



SOUTHWARK

◆ CATHEDRAL ◆

**The Feast of
the Epiphany of
the Lord**

Solemn Eucharist

Wednesday 6 January 2021

5.30pm

Welcome to Southwark Cathedral

Set on the south bank of the River Thames in one of the most vibrant and diverse communities in London, this building has been a constant witness in a place of change.

The first church was built on this site around the year 606. First a convent, then a monastery, it became in 1106 the Augustinian Priory of St Mary Overie. With Westminster Abbey and St Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield it is one of the three remaining great monastic churches of London. At the Reformation the Priory became a parish church and it remains so for the people of Bankside. In 1905, as south London was rapidly expanding, the church was consecrated as the cathedral for the new Diocese of Southwark.

As well as a place of constant witness to our faith in Jesus Christ, this church has a momentous and proud history and has had links with many famous and influential characters including St Thomas Becket, Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens.

In the 20th century this cathedral was at the heart of the new movement in theology termed 'South Bank Religion'. This movement asked challenging questions of people about faith in the modern age which continue to be

explored at Southwark Cathedral which describes itself as 'inclusive: faithful: radical'.

Whatever has brought you here today, you are most welcome. Become part of the life here if you can; it will change your life as you encounter with us our living God.

—

Setting

Missa O magnum mysterium · Tomás Luis de Victoria

The twelve days of Christmas conclude with the celebration of the Epiphany of the Lord. For the members of the Orthodox Churches this is the principal Feast of the Incarnation celebrating as it does the making known of Christ to the world.

In the west however, 25 December developed as the day on which the birth of Christ was celebrated, leaving the 6 January as the occasion on which one particular aspect of the birth narratives was remembered.

There is more to the Epiphany however, than the visit of the Wise Men. From earliest times, indeed from the year 380, it is known that this day saw the commemoration of not just the Gentile visitors but also the Baptism of Christ. In addition there is traditionally another aspect of the Epiphany that is celebrated at this time, the first miracle that Jesus performed in Cana, at the wedding feast. Taken together these events commemorate the manifestation of Christ.

Today however we celebrate the three wise men, their journey to Bethlehem and the gifts that they offer to the Lord. Each of those gifts – gold, frankincense and myrrh – speaks prophetically of the child who lies in the arms of his mother. Gold signifies his majesty, frankincense his divinity and the myrrh his destiny. It is the fact that three gifts

are mentioned that has led to the tradition that there were three wise men – no mention of their number is made in the text. Neither are we told exactly where they came from. However, artists have for a long time depicted them as representing the major ethnic groups in the world. This story is therefore highly symbolic and intensely rich in meaning.

One of the most famous poems about this event is 'The Journey of the Magi' by T S Eliot. In writing it Eliot was directly inspired by the Christmas Sermon preached at Whitehall in 1622 by Bishop Lancelot Andrewes, the then Bishop of Winchester. He is buried alongside the High Altar Sanctuary of this Cathedral. In his poem Eliot draws on this tension in the story signified by the gifts – the tension between birth and death

'Were we led all that way for
Birth or death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth
and death,
But had thought they were different: this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.'

As we will see once more as we celebrate the end of the Christmas Season on the Feast of Candlemass, this child 'is destined for the falling and rising of many' (Luke 2. 34), the King who will die a criminal's death, the God who lives and reigns for ever.

Voluntary

We stand for the entrance of the clergy who stand at the crib.

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

All and also with you.

My brothers and sisters on this holy day, the twelfth day after the Saviour's birth in Bethlehem, we come to the crib as did the Magi, bringing our gifts, bringing ourselves, our hopes and fears. We worship the Christ Child as King in the gold of our obedience, we worship him as Lord in our incense of lowliness, we worship him as Saviour with the oil of gladness and bitter myrrh of the tomb. We kneel and adore him for the Lord is his name.

The Presentation of Gifts at the Crib

Introit

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 for ever,
ceasing never
over us all to reign.

O star of wonder...

At the offering of Gold

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe:
to you be praise and glory for ever!

