



**The Church of England
in Central Windsor**

HOLY COMMUNION

**3rd January 2021
10:00am**

Epiphany Sunday

**A warm welcome to the Parish
Church of St Stephen & St Agnes
for our service today, whether you
are joining in person or virtually
from home.**

This service of Holy Communion is taking place within the current restrictions in place as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Please respect social distancing and sanitise your hands.

Please take especial care for your own safety and that of others if you need to use the toilet facilities.

Please also note that the wearing of face covering
is mandatory in places of worship.

GATHERING

The priest says

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The priest greets the people

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Words of welcome and any notices

Please stand for the:

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

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.

Silence is kept.

God be gracious to us and bless us,
and make your face shine upon us:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

May your ways be known on the earth,
your saving power among the nations:
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

You, Lord, have made known your salvation,
and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations:
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

The Kyrie Eleison is sung by the choir

The priest says

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself,
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
and be cleansed from all your sins,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

THE GLORIA

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

**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.**

**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.
Amen.**

THE COLLECT (Prayer for the Day)

The priest says:

Grateful for the glory revealed today through God made flesh, let us pray.
Silence is kept.

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.

All **Amen**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*The readings for this Sunday can be found at the back of this booklet
Please sit for:*

FIRST READING

At the end the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 72 vv10-15 is sung by the choir

SECOND READING

At the end the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN - sung by the choir

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.*

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, etc.

Frankincense to offer have I,
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising gladly raising:
worship him God most high.

O star of wonder, star of night, etc.

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, etc.

Glorious now, behold him arise,
King, and God, and sacrifice;
Alleluia, alleluia
earth to heaven replies.
O star of wonder, star of night, etc.

Please stand for:

GOSPEL READING

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Alleluia, alleluia.
Christ was revealed in flesh,
proclaimed among the nations
and believed in throughout the world.

All **Alleluia**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end the reader says

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please sit for:

SERMON

Please stand for:

THE APOSTLES' CREED

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Please sit for:

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy	Lord hear us
<i>All</i> hear our prayer.	<i>All</i> Lord graciously hear us

And at the end

Merciful Father,
All **accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Please stand for:

THE PEACE

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there shall be no end.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*You are invited to exchange a sign of peace with a bow or a wave
or just a smile at your neighbour.*

***Please do not shake hands or make physical contact
with those not in your own household.***

*There is no offertory hymn. Please leave your collection for the work, mission and
outreach of the Church in the plate at the back of the church.*

Please consider using the 'Gift Aid' envelopes if you are able to do so.

Thank you.

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

The priest takes the bread and wine.

Lord, accept your people's gifts,
not gold, frankincense or myrrh,
but hearts and voices raised in praise of Jesus Christ,
our light and our salvation

All **Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks
because, in the incarnation of the Word,
a new light has dawned upon the world,
that all the nations may be brought out of darkness
to see the radiance of your glory.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and *saying*:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the
forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith

All

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins
of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious
ascension, and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
St John the Baptist, St Stephen, St Agnes,
and all the saints, may praise and glorify you
for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Believing the promises of God,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who 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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The priest breaks the consecrated bread.

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

All **God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life**

AGNUS DEI

All **Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

The priest says the invitation to communion

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

All **Lord, give us this bread always.**

The people receive communion in one kind.

You will be invited to go to the altar for communion.

*If you are not confirmed, or you do not wish to receive communion, please come and receive a blessing. When receiving communion or a blessing it is usual to reply **Amen.***

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God,
the bright splendour whom the nations seek:
may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen**

All **Strengthen for service, Lord,
the hands that have taken holy things;
may the ears which have heard your word,
be deaf to clamour and dispute;
may the tongues which have spoken your praise
be free from deceit;
may the eyes which have seen tokens of your love
shine with the light of hope;
and may the bodies which have been fed with your body
be refreshed with the fullness of your life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Please stand for:

BLESSING

Christ the Son of God
perfect in you the image of his glory
and gladden your hearts
with the good news of his kingdom
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The priest says

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

All **Glory, thanks and praise to God**

The ministers and people depart.

CHALKING OF CHURCH DOOR

Earlier this morning, the Rector chalked the church doors with the letters C + B + M and the year 2021. The crosses stand for Christ and the letters refer both to the initial letters of the Magi, Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, and to the Latin words of blessing *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which means, *May Christ bless this house.*" The following prayer was used:

God of new beginnings, bless this church this new year;
Bless all who come and go through its doors.
May all who enter come in peace and bring joy;
May all who come to this door find welcome and peace;
May this church abound with love and joy
And may that love and joy overflow into the community
and wider world
In Jesus' name.
Amen

You may wish to use these words or similar to ask for God's blessing on your home.

READINGS FOR EPIPHANY

Isaiah 60.1–6

60 ¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

² For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;

but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;

your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Ephesians 3.1–12

3 ¹I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— ²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In 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: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given to me by the working of his power. ⁸Although 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, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so 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. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Matthew 2.1–12

2 ¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, ‘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.’ ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They 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. ⁸Then 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.’ ⁹When 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.

¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**If you would like to know more about the Christian faith,
please ask!**

**You can also find out more by following the “Our Faith” link on
the Church of England website: www.churchofengland.org**

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