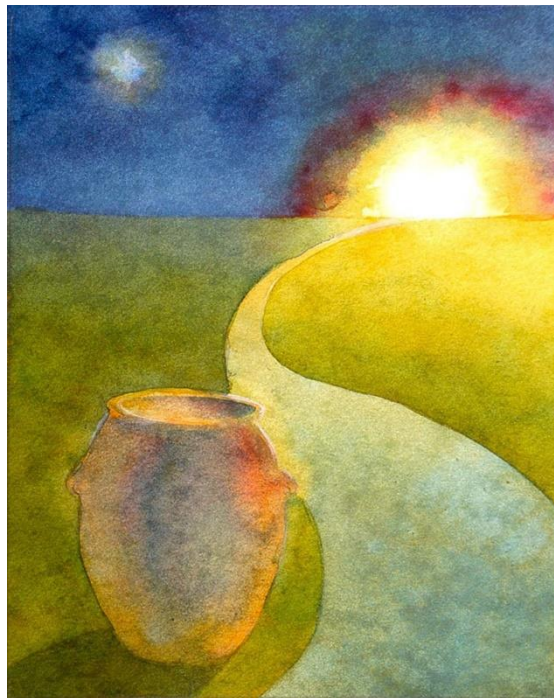




Leicester Cathedral
A beating heart for City and County

SUNDAY WORSHIP

from the Community
of Leicester Cathedral



Sunday 3 January 2021
The Epiphany | The Second Sunday of Christmas

The Revd Canon Emma Davies, Acting Canon Precentor, leads the service.

David Cowen, Associate Organist, plays on the Organ

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her

Johann Gottfried Walther (1684–1748)

Welcome and Greeting

God of God,
Light of Light,
true God of true God,
We Bless You.

Object of the Magi's search,
subject of an old man's song,
fulfilment of the Baptist's preaching,
We Bless You.

Mary's son,
Joseph's son,
God's only son,
We Bless You.

(©1997 WGRG)

We meet in the presence of God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

Isaiah 60.1

Canon Emma continues with words of welcome.

The Epiphany or 'manifestation' is the occasion to celebrate one element in the story of Christ's birth, the visit of the far-travelled magi, understood as the manifestation of Christ beyond the Jewish people. Matthew's account speaks simply of 'wise men from the east'; later tradition fixed their number at three, made them kings and recalled their resonant names – Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. In this perspective, Epiphanytide is an apt season to pray for the worldwide mission of God and that Christ will be known by every group in society.

Penitence Asking for God's forgiveness and healing

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.

cf Titus 2.11-14

Silence is kept

God be gracious to us and bless us,
and make your face shine upon us:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

May your ways be known on the earth,
your saving power among the nations:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

You, Lord, have made known your salvation,
and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Absolution God's forgiveness for us

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw *you* to himself,
and cleanse you from your sins
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect

Let us pray.

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 First Reading

Isaiah 60.1–6

Read by Amanda Fitchett

A reading from the Book of 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.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading

Matthew 2.1–12

Read by Ruth Inman

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

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.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

The Revd Canon Karen Rooms, Canon Missioner

David Cowen plays on the Organ

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern

Dietrich Buxtehude (c.1637–1707)

How beautifully shines the morning star full of grace and truth... You have taken possession of my heart.

Prayers of Intercession

The following response is used

Lord of glory,
hear our prayer.

and this response may be used at the end:

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

The prayers conclude with The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**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.**

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The Hymn

**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 plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
king for ever, ceasing never
over us all to reign:**

O star of wonder, star of night...

**Frankincense to offer have I,
incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising, all men raising,
worship him, God most high:**

O star of wonder, star of night...

**Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb:**

O star of wonder, star of night...

**Glorious now behold him arise,
king and God and sacrifice.**

**Heaven sings: 'Alleluia';
'Alleluia,' the earth replies:**

O star of wonder, star of night...

The Blessing and Dismissal

Use this prayer and chalk these letters/numbers on/near your door or on the door lintel:

20 C + M + B 21

The three Wise Men,
Caspar, **M**elchior, and **B**althazar
followed the star of God's Son
who became human **2021** years ago.
May Christ bless my/our home
and remain with me/us throughout this year.
Amen.

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 Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

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

David Cowen plays on the Organ

Kommst du nun, Jesu,
vom Himmel herunter auf Erden BWV650

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Leicester Cathedral needs your help

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We have limited reserves, our earned income has come to a standstill, and giving by collection plate and envelope has ceased. As a result, we are experiencing very real financial pressures.

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