

St. James' West End

Epiphany Carol Service

Hymn – 103 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

Bidding Prayer

1st Lesson – Nations shall come to your light

Baruch 4: 36-5 end

Look towards the east, O Jerusalem,
and see the joy that is coming to you from God.
Look, your children are coming, whom you sent away;
they are coming, gathered from east and west,
at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing in the glory of God.

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,
and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God.
Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;
put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;
for God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven.
For God will give you evermore the name,
'Righteous Peace, Godly Glory'.

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;
look towards the east,
and see your children gathered from west and east
at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing that God has remembered them.
For they went out from you on foot,
led away by their enemies;
but God will bring them back to you,
carried in glory, as on a royal throne.
For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low
and the valleys filled up, to make level ground,
so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.
The woods and every fragrant tree
have shaded Israel at God's command.
For God will lead Israel with joy,

in the light of his glory,
with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: 39 Hills of the north rejoice

2nd Lesson – They shall bring gold and frankincense

Haggai 2:5b-9

According to the promise that I made you when you came out of Egypt. My spirit abides among you; do not fear. For thus says the LORD of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with splendour, says the LORD of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the LORD of hosts. The latter splendour of this house shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the LORD of hosts.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: 88 What child is this

3rd Lesson – They shall bow down and worship

Revelation 21:22-22.5

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honour of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practises abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

Thanks be to God.

Carol - Angels from the realms of glory v.1,3,4

This lesson is read from the centre of the church. Please remain standing and turn to face the reader.

4th Lesson – The visit of the Magi

Matthew 2:1-12

When the Gospel is announced, the Reader says:

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.

At the end, the Reader says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Carol We three kings of Orient are *verses 2,3 and 4 are sung as solos*

The Presentation of the Gifts at the crib:

At the offering of gold:

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe:
to you be praise and glory for ever!

As gold in the furnace is tried and purified seven times in the fire,
so purify our hearts and minds that we may be a royal priesthood
acceptable in the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever!

At the offering of the incense:

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe:
to you be praise and glory for ever!

As our prayer rises up in your presence as incense,
so may we be presented before you with penitent hearts and uplifted hands to offer
ourselves in your priestly service.

Blessed be God for ever!

At the offering of the myrrh:

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe:
to you be praise and glory for ever!

As you give medicine to heal our sickness
and the leaves of the tree of life for the healing of the nations,
so anoint us with your healing power that we may be the first-fruits of your new
creation.

Blessed be God for ever!

Choir: The Three Kings *music Cornelius*

*During this candles are lit before the crib as a sign of adoration and of the offering our
ourselves to shine as lights for Christ in the world.*

The Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

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 - Of the Father's love begotten

Blessing