



~AT HOME WORSHIP~

3rd January 2021

Epiphany Sunday

Theme: Peace Justice Hope Love



Call to Worship

Today we are called to new life by the touch of Christ in our lives: letting go, stepping on, raising us up to new heights and health in our witness and in our worship.

As we bring our old lives for the new life of Christ in the world, let us worship with thanksgiving and praise the One who guides us into God's way. [\(427\) To God be the glory lyrics - hymn - YouTube](#)

Hymn To God be the Glory 559 Route 66

To God be the glory! Great things He hath done!

So loved He the world that He gave us His Son

Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,

And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord

Let the earth hear His voice!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord

Let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son.

And give Him the glory great things He hath done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood.

To every believer the promise of God:

The vilest offender who truly believes

That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Great things He hath taught us, great things he hath done.

And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son,

But purer and higher and greater will be,

Our wonder, our worship when Jesus we see!

Let us pray:

Holy God, healer of the sick, bringer of hope to the hopeless,
provider of peace, we praise you.

We gather together in this new day, in this new year, in this new journey
to learn, to grow, to serve.

As we do so, we take time to acknowledge what has gone wrong,
what we have done and what we have not done...

Pause

The wise men followed a star to find Jesus the King.

Forgive our reluctance to seek Jesus.

We have sinned . **Forgive us and heal us.**

The wise men followed the advice and found Jesus

Forgive us when we choose to not do something we know we should.

We have sinned. **Forgive us and heal us**

Forgive us when we choose not to speak up for injustice.

We have sinned. **Forgive us and heal us.**

The wise men listened and returned a different way.

Forgive us when we do not listen.

Forgive us and heal us Lord.

Pause

May we go forward in this time of worship

with our eyes open to the needs around us,

with our ears open to those who cry, with our hearts willing to serve.

Amen.

Listen carefully, I did not realise that Isaiah also foretold the coming of the Magi bringing gifts to the young saviour.

BIBLE READINGS



Isaiah 60:1-6

The Future Glory of Jerusalem

60 Arise, Jerusalem, and shine like the sun;
The glory of the LORD is shining on you!
² Other nations will be covered by darkness,
But on you the light of the LORD will shine;
The brightness of his presence will be with you.
³ Nations will be drawn to your light,
And kings to the dawning of your new day.
⁴ Look around you and see what is happening:
Your people are gathering to come home!
Your sons will come from far away;
Your daughters will be carried like children.
⁵ You will see this and be filled with joy;
You will tremble with excitement.
The wealth of the nations will be brought to you;
From across the sea their riches will come.
⁶ Great caravans of camels will come, from Midian and Ephah.
They will come from Sheba, bringing gold and incense.
People will tell the good news of what the LORD has done!

Matthew 2:1-12

Visitors from the East

2 Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the time when Herod was king. Soon afterward, some men who studied the stars came from the East to Jerusalem ² 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.”
³ When King Herod heard about this, he was very upset, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. ⁴ He called together all the chief priests and the teachers of the Law and asked them, “Where will the Messiah be born?”
⁵ “In the town of Bethlehem in Judea,” they answered. “For this is what the prophet wrote:

⁶ ‘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.’”

⁷ So Herod called the visitors from the East to a secret meeting and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ 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.”

⁹⁻¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ They went into the house, and when they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshiped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and presented them to him.

¹² Then they returned to their country by another road, since God had warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod.



[\(427\) We Three Kings with Lyrics | Christmas Carol & Song - YouTube](#)

Family Song

We three kings of Orient are (The jolly Irish Christmas by Rend Collective)

We three Kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts, we travel 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.

Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and sacrifice.
Alleluia , alleluia
Earth to the heaven replies.

REFLECTION TIME



Short Reflection by Janet Clarke

Children may choose to use the Activity and Colouring Sheet

Christmas would not have become so important a festival to us were it not for the fact that the birth of the Christ child in history has changed things forever.

Humanity has been claimed by God. The glory of God in fullness has been revealed, and God's favour rests on God's beloved humanity. God chose to be revealed in human flesh and live as one of us. In making a dwelling with us, God chose to establish an irrevocable relationship with all people. Implied in that divine gesture is that we will recognise what God has done, and that we will be partners in making this relationship take hold on earth for the benefit of all people. Before God came as human flesh, we were a needy people. Our ancestors of faith, and their stories recorded, lived in need of God. The prophets spoke of a deep need for God to intervene. God recognised that need and made his dwelling among us. To this day, God seeks to address the challenges of the 'needy. Sometimes it is our personal need that God addresses, but surely the expectation that is built into the Incarnation is that we will be changed by what God has done, and that we will join with God in a partnership that will mean that together, dwelling in God's love, we will tackle the ongoing needs of the world and of all God's people. rejoice

Peace Justice Hope Love

Loving God, of all the words we have used this Christmas there are only a few left now, the ones that do not run out.

