

# The Feast of the Epiphany



**Welcome to St. Mary's today.  
We are thinking about wise men and gifts!  
WE HOPE YOU WILL COME AND STAND AROUND THE STABLE  
DURING OUR FIRST CAROL**

**Later we offer gifts to Jesus too,  
but we have already received a much greater one.**

## Greeting

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.  
**From the rising of the sun to its setting  
your name is proclaimed in all the world.**

*We stand*

The Lord of glory be with you  
**The Lord bless you.**

## Collect

**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.**

*We all pray  
together*

**Amen.**

## Reading Isaiah 60 vs 1 - 6

"Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.  
See, darkness covers the earth  
and thick darkness is over the peoples,  
but the LORD rises upon you  
and his glory appears over you.  
Nations will come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.  
Lift up your eyes and look about you:  
All assemble and come to you;  
your sons come from afar,  
and your daughters are carried on the arm.  
Then you will look and be radiant,  
your heart will throb and swell with joy;  
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,  
to you the riches of the nations will come.  
Herds of camels will cover your land,

*We sit*



young camels of Midian and Ephah.  
And all from Sheba will come,  
bearing gold and incense  
and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.”



This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*We stand*

Gospel  
Matthew 2  
vs 1 - 12

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew  
**Glory to you, O Lord**

**We three kings of Orient are,  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star:**



*Come and stand  
around  
the stable*

**O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.**

*Please move quickly!*

- Narrator: After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked:
- Magi: Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.
- Narrator: When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. They replied:
- Chief priest: In Bethlehem in Judea.
- Teacher: For this is what the prophet has written:
- Prophet: But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.
- Narrator: Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said:
- Herod: Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.
- Narrator: After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

**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,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.***



*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 our kingdom.

**Blessed be God for ever**

***The king is  
placed in  
the stable***

**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,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.***

*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 in your presence as incense,  
So may we be presented before you  
with penitent hearts and uplifted hands  
to offer ourselves in your priestly service.

**Blessed be God for ever**

***The king is  
placed in  
the stable***

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

**O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.**



*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.

**Blessed be God for ever**

*The king is  
placed in  
the stable*

**Glorious now, behold him arise,  
King, and God, and sacrifice!  
alleluia, alleluia,  
earth to heaven replies.**

**O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.**

Narrator:

And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

This is the Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ**



Confession

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*

God be gracious to us and bless us,  
and make your face shine upon us:

**Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.**

*Look at  
the crib.*

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.**

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

Blessing  
of Junior  
Church

Go on your way to discover the Good News of Christ.  
**May Jesus fill your hearts with love.**  
***Let us follow the cross of Christ.***

Gloria

***Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.***  
**Glory to God in the highest,**  
and peace to his people on earth.

***Walk to  
your places***

**Lord God, heavenly King,**  
**almighty God and Father,**  
**we worship you, we give you thanks,**  
**we praise you for your glory.**  
***Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.***



**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.**  
***Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.***

**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**  
***Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.***

***We sit for  
the second reading***

Reading  
Ephesians  
3: 1 - 12

<sup>1</sup>I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - <sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>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: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>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, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Hymn 152

Earth has many a noblest city



*We stand*

Sermon

*We sit*

*Please use your service booklet from now on*

