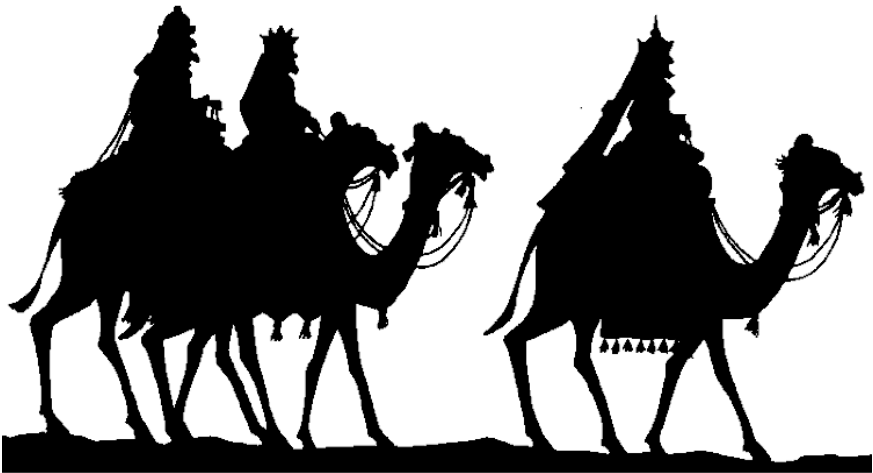




Benefice of
WOODSTOCK & BLADON

The Parish Church
of
St Mary Magdalene
Woodstock



SUNG EUCHARIST
for
THE SUNDAY OF THE EPIPHANY

Sunday 3rd January 2021



Welcome...

whether you are joining us 'in person' or whether you are tuning in to join us online. We are feeling our way together as we emerge from lockdown and as we continue to live together through very challenging times. It remains so important to reflect on God's great love for all the world and our call to reach out to one another in responsible and appropriate ways that reflect that same love. Please pray especially today for those who would so love to be with us in person but either cannot be or feel that it is not yet the right time for them to be in groups or gatherings.

About this service...

The entire order of service is contained here including the texts of the readings.

In the second half of the service, we celebrate Holy Communion. All those physically present will be able to receive in one kind (ie the bread) and, again, please pray for those who continue to make their spiritual communion whilst being unable to attend church in person. We continue to pray that you at home are able to engage in a spiritual communion with the living God. Please, from home, sing the hymns and join in the responses – something you are able to do in a way that those of us in church cannot!

Giving to support our ministry and mission...

During the time we have been physically unable to meet in church, giving has taken a serious knock and this, and all churches, have experienced a very significant reduction in giving whilst our outgoings have remained largely unchanged. Here is a prayer to reflect on giving and overleaf you will find ways of giving to the church if you are not physically present...

*Creator God,
Giver of all Givers,
the Ultimate Generous God,
I praise your name for giving to me the highest gift of all,
your Son, Jesus Christ.
Thank you, God, that you bless me abundantly,
so that in all things and at all times,
having all that I need,
I will abound in every good work.
Amen.*

The Gathering

We stand as the priest enters

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PROCESSIONAL CAROL

REMAIN STANDING

text: John H Hopkins, Jr.

During this carol, the figures of the three kings are carried to the crib.

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 the perfect Light.*

Born a babe on Bethlehem's plain,
gold we 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,
worshipping God on high.

O star of wonder...

Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gath'ring gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone cold tomb.

O star of wonder...



PRAYER AT THE CRIB

O God of light and peace,
whose glory, shining in the child of Bethlehem,
still draws the nations to yourself:
dispel the darkness that shrouds our path,
that we may come
to kneel before the Christ in true worship,
offer him our hearts and souls,
and return from his presence to live as he taught.

Amen.

The carol concludes:

Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and sacrifice:
heav'n sings, 'Hallelujah!'
'Hallelujah!' earth replies.
O star of wonder...

ACT OF PENITENCE

The grace of God has dawned upon the world
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.

In this season, as we celebrate the mystery of Love incarnate,
we pray:

Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of peace:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary:
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh
and splendour of the Father:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.



ABSOLUTION

God, who is both power and love,
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by the Holy Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

GLORIA – sung by the cantor

music: French Carol



Glo - - - - ri-a in ex-cel-sis De - o,
Glo - - - - ri-a in ex-cel-sis De - o. Fine

Glo-ry be to God in heav-en, peace, good-will to all on earth. D.C. al Fine

This, the an - gels' song, we sing for ev - er-more with joy and mirth:



COLLECT

*The congregation spends a moment in silent prayer;
the Presider then leads the congregation in prayer:*

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.

The Liturgy of the Word

We sit for the

OLD TESTAMENT 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 has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



We stand for the

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

music: from *Piae Cantiones*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

verse: Unto us is born a Saviour.
Word made flesh on earth to dwell. Alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia...

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

followed by a few moments of silence for reflection

We stand for the

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 his 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.**

We sit or kneel for the
PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION



We stand for
THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

A boy has been born for us;
a child has been given to us.

And his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

We meet in Christ's name:
Let us share his peace.

You are invited to exchange a (socially distanced!) sign of Peace with those around you.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

OFFERTORY HYMN

text: J S B Monsell (1811-1875)

tune: 'Was lebet' Melody from the 'Rheinhardt MS' 1754

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name.

Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.

These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
he will accept for the name that is dear;
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.



OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Gracious God,
accept the offering of your Church,
the hearts of your people
joined in praise and thanksgiving,
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.
Amen.**

REMAIN STANDING



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord is here
God's 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.

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 sing our joyful hymn of praise:




SANCTUS and BENEDICTUS



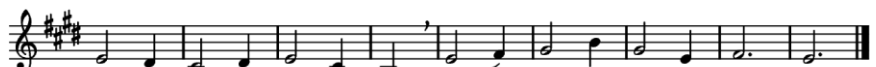
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. — God of pow'r and God of



 might. Heav'n and earth are full of glo - ry. Ho - san - na



 be_ on high. Bless-ed is the one who comes, _____



 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mary Magdalene, Martin and 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.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

SIT/KNEEL

Rejoicing in God's presence here among us,
let us pray as our Saviour has taught us:

**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

The priest breaks the consecrated bread.

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

**God here 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.



THE INVITATION

Emmanuel, the Christ, comes to us now in bread and in wine.
Come to his table, for all is now ready –
come to his table, for all are welcome.
Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

*Please come forward to the front of the Nave for Communion
following the direction of the steward*

*(If you would rather receive a Communion blessing,
please come forward with your hands clasped.)*



MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

text: Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

music: 'Epiphany' J F Thrupp (1827-1867)



Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining,
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.

Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,
odours of Edom, and offerings divine?
Gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest, and gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would his favour secure;
richer by far is the heart's adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.



Thanksgiving and Sending Out

SENTENCE

STAND

Blessed be God:
Creator of light and life.

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.
Amen.**

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:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you, those you love and for whom you pray
this day and always.
Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

text: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)

tune: 'Dix' from a chorale by C Kocher (1786-1872) abridged W H Monk (1823-1889)

As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold,
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we
ever more your splendour see.



As with joyful steps they sped,
to that lowly manger bed,
there to bend the knee before
Christ, whom heaven and earth adore;
so, may we with eager pace
ever seek your throne of grace.

As they offered gifts most rare
at the manger crude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to you, our heavenly king.

Holy Jesus, every day
keep us in your righteous way;
and, when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds your glory hide.

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace to shine the light of God's love in all the world!

In the name of Christ.

Amen!

*Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England,
New Patterns for Worship*

and

Common Worship: Times and Seasons,

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