

Sunday 5th January 2025

Epiphany

Reading 1: Ephesians 3: 1 - 12

Gospel: Matthew 2: 1 - 12

*Let us pause for a moment to bring ourselves, this year and all that we offer to God:
and give Him thanks.*

Grace mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Acclamation:

A thousand years in God's sight are like a single day.

Like an evening that has already gone.

Christ is the first and the last.

The beginning and the end.

Jesus stands at the door and knocks.

Lord Jesus, enter our homes and our lives.

You hold the key to God's way of justice.

Open to us your kingdom of peace. Amen.

Invitation to Confession:

As we come to the Lord at the start of this New Year,
let us seek His grace to number our days,
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom
as we confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Confession:

Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness;
according to the abundance of your compassion
blot out my offences.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.

Make in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

Give me again the joy of your salvation

and sustain me with your gracious Spirit. 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.

Blessed be the Lord
for he has heard the voice of our prayer;

Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy
and in our song will we praise our God.

Song: (*click link*) Here I am to Worship <https://youtu.be/03G52K9X2hQ>

Reading 1: Ephesians 3: 1 - 12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— ²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Matthew 2: 1 – 12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² 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.' ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and

scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ "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."

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ 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.' ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

Song: ([click link](#)) By the Grace of God https://youtu.be/iZr8218_Jg

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

The Creed

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.

Intercessions

Father God in Your Holy Scriptures, Jesus says that where two or three gather in His name and agree about a situation there He is with them. And so, as we gather here today, we bring our praises, our prayers and requests to You through Jesus knowing that You hear us and that your answers will be done according to your will.

Lord God, as we begin this New Year and we pray for your church and your world. We pray first and foremost for your real presence in our hearts, for a fresh infilling of Your Holy Spirit, energising us, teaching us, changing us so we can go on reflecting your light to so often a tired and weary world. May all that we do in word or deed do it all in the name of our Lord Jesus and giving thanks and praise in all circumstances we come across in our individual journeys with You.

Lord God, we praise you for the order and beauty of Creation as you originally made it. We see the effects of global warming and exploitation that threaten the balance of nature, please help us to undo as much harm as we can and seek Your ways of restoration. And thinking of creation, we thank you Father God for this world you created through Jesus and we thankyou for the way you have provided for humanity and all created creatures.

We know Father that we live in a fallen world and through sin entering the world it brought sickness and disease. Thankyou that despite our disobedience you give us the wisdom to find vaccines and medicines and you give us the skills to carry out intricate surgery. Lord we all know someone and we all hear of those we see and read about in the world who need your touch today and the care others bring to them. Lead us Lord to help where we can.

Father God, we know from Your Word that you are close to the broken hearted and long to save those who are crushed in spirit. May you today bring healing and comfort to those who cry out to you and for those for whom we cry out on their behalf. Bring fresh hope dear Lord where hope is fading. Thankyou so much for those working for the Samaritans, for those working for Mind and so many other helplines with people always at the end of a telephone. Bless them please Lord and thankyou for the many lives they save just by being there.

Father God as we share in Holy Communion together today, and as we eat and drink the bread and wine, symbols of the body and blood of our dear Lord Jesus. Strengthen us and

bind us together as one in your body of believers always remembering Jesus sacrificial love for us. May we love and give sacrificially as He does. Amen.

Merciful Father,
Accept these prayers
for the sake of your only son
our saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Collect:

God our Father,
in love you sent your Son
that the world may have life:
lead us to seek him among the outcast
and to find him in those in need,
for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Silence is kept.

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
and 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 forever. Amen.

Song: (*click link*) We Three Kings <https://youtu.be/E0BJonwPCds>

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 on you
and give you peace.....

.....and the blessing of God almighty;
Father Son and Holy Spirit,
be with us, and remain with us
and all those whom we love,
now and forever.

Amen.

Song: *(click link)* From Heaven You Came <https://youtu.be/E4963QPHAIM>

Post something on the Facebook page to bless others.