

St Swithun's, Hither Green

Eucharist



Epiphany

3rd January 2021

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The Gathering

The Greeting

Lord God, we come to you as the magi came
to honour and worship you.

As we join the magi on their journey

We bring ourselves as a gift to Christ

God calls us and invites us to follow

Lead us like a bright and shining star

Grace, mercy and peace from God be with you

May the God of joy bless us all

Mother Juliet says some words of welcome.

Prayers of Penitence

Jesus, you are the light of the world,

in your presence we recognise our wrongdoing and failure.

Loving God, we are sorry and ask you to forgive us;

open our hearts to you and fill them with your glorious light
that others may see you shining through our lives. **Amen**

The Absolution

Loving God, you welcome all who turn to you

in repentance and faith,

may God forgive us and restore us

to the light of God's presence. **Amen**

The Gloria

Please listen to the music as we glorify God together

The Liturgy of the Word

The Collect

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: 1-12*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

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

Sermon *Mother Juliet*



Affirmation of faith

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers

Let us pray:

After each bidding:

God of love: **Hear our prayer.**

*Especially we remember: those who are in need or have asked for our prayers – Martin, Rossy and family, Kevin, Gwen, Karen, Paulette, Maureen and family, Pamela, Neil, Debbie, Elaine and family, Clinton, Francis, Cynthia, Diane, Harold, Ivy, Sean, Taneisha, Talabi, Susan, Sydney, Edith, Vanda, Lorna, Ena and Stephen.
Those who have died*

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord

And let light perpetual shine upon them

At the end:

Merciful Father

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

The angels sang, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.'

The Peace of the Lord be with you

And also with you.

Let us wave to one another the sign of peace.

Carol

**We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

*O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward 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.**

O star of wonder...

**Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising,
worship him, God most high.**

O star of wonder...

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.**

O star of wonder...

**Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
alleluia, alleluia,
earth to heav'n replies.**

O star of wonder...

Prayer over the gifts

Loving God, accept your people's gifts,
not gold, frankincense or myrrh,
but hearts and voices raised in praise of Jesus Christ,
our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic 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.

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;
in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away you did not reject us,
but came to meet us in your Son.

**You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends
he took bread, and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to them saying: *Take, eat;
this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.*

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said: *Drink this, all of you:
this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for
the forgiveness of sins: do this in remembrance of me.*

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us
the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**



With your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has 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.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.
**God among us, light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

Agnus Dei

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

*Please stay seated in your place whilst we administer communion
(the bread) safely – alternatively a prayer can be said at a physical
distance with you as we move round the church.*

Prayer after Communion

Loving God, we thank you for your gift to us of your Son Jesus Christ present in our communion, now may we offer ourselves as gifts to you.

The gold of our potential, the incense of our prayers and the myrrh of our care for others.

Fill us with your spirit that we may overflow with your love and transform the world with your glory.

Amen.

The Notices

- *Our worship services will continue within the guidelines. The church can be opened for private prayer on request.*
- *We will continue to upload the services and the sermons on the website for those who are unable to come in person.*
- *Happy Birthday Vanda and Enita and to all those who have a birthday.*



Dismissal and Blessing

The Blessing

Christ our Lord to whom kings bowed down in worship and offered gifts, reveal to you his glory and pour upon you the riches of his grace, and the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer and Spirit be among you and remain with you always

Amen.

The Dismissal

We have seen God's glory, the glory revealed to all the nations.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.