

St. Mary's United Holy Communion for The Epiphany 3 January 2021

WELCOME

The Lord be with you
And also with you

HYMN:

**Brightest and best of the
sons of the morning,**
Dawn on our darkness and give
us thine aid:
Star of the east the horizon
adorning,
Guide where our infant
redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dew
drops are shining,
Low lies his head with the
beasts of the stall.
Angels adore Him in slumber
reclining,
Maker and monarch and
Saviour of all.

Say, shall we yield him in costly
devotion
Odours of Edom and offerings
divine?
Gems of the mountain and
pearls of the ocean,

Myrrh from the forest or gold
from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample
oblation,
Vainly with gifts would his
favour secure;
Richer by far is the heart's
adoration,
Dearer to God are the prayers
of the poor.

THE CONFESSION:

**Lord God, we have sinned
against you;
we have done evil in your
sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according
to your love.
Wash away our wrong
doing
and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within
us
and restore to us the joy of
your salvation, through
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

ABSOLUTION: *God's
forgiveness*

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. Amen

GOSPEL READING:

Matthew 2 v 1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi^[a] 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

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 worshiped 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you O Christ

NOTICES

TALK: Rev Tim Ward

SONG:

I will offer up my life

APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God the Father
Almighty,
creator of heaven and
earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his
only son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the
Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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 again 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:

THE PEACE:

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

HYMN:

**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,
West ward leading, still
proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a king on Bethlehem's
plain

Gold I bring, to crown him
again-

King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I,
incense owns a deity nigh:

Prayer and praising all men
raising

Worship him God most high:

Myrrh is mine; its bitter
perfume
Breathes a life of gathering
gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding,
dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb:

Glorious now, behold him arise,
King, and God, and sacrifice!
Heaven sings alleluya. "Alle-
luya," the earth replies.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord
our God.

**It is right to give thanks
and praise.**

Almighty God, good Father to
us all, your face is turned
towards your world.

In love you gave us Jesus your
Son to rescue us from sin and
death.

Your Word goes out to call us
home to the city where angels
sing your praise. We join with
them in heaven's song:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of
power and might, heaven
and earth are full of your**

glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Father of all, we give you
thanks for every gift that comes
from heaven.

To the darkness Jesus came as
your light. With signs of faith
and words of hope he touched
untouchables with love and
washed the guilty clean. This is
his story.

This is our song:

Hosanna in the highest.

The crowds came out to see
your Son, yet at the end they
turned on him. On the night he
was betrayed
he came to table with his
friends to celebrate the freedom
of your people. This is his story.

This is our song:

Hosanna in the highest.

Jesus blessed you, Father, for
the food; he took bread, gave
thanks, broke it and said:
This is my body, given for you
all.

Jesus then gave thanks for the
wine; he took the cup, gave it
and said: This is my blood, shed
for you all for the forgiveness of
sins. Do this in remembrance of
me. This is our story.

This is our song:

Hosanna in the highest.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate the cross

on which he died to set us free.

Defying death he rose again and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

This is our story.

This is our song:

Hosanna in the highest.

Send your Spirit on us now that by these gifts we may feed on Christ with opened eyes and hearts on fire.

May we and all who share this food offer ourselves to live for you

and be welcomed at your feast in heaven where all creation worships you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

THE 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 forever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD:

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ:

Though we are many, we are one body because we all share in one bread.

INVITATION to communion

AFTER COMMUNION:

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.

Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

BLESSING

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 their precious gifts they laid,
At Thy manger roughly made,
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 Jesu, 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;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,

Thou its sun, which goes not
down.

There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King.

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace to love and serve
the Lord

In the name of Christ.

Amen.

