

*Epiphany means 'appearing.' At this time in the church year we celebrate God showing himself to the world in Jesus.*

### ***Introduction to Worship***

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. *Isaiah 60:1-3*

### ***Worship in Song***

Hail to the Lord's Anointed;  
Great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed  
His reign on earth begun.  
He comes to break oppression,  
To set the captive free,  
To take away transgression,  
And rule in equity.

He comes with succour speedy,  
To those who suffer wrong;  
To help the poor and needy,  
And bid the weak be strong:  
To give them songs for sighing,  
Their darkness turn to light,  
Whose souls, condemned and dying,  
Were precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers  
Upon the fruitful earth:  
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,  
Spring in his path to birth:  
Before Him, on the mountains,  
Shall peace the herald go;  
And righteousness in fountains,  
From hill to valley flow.

Kings shall fall down before Him,  
And gold and incense bring;  
All nations shall adore Him,  
His praise all people sing;

To Him shall prayer unceasing  
And daily vows ascend;  
His kingdom still increasing,  
A kingdom without end.

O'er every foe victorious,  
He on his throne shall rest;  
From age to age more glorious,  
All-blessing and all-blest.  
The tide of time shall never  
His covenant remove;  
His name shall stand for ever  
His changeless name of Love.

### ***Confession - saying sorry***

The wise men sought to put Christ first and to worship him as God's anointed one, the Messiah.

**God of the Bethlehem star, we confess that our motives for seeking Jesus are not pure. We do not simply come to worship: we come to Christ, asking him to fulfill all our selfish desires. Help us, O Lord, to follow the example of the wise men, worshipping you with humility and laying our gifts before you. May we journey in faith, trusting that your light will lead and guide us, all the days of our life. Amen.**

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

### ***Gloria***

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take**

away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer. For you alone are the  
Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone  
are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy  
Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

### ***Prayer for Today***

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.

### ***Bible Reading***

Isaiah 60:1 - 6 (Old Testament p619)

### ***Bible Reading***

Matthew 2:1-18 (New Testament p807)

*Before:* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After:* This is the Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ**

### ***Worship in Song***

Darkness like a shroud covers the earth  
Evil like a cloud covers the people  
But the Lord will rise upon you  
And his glory will appear on you  
Nations will come to your light.

Arise shine your light has come  
The glory of the Lord has risen on you  
Arise shine your light has come  
Jesus the light of the world has come.

Children of the light be clean and pure  
Rise you sleepers, Christ will shine on you  
Take the Spirit's flashing two-edged sword  
And with faith declare God's mighty word  
Stand up and in his strength be strong.

Here among us now, Christ the light  
Kindles brighter flames in our trembling hearts  
Living word, our lamp, come guide our feet  
As we walk as one in light and peace  
Justice and truth shine like the sun.

Like a city bright, so let us blaze  
Lights in every street turning night to day  
And the darkness shall not overcome  
Till the fullness of Christ's kingdom comes  
Dawning to God's eternal day.

## ***Sermon***

### ***Nicene 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.

### ***Prayers***

*At the end:* Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### ***Worship in Song***

He walked where I walk (*echo*)  
He stood where I stand (*echo*)  
He felt what I feel (*echo*)  
He understands (*echo*)

He knows my frailty (*echo*)  
Shared my humanity (*echo*)  
Tempted in ev'ry way (*echo*)  
Yet without sin (*echo*)

God with us so close to us  
God with us Immanuel

One of a hated race (*echo*)  
Stung by the prejudice (*echo*)  
Suffering injustice (*echo*)  
Yet He forgives (*echo*)  
Wept for my wasted years (*echo*)  
Paid for my wickedness (*echo*)  
He died in my place (*echo*)  
That I might live (*echo*)

### ***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.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

### ***Offertory Prayer***

**Lord Jesus Christ, for our sake you became poor. May our lives and gifts enrich the life of your world. Amen.**

### ***The Communion***

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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**

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God, through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord: for at this time we celebrate your glory made present in our midst. In the coming of the magi the King of all the world was revealed to the nations. In the waters of baptism Jesus was revealed as the Christ, the Saviour sent to redeem us. In the water made wine the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast. Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy. Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name and say our joyful hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, 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 for ever. Amen.

### *Breaking of the Bread*

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

### *Giving of Communion*

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*We receive communion*

### *Hymn during communion - on video*

Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown  
When Thou camest to earth for me;  
But in Bethlehem's home  
Was there found no room for Thy holy nativity.

O come to my heart, Lord Jesus –  
There is room in my heart for Thee!

Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,  
Proclaiming Thy royal degree;  
But of lowly birth  
Didst Thou come to earth, and in great humility.

The foxes found rest, and the birds their nest  
In the shade of the forest tree;  
But Thy couch was the sod,  
O Thou Son of God, in the deserts of Galilee.

Thou camest, O Lord, with the living word  
That should set Thy people free;  
But with mocking scorn  
And with crown of thorn they bore Thee to Calvary.

When the heavens shall ring and the angels sing  
At Thy coming to victory,  
Let Thy voice call me home, saying,  
"Yet there is room – there is room at My side for thee."

My heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus,  
When Thou comest and callest for me!

### *Prayer after Communion*

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### *Worship in Song*

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 night  
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

Frankincense to offer have I  
Incense owns a Deity nigh  
Prayer and praising all men raising  
Worship Him God on 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  
Alleluia alleluia  
Pears through the earth and skies

### *Blessing*

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; and the blessing of God, the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, be with you now and always. Amen. **Amen.**

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