

A Service of Praise and Prayer

Epiphany - Sunday, January 3, 2021



ANGLICAN
DIOCESE OF
NIAGARA

Prelude: We Three Kings (arr. T. Price)

WELCOME & TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

GATHERING

Bishop: O Lord open our lips!

All: **and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.**

Bishop: From the rising of the sun to it's setting,

All: **your glory is proclaimed in all the world.**

THE COLLECT

Bishop: 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.

All: **Amen.**

We sing together... Come, thou long-expected Jesus (#88 Common Praise)

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
2. Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.
3. Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a King;
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
4. By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

A READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

One: 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,

CALLED TO LIFE
COMPELLED TO LOVE

A Service of Praise and Prayer for Epiphany

One: 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.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word,

All: Thanks be to God.

A short silence meditating on the reading is kept.

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Saint Matthew.

All: Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

One: 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.

The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

A Service of Praise and Prayer for Epiphany

We sing together... In the Bleak Midwinter (#122 Common Praise)

1. In the bleak midwinter
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter,
long ago.
2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign;
in the bleak midwinter
a stable place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate,
Jesus Christ.
3. Angels and archangels
may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim
thronged the air;
but his mother only,
in her maiden bliss,
worshipped the Beloved
with a kiss.
4. What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb,
if I were a wise man
I would do my part,
yet what I can I give Him —
give my heart.

THE HOMILY: Bishop Susan Bell

Music is played during a time of reflection.

INTERCESSIONS

One: As we gather joyfully in God's presence, let us pray.

As Magi made their journey, guided by a star,
so we ask for your guidance and protection
for all those who travel and work in places of risk during this time.
for our frontline healthcare workers, for all essential workers,
and especially for all who work in schools.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: As Magi faced the corruption of Herod,
so we pray for all who name and face corruption,
injustice, inequality and oppression in your world.
Strengthen the voices of prophets,
and open our ears to hear them.

May we, encountering your Word, set our feet to new paths,
of hope and love, of justice and peace,
of liberation for the captives.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

A Service of Praise and Prayer for Epiphany

One: As Magi offered treasure,
we give thanks for the treasures you have gifted to us,
for our time, our energy, our finances, our care, our talents and skills.
May we all be moved to offer what we have and what we are,
for the well being of our neighbour
and your mission in our communities and beyond.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: As Magi offered Myrrh, for anointing and healing,
we lift to you those in need of your healing touch, and those who are dying,
whose wholeness will be found as they are born to eternal life.
We name them before you in the silence of our hearts.

Silence is kept

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: As Magi offered frankincense in prayer and praise,
we give thanks for your church, and ask that you embolden our faith,
our worship and proclamation, that in our life together,
our patience, humility, service and love many would be drawn to your light
which shines in the darkness and which cannot be overcome.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: As the Magi came to a new place,
through dangers and trials, to seek the life of the world,
we pray for those who travel to seek refuge and a new life
and remember before you those trapped
in refugee camps and holding centres around the world.
that we may open our hearts and communities to welcome them,
and remove the barriers that stand around them.

Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer

One: As the Magi returned home,
we pray for those who are far from home,
who are unable to travel and see their families,
who must grieve at a distance.
we pray for those who suffer anxiety, and long for comfort and security.
Grant them your peace beyond understanding.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

A Service of Praise and Prayer for Epiphany

Bishop: Trusting in the compassion of God, and in the language and version of our choice, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**All: 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.**

**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.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

We Sing Together.... Angels from the Realms of Glory (#143 Common Praise)

1. Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Refrain:
*Come and worship, come and worship;
worship Christ, the newborn King.*

2. Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night:
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant Light.

3. Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star.

4. Saints, before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear.

5. Though an infant now we view him,
he shall fill his Father's throne,
gather all the nations to him;
every knee shall then bow down.

Closing remarks and announcements.

THE BLESSING

POSTLUDE: Chorale Prelude on "Cwm Rhondda"