

St Andrew's, Chesterton Family Service

5 January 2025
Epiphany Sunday

Thank you to all who give to the life of our church in so many ways. A collection will **not** be taken during this service. There is still a Collection Plate available at the back, and it is also possible to make electronic donations via the machine at the back or via this QR code if you so choose.



We are welcomed

God is good
all the time.
All the time
God is good.

We Sing

- 1 The first Nowell the angel did say
was to Bethlehem's shepherds in fields
as they lay ;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep :
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel !
- 2 Then wise men from a country far
looked up and saw a guiding star ;
they travelled on by night and day
to reach the place where Jesus lay :
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel !
- 3 At Bethlehem they entered in,
on bended knee they worshipped him ;
they offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense :
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel !
- 4 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord ;
for Christ has our salvation wrought
and with his blood our life has bought :
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel !

Cornish carol, possibly 18th century adapted by Michael Perry (1942–1996)
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We say sorry

Heavenly Father,
you have created a universe of light:
forgive us when we return to darkness.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you are the light of the world:
cleansing and heal our blinded sight.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit,
you give us light in our hearts:
renew us in faith and love.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

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

We pray the Collect Prayer together

**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.**

Bible Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

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.

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

Talk

We sing Carol of the Epiphany

1. I sought him dressed in finest clothes
where money talks and status grows
but power and wealth he never chose
it seemed he lived in poverty.
2. I sought him in the safest place
remote from crime or cheap disgrace
but safety never knew his face
it seemed he lived in jeopardy.
3. I sought him where the spotlights glare
where crowds collect and critics stare
but no one knew his presence there
it seemed he lived in obscurity.
4. Then, in the streets, we heard the word
which seemed, for all the world, absurd
that those who could no gifts afford
were entertaining Christ the Lord.
5. And so, distinct from all we'd planned
among the poorest of the land
we did what few might understand
we touched God in a baby's hand.

Words: John L. Bell © 1988 and 1992. Iona Community / Wild Goose Publications.
From 'Innkeepers & Light Sleepers'; Music: First Hand.

We say what we believe

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.**

We pray together

Our prayers end with

**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.**

We share news

We sing

- 1 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.*
- 2 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.*
- 3 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.*
- 4 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,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.*
- 5 Glorious now, behold him arise,
King, and God, and sacrifice!
Heaven sings alleluya,
Alleluya the earth replies:
*O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

Words and music by John Hopkins (1818-1901)
from *Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition*, number 105

We share the Peace

We are invited to form a circle around the church and sing
Go now in peace, go now in peace
May the love of God surround you
Everywhere, everywhere
You may go.

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

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