



The Anglican Church of Australia
Diocese of Wangaratta

The Parish of Kilmore

with Broadford, Pyalong & Tallarook

4th January 2015

The Epiphany of our Lord

HYMNS: 224, 281, 301, 454

*Welcome to any guests to our worship
please stay and enjoy hospitality with us after the service.*



Introit hymn

Blessed be God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

Christ's light has burst upon the world.

Praise God for the gift of love.

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

All may exchange a sign of peace

The Liturgy continues on page 119 Green Prayer Book

SENTENCE

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. *Isaiah 60.1*

THE COLLECT

Everlasting God, who brought the nations to your light and kings to the brightness of your rising: fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the nations; through him who is the one true light and the bright morning star, Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 60.1-6

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

‘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. ‘Lift up your eyes and look about you: all assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 72.1-7, 10-14

Response: May all nations be blest in him.



Give the king your judgements, O God,
and your righteousness to the son of a king.
Then shall he judge your people righteously
and your poor with justice.
May the mountains bring forth peace,
and the little hills righteousness for the people./R

May he defend the poor among the people,
deliver the children of the needy and crush the oppressor.
May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another./R

May he come down like rain upon the mown grass,
like the showers that water the earth.
In his time shall righteousness flourish,
and abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more./R

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute;
the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring gifts.
All kings shall fall down before him;
all nations shall do him service./R

For he shall deliver the poor that cry out,
the needy and those who have no helper.
He shall have pity on the weak and poor;
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence,
and dear shall their blood be in his sight./R

SECOND READING

Ephesians 3. 1-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Paul writes, 'For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles – Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

At the name of Jesus every | knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and un- | der the earth.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 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.' When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 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. 'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they replied, 'for this is what the prophet has written: "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."' Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 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.' 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. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

O Holy One, blessed infant, the strangers from afar knelt, opened their treasures and offered you gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. So we too come in adoration and worship bearing our gifts of love and compassion to kneel in your presence; but here comes the world, drinking your light and basking in your brightness; the wise and ignorant, kings and beggars, CEO's and cowboys, from Europe, India and Ukraine, from Burma and Iceland, from Chile and Florida and Zambia, from everywhere they come to catch a glimpse of your brightness in a dark and troubled world. Shine, O beloved of God, your soft light on the darkness inside us; incense our minds and spirits with your grace; be the treasure of our hearts; be the gift of love we give away to others in your name. On this day when peoples from afar came to worship you, Jesus the Lord, let our prayer be as wide as the world.

Let us pray to the Lord: **let the light of Christ shine on all people.**

O blessed One, may your light shine on all nations far and near and that the Church may welcome and treasure the diversity of their cultures; we pray for all who offer the gift of salvation in your name.

Let us pray to the Lord: **let the light of Christ shine on all people.**

O blessed One, may in our day justice flourish and peace come to all of the world, that dark hearts of greed and control are turned by the flame of compassion.

Let us pray to the Lord: **let the light of Christ shine on all people.**

O blessed One, may all who look for a star to guide them discover the goodness of the Lord in our community, people full of faith and love.

Let us pray to the Lord: **let the light of Christ shine on all people.**

O blessed One, may God's people hear the poor when they cry, have pity on the weak and open their hearts and hands to the needy, and offer heartfelt prayers for all in need; for those who have requested prayer;

Chris Schafer, Glen Turnbull, Karen Goodger, Alex Impols, Cathy Moseley, & Melissa & family, Seth Gunther, Cliff & Gwen Stomann, Tom & Sandra Davidson & Bianca Davidson, Tom Scrivens, Dianne Mitsakis, Mark Bennetts, Barry Watts, Lidia, Katie, Franca Caia...

Let us pray to the Lord: **let the light of Christ shine on all people.**

O blessed One, your Father gathers all the beloved as shining stars in the firmament welcoming all in mercy and forgiveness; receive the recently departed in your love and hear us as we remember those whose years mind occurs at this time.

Year's mind: *4th Arthur Dean; 5th Andrew Lawson, Kathleen Chapman; 7th Patty James; 8th Michael Perry, Judith Carboon, Irene Henderson; 9th George Brown, Ernest Shinn; 10th David Nola.*

Rest eternal grant to them O Lord, **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Let us pray to the Lord: **let the light of Christ shine on all people.**

Lord our God, we rejoice that you have become near to us in Jesus your Son, hear us as we pray for ourselves; that your light may radiate from us and let him be the light of life now and for ever.

Let us pray to the Lord: **let the light of Christ shine on all people.**

Accept our prayers in the name of the one whose light bursts forth love's radiance, Jesus Christ the Holy Infant, who later taught us to pray... **Our Father in heaven.... [pg 124].**

Post communion prayer

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.

Reflections on the Readings

The Festival of Epiphany reveals to us who this Christ is that has incarnated himself among us. There are two clear revelations that would have been startling for the first readers of Matthew's Gospel. The first is that the Messiah has come inclusively – for all people: Jew AND Gentile, Wealthy AND Poor, Oppressed AND Oppressor. This inclusivity is a significant aspect of the scandal of the Gospel. The second revelation is the mind-bending truth that has traditionally been seen as reflected in the Wise Men's gifts: This Child is Royalty (gold), Divinity (frankincense), and yet, also, self-giving Sacrifice (myrrh). All of these passages call us into praise for God's inclusive incarnation! For not one is excluded from this gift of grace. Human societies and political systems, cultural and religious superiority are two of the main characteristics of today's political, social, economic and privilege that operate, creating a sense of otherness, of being distinct. Epiphany, scandalously reveals that Christ crosses all of these boundaries, refusing to be defensive or self-protective, and refusing to draw lines of separation. This incarnate Messiah draws all creation together into one, and gives up his own safety, security and comfort in order to do it. Every community of faith, and every person, longs for the light of God's glory and blessing to shine on them. This longing often leads us into trying to earn God's blessing through legalism, doctrinal purity or separation from those who are considered "unrighteous". Too often faith becomes something exclusive, something to defend against others who see things differently. Epiphany reveals an alternative view of God's glory – that in Christ's incarnation God's glory and blessing are already ours – not something to earn; and that the experience of God's glory is found in connection and sharing with others, while protecting and defending the least. It is a good discipline to ask: "Who needs to be included and welcomed into our community right now?" and "Who needs to be protected?" – two questions that necessarily call us to emulate Christ's inclusiveness in our own lives.

Adapted from John van de Laar (2014) www.sacredise.com

Notices

Fr Kim is on leave until 6th February. Locum priest will be Fr John Young.
For pastoral issues please contact one of the Wardens.

Weekday services at St Matthews suspended till February.
There will be no services at Transfiguration, Pyalong.

Parish life this week

First week of January- *Happy New Year!*

Thursday 8th 10.00am Eucharist Willowmeade
Friday 9th 10.00am – 4.00pm Op Shop, Church House
Saturday 10th 10.00am- 12.00pm Op Shop, Church House

SERVICES

**Next Sunday: 11th January 2015 – First Sunday after the Epiphany
Baptism of our Lord**

Genesis 1.1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19.1-7; Mark 1.1-11

Christ Church	9.00am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthews	11.00am	Morning Prayer
St Stephens	11.00am	Holy Eucharist
Transfiguration	4.00pm	No service this day

Parish Clergy:

Rector Revd Dr Kim Benton 9 Union Street Kilmore 3764 Ph 5782 1155
m 0407569343; kim@revkim.org

Priest (PTO) Fr John Young 9/40 Powlett St Broadford 3658
Ph 5784 2224

PO Box 289 Kilmore 3764

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