As gold in the furnace is tried
and purified seven times in the fire,
so purify our hearts and minds
that we may be a royal priesthood
acceptable in the service of your kingdom.

All Blessed be God for ever.

Frankincense to offer have I:
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising,
gladly raising, worship him, God Most High.
O star of wonder...

At the offering of Incense

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe:
to you be praise and glory for ever!

As our prayer rises up before you as incense,
so may we be presented before you
with penitent hearts and uplifted hands
to offer ourselves in your priestly service.

All Blessed be God for ever.

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...

At the offering of Myrrh

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe:
to you be praise and glory for ever!
As you give medicine to heal our sickness
and the leaves of the tree of life
for the healing of the nations,
so anoint us with your healing power
that we may be the first-fruits of your new creation.

All Blessed be God for ever.

The kings, Lord,
brought myrrh, frankincense, and gold.
Lord, we have nothing of our own to bring
we bring you what you have given,
our lives for your life.

All Amen.

The clergy move to the tower space as the choir sings

Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
heaven sings
alleluia; alleluia
the earth replies.
O star of wonder...

arr. Martin Neary

The president introduces the penitential rite.

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the
darkness of our hearts.
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess
our sins.

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

All Lord, have mercy.

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

All Christ, have mercy.

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

All Lord, have mercy.

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

All Amen.

We sit for

Gloria

Sung by the Consort.

*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.*

We stand for

The Collect

Let us pray, grateful for the glory revealed today
through God made flesh.

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,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

We sit for

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 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.

All Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 72. 10–15

Sung by the consort.

The kings of Tharsis and of the isles shall give presents :
the kings of Arabia and Saba shall bring gifts.

All kings shall fall down before him :
all nations shall do him service.

For he shall deliver the poor when he crieth :
the needy also, and him that hath no helper.

He shall be favourable to the simple and needy :
and shall preserve the souls of the poor.

He shall deliver their souls from falsehood and
wrong :
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

He shall live, and unto him shall be given of the gold of Arabia :
prayer shall be made ever unto him, and daily shall he be praised.

Second Reading

Ephesians 3. 1-12

A reading from the Letter to the Ephesians.

I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles – for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. 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: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

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. 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, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; 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. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

We stand for

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia!

The peoples are gathered together and kingdoms also to serve the Lord.

All Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2. 1–12

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All 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.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

We sit for

Sermon

The Very Reverend Andrew Nunn, Dean

We sit or kneel for

Prayers of Intercession

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

We stand for

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

All and also with you.

We sit for

Anthem

Here is the little door · Herbert Howells

We stand for

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All 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:

*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:

**All 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 Mary the mother of Jesus,
St Joseph 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.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God here among us
as our Saviour taught us so we pray

**All 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

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

**All God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

**All Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

The president makes their communion saying

The Body of Christ

We respond

All Amen.

The Blood of Christ

We respond

All Amen.

Please follow the directions of the Stewards and make your way to the communion stations via the side aisles, returning to your seat by the central aisle. Communion is given in one kind only and in silence. If you would like to receive a blessing please bow your head. The blessing will be given in silence. Please return to your seat by the side aisles and respect your distance at all times.

The Consort sings Agnus Dei followed by the

Communion Anthem

The three kings · Peter Cornelius

Please stand for the final prayers.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

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.

All Amen.

**All Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

The Dismissal

The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

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 also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.
All Amen.

May God the Son,
who turned water into wine at the Wedding Feast
at Cana,
transform your lives and make glad your hearts.
All Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit,
who came upon the beloved Son
at his baptism in the River Jordan,
pour out his gifts on you
who have come to the waters of new birth.

All Amen.

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

All Amen.

All God is revealed to all creation.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Voluntary

Thank you for joining us. We look forward to welcoming you back.

If you have not set up a regular donation to the Cathedral, please consider supporting us by making a donation. You can donate at the Cathedral by using the contactless donation points.

You can also donate online or by text message. Text SOUTHWARK (Amount) to 70085 (one standard rate message also charged).

Thank you for any support that you are able to give.

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