

Together @ Ten
7th January 2024 - The Arrival of the Wise Men

THE GATHERING



Welcome

God invites us to come today,
to learn from him, and to worship him.

God invites us to come today,
to be his people, and to learn from each other.

God invites us to come today,
to serve his world, and to invite everyone.

A candle is lit



Candle Song (part 1)

**God is here with us, God is in the light,
Now there is no dark, candles burning bright.**

Sharing the Peace

Jesus is our King; Jesus is our Saviour; Jesus is the Prince of Peace
let us share his peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you

We welcome each other saying to each person
'the peace of the Lord be with you'

Hymn

724

We three kings of Orient are

Saying sorry to God

Christ came in humility to share our lives:
 forgive our pride.
 Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.



Christ came with good news for all people:
 forgive our silence.
 Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ came in love to a world of suffering:
 forgive our self-centredness.
 Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Hearing God's forgiveness

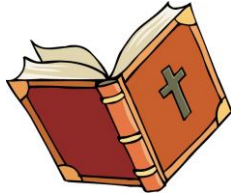
May the God of love
 bring *you* back to himself,
 forgive *you your* sins,
 and assure *you* of his eternal love
 in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

A special prayer for Epiphany



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 WORD



A reading from the Gospel of Matthew (Matthew Chapter 2 verses 1-12)

Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the time when Herod was king. Soon afterwards, some men who studied the stars came from the east to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the baby born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star when it came up in the east, and we have come to worship him.”

When King Herod heard about this, he was very upset, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the teachers of the Law and asked them, “Where will the Messiah be born?”

“In the town of Bethlehem in Judaea,” they answered. “For this is what the prophet wrote: ‘Bethlehem in the land of Judah, you are by no means the least of the leading cities of Judah; for from you will come a leader who will guide my people Israel.’”

So Herod called the visitors from the east to a secret meeting and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem with these instructions: “Go and make a careful search for the child, and when you find him, let me know, so that I too may go and worship him.”

And so they left, and on their way they saw the same star they had seen in the east. When they saw it, how happy they were, what joy was theirs! It went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They went into the house, and when they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshipped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and presented them to him.

Then they returned to their own country by another road because God had warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod.

Exploring God’s Word together

Hymn 901 This little light of mine

We believe Let us declare together 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.

Prayers



THE SACRAMENT

The table is prepared & gifts are brought up

The Holy Communion Thank-you Prayer is said:

The Lord is here
His 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.

Question Why is it right to give thanks and praise?

Answer Listen, and we will hear

Lord of all life, you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth, to discover and to cherish.

You give us happy time and things to celebrate.
In these we taste your kingdom, a feast for all your children.

You made us all, each wonderfully different,
to join with the angels and sing your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord, holy is the Lord God almighty.
Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord, holy is the Lord God almighty:
who was, and is, and is to come; holy, holy, holy is the Lord.**

We thank you, loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

Question Why do we share this bread and wine?

Answer Listen, and we will hear

On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread.
He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup
 we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.
 As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit,
 and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Question How do we follow Jesus Christ?

Answer Listen, and we will hear

Help us, Father, to love one another,
 as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended,
 and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with St Christopher and all your saints
 we give you glory, through Jesus Christ,
 in the strength of the Spirit, today and for ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**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**

The Breaking of the 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.

We all gather round the table for Holy Communion or a Blessing

THE SENDING OUT

A sending out prayer

Lord our God,

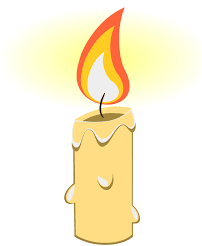
you are the bright glory that everyone is searching for:

may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light

recognise your presence in your Son,

the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



The candle is blown out

Candle Song (part 2)

Goodbye to the church, goodbye to the light,

God will stay with us, every day and night.

Blessing

May God the Father,

who led the wise men by the shining of a star,

lead you in your journey to find the Light from Light, our Lord Jesus Christ;

and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and with all those you love today and always.

Amen

Final Hymn 851 Jesus put this song into our hearts

You are warmly invited to stay for refreshments after the service

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