

# St Martin's Church, North Nibley

## A Service of the Word for Epiphany 2021

### *Gathering as the People of God*

Welcome in the name of Christ!  
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you

*The priest introduces the service.*

The word 'epiphany' means 'manifestation' or 'appearance', and the Feast of the Epiphany marks the recognition of the newborn Jesus by the world.

### **Hymn Brightest and Best (tune Epiphany)**

1 Brightest and best of the sons 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.

2 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.

3 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, or gold from the mine?

4 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.

Public Domain

### ***Preparing for the Word***

We worship with Christians near and far, living and departed, old and young.  
God's word is for all of us.

**May it be a lamp to our feet  
and a light to our path.**

*You may like to open a Bible and place a candle lit near it.*

### **News and Notices**

#### ***Opening Prayer***

Lord, speak to us  
**that we may hear your word.**  
Move among us

**that we may behold your glory.**  
Receive our prayers  
**that we may learn to trust you. Amen.**

**The Collect, the prayer for the day:**

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.

All Amen.

***Proclaiming the Word of the Lord***

**First Reading** Isaiah 60 vv 1 - 6

- 1**  
Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
- 2**  
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.
- 3**  
Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- 4**  
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.
- 5**  
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.
- 6**  
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.

**Epistle** Ephesians 3 vv 1 - 12

**Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles**

**1** This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

**2** for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you,  
**3** and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,  
**4** a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.  
**5** In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:  
**6** that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.  
**7** Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power.  
**8** Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ,  
**9** and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things;  
**10** so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.  
**11** This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,  
**12** in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

**Gospel Reading** Matthew 2 vv 1 - 12

### **The Visit of the Wise Men**

**2** In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,  
**2** 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.'  
**3** When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;  
**4** and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.  
**5** They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:  
**6** "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."  
**7** Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.  
**8** 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.'  
**9** 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.  
**10** When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.  
**11** 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.  
**12** And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

### **Sermon**

**Anthem** **The Lord is my Light** by **George Alexander Macfarren**

*Psalms 27 verse 1*

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?  
The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?  
**Public Domain**

**Creed** *[Priest]* Let us declare our faith in God.

**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.**

***Praying for Ourselves: for Forgiveness:***

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.

Let us confess our sins

God be gracious to us and bless us,

and make your face shine upon us: Lord, have mercy.

May your ways be known on the earth,

your saving power among the nations: Christ, have mercy.

You, Lord, have made known your salvation,

and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations: Lord, have mercy.

**Lord God,**

**we have sinned against you;**

**we have done evil in your sight.**

**We are sorry and repent.**

**Have mercy on us according to your love.**

**Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.**

**Renew a right spirit within us**

**and restore to us the joy of your salvation,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### ***The priest declares God's forgiveness***

May God who loved the world so much  
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour  
forgive our sins  
and make us holy to serve him in the world,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### ***Praying for Others : our Intercessions***

#### **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.**

#### **Hymn O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness (tune Was Lebet)**

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.

5 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.

**Public Domain**

### ***Our service draws to a conclusion***

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.

### ***The Blessing***

May God the Father,  
who led the wise men by the shining of a star  
to find the Christ, the Light from light,  
lead you in your pilgrimage to find the Lord. **Amen.**

May God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness,  
give us a place with the saints in light  
in the kingdom of his beloved Son. **Amen.**

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ  
shine in your hearts and fill our lives  
with his joy and peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

### ***The Dismissal***

We have seen his glory,  
the glory revealed to all the nations.  
Go in the peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

New Patterns for Worship, material from which is included here, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2002 and published by Church House Publishing.

Copyright material is included from Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England; copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000.

New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicised Edition, copyright © 1989, 1995 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.