

ST BOTOLPH

C A M B R I D G E



Arent de Gelder *Simeon's Song of Praise*

EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 9th January 2022 at 4.30pm

INTRODUCTION

EPIPHANY

CHRISTMAS focuses our attention on the infant Christ, with his mother Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. Now, at the Epiphany of Christ, we see the child through the eyes of the wise men, who are guided by a star on their long journey to Bethlehem, where Christ is revealed to them. The Bible readings, poetry and music in this service trace the journey of the wise men: we see their arrival, what they find and the gifts they bring, and we hear of their significance as the first sign that all nations and peoples, including us, can be called to the light longed for by the prophets and recognised in Christ at his birth. And because King Herod found out from the wise men about this infant 'king' whom he saw as a threat, we hear about the conflict and suffering that follows Christ's birth, leading eventually to the redemption of the world through his death and resurrection.

BEFORE THE SERVICE

Flor Peeters Chorale Prelude on *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern*, Op. 68

¶ *Please stand when the Officiant enters*

INTROIT

Timothy Brown

I sing of a maiden

I SING of a maiden
That is matchless,
King of all kings
For her son she chose.

2. He came as still
Where his mother was
As dew in April
That falleth on the grass.

3. He came as still
To his mother's bower
As dew in April
That falleth on the flower.

4. He came as still
Where his mother lay
As dew in April
That falleth on the spray.

Mother and maiden
Was never one but she;
Well may such a lady
God's mother be.

Anonymous 15th century

WELCOME AND BIDDING PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer

OUR Father,
which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that 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.

¶ *Please sit*

READING

Isaiah LX: 1–6

Isaiah foretells the coming of the light and glory of the Lord upon the Gentiles

¶ *Please stand*

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

O star of Christ's appearing, surprise us still today.
The journey to the stable is not our chosen way.
Entranced by pow'r's ambition, we seek the victor's wreath.
A saviour born in hunger is not the hope we seek.

The Magi, wise to follow, obey the call of grace,
Not to the courts of power or sunlight favoured place.
They journey on by starlight into the deepest gloom.
Where life and courage falter, there holy Christ is born.

¶ *Please sit*

ANTHEM

Felix Mendelssohn

There shall a star (from Christus)

When Jesus, our Lord, was born in Bethlehem, in the land of Judea; Behold, from the east to the city of Jerusalem there came wise men and said: Say, where is he born, the king of Judea? For we have seen his star, and are come to adore him. There shall a star from Jacob come forth, and a sceptre from Israel rise up, and dash in pieces princes and nations. As bright the star of morning gleams, so Jesus sheddeth glorious beams of light and consolation! Thy Word, O Lord, radiance darting, truth imparting, gives salvation; Thine be praise and adoration!

READING

Matthew II: 1–12

The Wise Men come to the manger

ANTHEM

William Crotch

Lo, star-led chiefs

Lo! star-led chiefs Assyrian odours bring, And bending Magi seek their infant King! Mark'd ye, where, hovering o'er His head, The dove's white wings celestial glory shed?

¶ *Please stand*

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

BETHLEHEM, of noblest cities
None can once with thee compare;
Thou alone the Lord from heaven
Didst for us Incarnate bear.

2. Fairer than the sun at morning
Was the star that told his birth;
To the lands their God announcing,
Hid beneath a form of earth.

3. By its lambent beauty guided,
See, the Eastern Kings appear;
See them bend, their gifts to offer,
Gifts of incense, gold, and myrrh.

4. Offerings of mystick meaning!
Incense doth the God disclose;
Gold a Royal child proclaimeth;
Myrrh a future tomb foreshows.

5. Holy Jesu! in thy brightness
To the Gentile world display'd!
With the Father, and the Spirit,
Endless praise to Thee be paid.

¶ *Please sit*

READING

Joseph Brodsky (translated from the original Russian by Seamus Heaney)
Nativity Poem

IMAGINE striking a match that night in the cave:
Imagine crockery, try to make use of its glaze
To feel cold cracks in the floor, the blankness of hunger.
Imagine the desert – but the desert is everywhere.

Imagine striking a match in that midnight cave,
The fire, the farm beasts in outline, the farm tools and stuff;
And imagine, as you towel your face in the enveloping folds,
Mary, Joseph, and the Infant in swaddling clothes.

Imagine the kings, the caravans' stilted procession
As they make for the cave, or, rather, three beams closing in
And in on the star, the creaking of loads, the clink of a cowbell;
(No thronging of Heaven as yet, no peal of the bell.

That will ring in the end for the infant once he has earned it).
Imagine the Lord, for the first time, from darkness, and stranded
Immensely in distance, recognizing Himself in the Son
Of Man: His homelessness plain to him now in a homeless one.

CAROL

Timothy Brown

Mary's Song (composed for this service)

Sleep, King Jesus,
Your royal bed
Is made of hay
In a cattle-shed.
Sleep, King Jesus,
Do not fear,
Joseph is watching
And waiting near.

Warm in the wintry air
You lie,
The ox and the donkey
Standing by,
With summer eyes
They seem to say:
Welcome, Jesus,
On Christmas Day!

Sleep, King Jesus:
Your diamond crown
High in the sky
Where the stars look down.
Let your reign
Of love begin,
That all the world
May enter in.

Charles Causley

¶ *Please stand*

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

UNTO us is born a son,
King of choirs supernal:
See on earth his life begun,
Of lords the Lord eternal.

