Rev. Alison Thabethe

The full service or the sermon can be viewed on the website.

Processional Hymn

**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.**

Author: John S. B. Monsell

Call to Worship

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light
Those who dwelt in deep darkness, on them a light has shone

O Morning Star, resplendent and radiant
As you guided the magi of old, so are we guided by your light

By it we find our salvation
By it we find the Christ-child, laid in the manger

Come, let us kneel before the Lord
Let us pay homage with our gifts and our worship



Introductory Rite

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Praise the Lord:

Praise God, you servants of the Lord.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

Blessed be God's Name, now and forever.

The Gloria

*Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.*

*Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.*

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us; have mercy on us
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer, receive our prayer.



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. Amen.

Composer: Fr. Manoling Francisco

Collect for Purity

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleans the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Kyrie

Kyrie eleison
Christe eleison
Kyrie eleison

Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy

(Latin recording by Richard Cootes www.richardcootes.com)



The Penitence

Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as at Meribah. For a light has dawned and we no longer walk in darkness. May our light shine before others, that they may see our deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Let us confess together:

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word, and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy, forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be.
That we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you: pardon your sins and set you free from them; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect

**O God, by the leading of a star
you revealed your Son Jesus Christ to the gentiles:
grant that your Church may be a light to the nations,
so that the whole world may come to see
the splendour of your glory;
through Jesus Christ, the Morning Star;
who live and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**



The Word of God

Isaiah 60: 1-6
Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3: 1-12

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia
Open our hearts O Lord
to listen to the words of your Son
Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia

Sung by Ven Moses Thabethe

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12



The Sermon

by Revd Sharmain James

Affirmation of Faith

**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.**

Prayers of Intercession

For the Church

As we celebrate the Feast of Epiphany, we give thanks and praise to God, our Father, for sending his Son into the world, that by him all people would be reconciled and enter into God's salvation. May God empower the Church to fulfil its mandate of bringing this Good News to all people.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

For our world and its leaders

In a time when darkness and the powers of evil seem to often triumph, we rejoice in the light and life of Christ, our Saviour. We place our trust in his universal and sovereign reign, that by it, and by our own actions, Christ's light might spread to all corners of the earth. May the peace and justice of God prevail in all nations.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

For families and friends

We thank-you, Lord, for the opportunities we have had to rest and relax with our families and friends this past Christmas time. As we embark on a new year and as many return to work, we commit ourselves into your hands, asking your care and protection for each of us.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

For those in need

Heavenly Father, we place before you all in our parish who may be experiencing suffering or unease of any kind – whether the anxiety of facing a new year, whether a serious or long-term illness, whether frailty accompanied by old age, we ask your Spirit to minister to these your children, that they may know your comfort and care.

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer



For children and young people

As many of our young people begin a new academic year, we ask your hand of blessing and guidance upon them. And as they endeavor in their studies under what are still challenging circumstances, we ask you to strengthen and encourage them. For those who have left school or tertiary institutions, may you provide for them opportunities of employment.

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer!

For the bereaved

Lord, we remember all who have passed on, especially since the outbreak of the COVID pandemic. For those who continue to mourn and come to terms with their loss, we ask your hand of comfort to be upon them. As the world and its leaders strive to overcome the pandemic we pray for continued advances in our healthcare and a heightened immunity that we may endure no further loss at hands of COVID19.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

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

Prayer for Offering

As the wise men of old brought before you costly gifts, we pray, Lord, that these our gifts would be acceptable to you. Indeed, we know it is not the extent of our gifts which matters, but their extent in relation to that with which you have blessed us. Accept, therefore these our offerings. May they be pleasing unto you and may you provision them for the building of your kingdom. In the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

A Russian version of the Lord's Prayer, "Our Father".

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God, our maker and redeemer:
help us trust you with all our decisions in the future.
May we lean on you with our whole heart
instead of relying on our own imperfect understanding
of our situation and circumstances.
Grant us a clear vision going forward
and may you always direct our paths.
In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**



Final Blessing

May the blessed presence of God fill our hearts
with the assurances of God's love. May the gracious arms
of Jesus Christ embrace us as part of the community of believers.
May the Holy Spirit baptise us afresh and lead us into newness of life.
And may we always live in trust, knowing that we are God's always and forever.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen



Recessional Hymn

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 by thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before
thee, whom heaven and earth adore,
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
at thy cradle, rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, 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.

5 In the heavenly country bright
need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown,
thou its sun which goes not down.
There forever may we sing
alleluias to our King!



Author: W. Chatterton Dix

Giving

Thank you for your continued financial contribution

E.F.T

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Blessing

<https://churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/weekly-worship/monthly/january-2022/9-january-1-sunday-after-epiphany>