

WORSHIP - EPIPHANY - 2 JANUARY 2022

Carol - As with gladness men of old - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sp52sx2_GYs

Opening Prayer

At the start of this new year, we think back over 2021, not the easiest year of our lives. We offer to God the pain, the grief, the fear - the friendship and the love - and we ask his blessing as we enter 2022. Help us, with the Magi, to see your glory and to journey with you. We pray together:

Eternal Lord God,
we give you thanks for bringing us
through the changes of time
to the beginning of another year.
Forgive us the wrong we have done
in the year that is past,
and help us to spend the rest of our days
to your honour and glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Confession and Absolution

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.

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned in thought and word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbour 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.

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.

The Gloria - Mass of St Thomas, David Thorne - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pHEm0Dbzizs>

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.
Glory to God in the highest.
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.
Glory to God in the highest
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.
Glory to God in the highest.

The Collect

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.



New Testament reading - Ephesians 3.1-12 - is printed on the blue noticesheet

Carol - Brightest and best - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5ACL94B4rM>

Gospel - Matthew 2.1-12 - is printed on the blue noticesheet

Address - Peter and Julie have written sermons which are on the church website.

The Nicene Creed - we affirm our faith, and the faith of the whole church (hence 'we' not 'I')

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Music - The Three Kings, Peter Cornelius - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=thu3vgz5y28>

Prayers of Intercession - *Promise of His Glory*, page 224

As 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.

Father, the wise men came from the east to worship your Son: give to Christians everywhere a true spirit of adoration. Help us to put worship first, to take time to think, pray, and adore. As we cope with worship so different to where we were last Epiphany, help us not to be downhearted, but to seek you, with the knowledge that we will find you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father, you are the King of Kings and Lord of Lords: grant an abundance of peace to your world. There are so many conflicts at the start of this new year, and a worldwide battle against Covid. We know this world is not at peace, and we know it wasn't two thousand years ago when the wise men travelled. Hope us as we continue to work, and pray, for your peace – bless the work of international agencies, and everything that brings humans together for good. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father, the Holy Family shared the life of the people of Nazareth: protect in your mercy our neighbours and families, together with the whole community of which we are part. We pray for all of us as this virus goes on and on, and the situation gets worse. Be with our medical staff, men and women who have given so much, are so tired, and yet are asked to give more. Be with our schools as difficult decisions have to be made, may our children and their teachers be kept safe. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father, though you were rich, for our sake you became poor: show your love for the poor and powerless, and strengthen all those who suffer. We pray for those who are depressed and frightened at the beginning of this new year. Those for whom the future is very dark and difficult, those who can no longer fight the battle and are struggling to keep going. We think of members of our church community we have not seen for ages, and we pray for those who are sick. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father, 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. We pray for the economic life of our country, for our businesses, our charities, our churches, our Diocese, as we try and cope with the financial problems Covid is causing. We ask for strength to believe in your love, your gift, your purpose, as we journey through this year. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father, you are the King of Heaven, the hope of all who trust in you: give to all the faithful departed the wonders of your salvation. We think of those we miss, for all who mourn this day. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of wise men, shepherds, and angels, and of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph, we commend ourselves and all humanity to your unfailing love. We bring our prayers together as we pray the prayer that Jesus 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.

Carol - We three Kings of Orient are - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u-T9RtV-TzQ>

The Blessing

The Lord bless you and watch over you, the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you, the Lord look kindly upon you and give you his peace;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

Final music - Crown Imperial, William Walton - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wIuAzt6JVx0>

Peter Barham, 31 December 2021 - revpeterbarham@btinternet.com