

Church Alive

Zoom and at Home Worship Sheet

Epiphany – 3rd January



(For the Zoom service:

Welcome to Zoom Church Alive.

You might like to have the following ready prepared with you for the service:

- *Drink and snack!*
- *Candle and matches/lighter*

We will meet at 11am and start the service at 11.05am. Please use MUTE on your computer at 11.05am for the service, especially wherever we are singing together, except in the sections where marked. If you'd like to say something at other times, please 'raise your hand' (you will find this in the Participants section) or type it in under 'chat' and it will appear on the screen.)

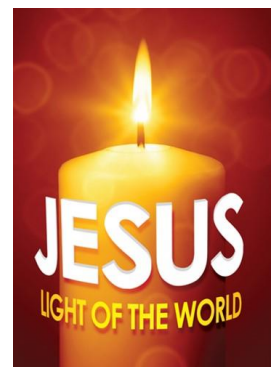
Today we remember the visit of the wise men to Jesus. They were foreigners who travelled a long way following the star to find the new king reminding us that Jesus was born for all people. When they find him, not in the palace in Jerusalem, but in the stable in Bethlehem, these important and learned men kneel and worship him, as we are invited to kneel and worship him, and offer their expensive gifts.

Opening Song: Come Light of the World <https://youtu.be/rKpv53tGOV0>

Opening Prayer:

If you are able, and it is safe to do so, you might like to light a candle at this point as well and hold up your candle as we say our prayer together.

All: Lord, we light this candle,
to remind us that you are the light of the world.
As we gather together in spirit,
make our voices ready to sing your praise;
our hearts open to receive your love
and our minds alive to your Spirit.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



We seek God's healing and forgiveness:

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden, to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

Sometimes we forget that Jesus came for everyone and we forget to tell people the good news of his light and love.

For the times we forget that Jesus is a gift to each of us and ignore him in our lives.

Father, forgive us

For the times we forget that Jesus came for everyone and ignore those who we don't like.

Father, forgive us

For the times we forget that we need to tell others the good news of God's love and keep it to ourselves.

Father, forgive us

We hear words assuring us of God's forgiveness

May almighty God have mercy on *us*, forgive *us our* sins,
and bring *us* to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Thanksgiving: What was your favourite gift you received this Christmas? What made it special? The wise men offered Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Is there a particular gift you would like to offer to Jesus this Epiphany?

Bible Reading – Matthew 2:1-12

Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the time when Herod was king. Soon afterwards, some men who studied the stars came from the East to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the baby born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star when it came up in the East, and we have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard about this, he was very upset, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the teachers of the Law and asked them, "Where will the Messiah be born?"

"In the town of Bethlehem in Judea," they answered.

So Herod called the visitors from the East to a secret meeting and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem with these instructions: "Go and make a careful search for the child; and when you find him, let me know, so that I too may go and worship him."

And so they left, and on their way they saw the same star they had seen in the East. When they saw it, how happy they were, what joy was theirs! It went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They went into the house, and when they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshipped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and presented them to him.

Then they returned to their country by another road, since God had warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod.

On Zoom - Talk

At Home - please use the Picture Reflection on the separate sheet.

Song: Seek Ye First The Kingdom of God <https://youtu.be/uNwjcHUU9qI>

Prayers

(On zoom - We will play a very short piece of music, during which you can add your prayers to the chat and then they will be included in the prayer time).

Today we might pray for:

Our keeping of Epiphany, that we may worship and bow down before the Christ child and offer him our hearts and our lives.

For our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world.

For those far from home, especially refugees.

For those with covid and those caring for them, especially NHS staff in hospitals that are under pressure.

For those grieving the death of loved ones.

All: Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

**All: 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 for ever.
Amen.**

Song: Lord Jesus Christ You Have Come To Us <https://youtu.be/a9lXB3vS-ic>

Sending Out Prayer and Blessing

Lord, as we continue our journey with you this week,
as we seek to live out our faith every day,
be with us,
and help us to shine your light on those around us
and to share the good news of your love.
And the blessing...
Amen.

The Peace

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

(On zoom - We share the peace with each other using sign language

Fellowship time – unmute. We will go around the group so that everyone has a chance to let us know how they are and any news they want to share.)