2. Christ, from heav'n descending low,
Comes on earth a stranger;
Ox and ass their Owner know
Now cradled in a manger.

3. This did Herod sore affray,
And did him bewilder,
So he gave the word to slay,
And slew the little childer.

4. Of his love and mercy mild
Hear the Christmas story:
Oh that Mary's gentle Child
Might lead us up to glory.

5. O and A and A and O,
Cantemus in choro,
Voice and organ, sing we so,
Benedicamus Domino.

¶ *Please sit*

READING
John Donne
Nativity

IMMENSITY cloistered in thy dear womb,
Now leaves His well-belov'd imprisonment,
There He hath made Himself to His intent
Weak enough, now into the world to come;
But O, for thee, for Him, hath the inn no room?
Yet lay Him in this stall, and from the Orient,
Stars and wise men will travel to prevent
The effect of Herod's jealous general doom.
Seest thou, my soul, with thy faith's eyes, how He
Which fills all place, yet none holds Him, doth lie?
Was not His pity towards thee wondrous high,
That would have need to be pitied by thee?
Kiss Him, and with Him into Egypt go,
With His kind mother, who partakes thy woe.

READING
Matthew II: 13–23
The flight into Egypt

CAROL
Anon *The Coventry Carol*

LULLY, lulla,
thou little tiny child,
by by, lully lullay.

O sisters too,
how may we do
for to preserve this day
this poor youngling,
for whom we do sing
by by, lully lullay?

2 Herod the king,
in his raging,
charged he hath this day
his men of might,
in his own sight,
all young children to slay.

3 That woe is me,
poor child for thee!
and ever morn and day,
for thy parting
neither say nor sing
by by, lully lullay! [*Refrain*]

Berlioz *The Shepherd's' Farewell*

Thou must leave thy lowly dwelling, the humble crib, the stable bare. Babe, all mortal babes excelling, content our earthly lot to share. Loving father, Loving mother, shelter thee with tender care!

Blessed Jesus, we implore thee with humble love and holy fear. In the land that lies before thee, forget not us who linger here! May the shepherd's lowly calling, ever to thy heart be dear!

Blest are ye beyond all measure, thou happy father, mother mild! Guard ye well your heav'nly treasure, the Prince of Peace, The Holy Child! God go with you, God protect you, guide you safely through the wild!

Words by Hector Berlioz (translated)

READING

Luke II: 25–33

Christ is revealed to Simeon as the saviour of all peoples

¶ *Please stand*

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

FAITHFUL vigil ended,
watching, waiting cease;
Master, grant your servant
his discharge in peace.

All the Spirit promised,
all the Father willed,
now these eyes behold it
perfectly fulfilled.

This your great deliverance
sets your people free;
Christ their light uplifted
all the nations see.

Christ, your people's glory!
Watching, doubting cease:
grant to us your servants
our discharge in peace.

¶ *Please sit*

READING

Malcolm Guite *A First Sonnet for Epiphany*

IT might have been just someone else's story,
Some chosen people get a special king.
We leave them to their own peculiar glory,
We don't belong, it doesn't mean a thing.
But when these three arrive they bring us with them,
Gentiles like us, their wisdom might be ours;
A steady step that finds an inner rhythm,
A pilgrim's eye that sees beyond the stars.
They did not know his name but still they sought him,
They came from elsewhere but still they found;
In temples they found those who sold and bought him,
But in the filthy stable, hallowed ground.
Their courage gives our questing hearts a voice
To seek, to find, to worship, to rejoice.

ANTHEM

Orlando Gibbons *See, see the Word is incarnate*

See, see the Word is incarnate; God is made man in the womb of a Virgin. Shepherds rejoice, wise men adore and angels sing "Glory be to God on high: peace on earth, good will towards men." The law is cancelled, Jews and Gentiles converted by the preaching of glad tidings of salvation. The blind have sight and cripples have their motion; diseases cured, the dead are raised, and miracles are wrought. Let us welcome such a guest with Hosanna. The Paschal Lamb is offered, Christ Jesus made a sacrifice for sin. The earth quakes, the sun is darkened, the powers of hell are shaken; and lo, he is risen up in victory. Sing Alleluia. See, O see the fresh wounds, the gored blood, the prick of thorns, the print of nails. And in the sight of multitudes a glorious ascension. When now he sits on God's right hand where all the choir of heaven all jointly sing: Glory be to the Lamb that sitteth on the throne. Let us continue our wonted note with Hosanna: Blessed be He that cometh in the Name of the Lord; with Alleluia, we triumph in victory, the serpent's head is bruised, Christ's kingdom exalted, and heaven laid open to sinners. Amen.

¶ *Please kneel or sit*

PRAYERS

Collect for Epiphany

O GOD, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only-begotten Son to the Gentiles: Mercifully grant, that we, which know thee now by faith, may after this life have the fruition of thy glorious Godhead; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Third Collect from Evening Prayer

LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

General Thanksgiving

ALMIGHTY God,
Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all people; We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we shew forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

BLESSING

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

HAIL, thou source of every blessing,
Sovereign Father of mankind!
Gentiles now, thy grace possessing,
in thy courts admission find.

2. Once far off, but now invited,
we approach thy sacred throne;
in thy covenant united,
reconciled, redeemed, made one.

3. Now revealed to eastern sages,
see the star of mercy shine,
mystery hid in former ages,
mystery great of love divine.

4. Hail, thou universal Savior!
Gentiles now their offerings bring,
in thy temple seek thy favor,
Jesus Christ, our Lord and King.

VOLUNTARY
JS Bach *In Dir ist Freude* BWV 615

Officiant: Revd Margaret Widdess
The choir of St Botolph's with friends
David Poulter *Organ*
Directed by Timothy Brown



Gentile da Fabriano *Adoration of the Magi*