'peace':

Back in 2020 We had an image of a tree. All the primary schools I believe had a picture of a tree. Imagine a tree, a young Apple tree or a young plum tree . In my garden at the moment there is a group of bluetits squabbling with a squirrel over nuts. There are still squabbles in the world as Tearfund tells us of problems in Nigeria where fighting has left several women to bring up a child or two on their own as partners and older children have been killed. In our tree let us place two cooing doves to represent peace. may peace be fleshed out in our world in all the places that still fight, in all our families, in all our friendships. Come, Lord of Peace.



'justice':

We have seen several protests in 2020, we all have more time to watch television now we cannot really go anywhere so perhaps it is just that I have noticed the 'Black lives matter' campaign It is time to treat others justly. Let us imagine clearing all the ivy off our tree trunk so the tree may live and produce fruit. Justice for trees.



May justice be born among us in the places where people are hungry, in the policies we hold, in the relationships we have.

Come, Lord of Justice.

'hope':

Nothing levels the playing field of humanity like a global pandemic. The loss is real and felt world-wide. Finance, funerals and weddings all different. Rules and regulations we must now keep. The King of life came down, my living hope now and forever, anchors my mind in places sound. Heavens help is near. Let us imagine our tree has good, strong roots anchoring it to the ground. Trees absorb water through the little hairs on their roots. Let us absorb hope from the Lord our anchor.

May hope be found alive in us in the places where there is still fear, in the words we speak to others, in how we think into the future. Come, Lord of Hope.



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'love':

Many people have shown love in 2020 perhaps by making cakes and pies to deliver to more frail neighbours. Others have made door wreaths to give away. Today people were out sweeping up the leaves in front of all the houses for the last garden bin collection. Imagine picking the fruit off your tree and making a crumble for a neighbour. Just like the magi giving gifts to the small Christ child, imagine taking your crumble round to them and leaving it on the doorstep.



May love take on flesh among us in the families we have, in the world we share, in the faith we celebrate.

Come, Lord of Love.



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Doves of peace
Leaves of Justice....no ivy
Roots of hope
Plums of love
Apples of love

The picture from Roots this week shows the wise men at a road junction, each wise man appears to be choosing a different route. Unusual. This reminds me that different routes are possible in our world today. Like the wise men I should stop and pray so I know which road to take.



Time for Prayer (From the Christmas day service, let us remember)

Christ, for whom there was no room in the inn,
give courage to all who are homeless;
in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Christ, who fled into Egypt,
give comfort to all refugees;
in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Christ, who fasted in the desert,
give relief to all who are starving;
in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Christ, who hung in agony on the cross,
give strength to all who suffer;
in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Lord of the Church

hear our prayer,

and make us one in heart and mind

to serve you with joy for ever. Amen. *



Peace Justice hope love

We pray especially for all those who have lost loved ones this year, and who are facing their first Christmas with that loss in their hearts. Wounds heal but scars remain. Holy Spirit, we ask you as our Comforter and Helper, to be with all those who are sad and sorrowful today, and bring them a peace that only You can bring. The good news of great joy of hope in Christ be theirs..

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.**

[\(427\) Come down, O Love divine by Choir of Trinity College \(2nd Tune\) with Lyrics - YouTube](#)

Hymn Come Down O Love divine 1202 Disc 2
(Bianco de Sienna 1367-1434)

Come down, O Love divine,
Seek Thou this soul of mine
And visit it with Thine own ardour glowing:
O Comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, Thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes, in its heat consuming
And let Thy glorious light.
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity
Mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become mine inner clothing
True lowliness of heart,
Which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
With which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the power of human telling
For none can guess its grace,
Till he becomes the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling

Peace Justice hope love

Epilogue

May all the wonder never be used up.

May the mystery of the story never be solved.

May the light of the star never go dim.

May the straw of the stable never be forgotten.

May the song of Mary forever be sung.

May the gifts of the Magi never be returned.

May the alleluia's of the angels forever be heard.

And may the Word of God that becomes flesh among us
never be left untouched.

May the telling of the story come alive for us today

and when all the words are spoken

and have left you tired and hoarse,

may you still find four words waiting, now become flesh:

Love Hope Justice Peace

God bless you now and always

