



Easthampstead
Parish Church

Christmas and Epiphany

Introduction to the season

The period from Christmas to Candlemas (the Presentation of Christ in the Temple) is a festive season when we reflect on the coming of Jesus Christ into the world and the revelation of his glory in the heart of our humanity.

At Christmas we celebrate our Lord's birth, the Word made flesh, also known as the Incarnation. It is a time of great joy as we ponder on the wonder of Christ, the Light of the World, dispelling the darkness.

The Feast of the Epiphany, celebrated on 6th of January, traditionally told in the journey of the Magi, speaks of the ways in which Christ's presence is still revealed to us today as, like them, we seek Him.

Candlemas is a pivotal feast, ending the 40 days of Christmas and the Epiphany. Alongside the theme of light in Simeon's words as he cradled the infant Jesus in his arms, 'Lord, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word: for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for the glory of your people Israel (Luke 2.29-32) ... here is also his warning of Jesus' destiny (Luke 2.34,35), and he said to Mary... and a sword will pierce your own soul too'.

So, we turn our faces away from his birth towards the path to Calvary.

Our website:
www.stmichaelseasthampstead.org.uk



Order of Service

Please stand as ministers, servers and choir process into the church.

OPENING HYMN

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

All Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Please be seated. The presiding minister will begin the service with some words of welcome and any notices are given.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

**All Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

The sun of righteousness has dawned
with healing in his wings.
Let us come to the light of Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

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.

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

All Amen.

HYMN OF THE ANGELS

Please stand

All ♪ 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. 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.

THE COLLECT PRAYER

The Collect is said and all respond.

All Amen.

THE READING

At the end of the reading the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

THE GRADUAL HYMN

THE GOSPEL READING

The Gospel will be processed to the centre of the Church. Please remain standing and turn to face the Gospel.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

All ♪ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

All ♪ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to ...

All ♪ Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel is read, after which the minister will say

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All ♪ Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

THE CREED

**All We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,**

**God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down
from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS

This response is used at the end of each prayer.

Lord of glory,
All hear our prayer.

This response may be used after remembering those who have died.

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord,
All and let light perpetual shine upon them.

May they rest in peace,
All and rise in glory.

At the end of the intercessions this response is used.

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

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.

OFFERTORY HYMN



During the hymn a collection will be taken. You can make a one off donation or regular contribution through the Parish Giving Scheme. You can access the scheme through the QR code below.



Any amount you can give will make a difference. The gifts of the people are presented during the hymn. The altar will also be prepared, with the gift of bread and wine placed upon it.



PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Gracious God,
accept the offering of your Church,
namely the hearts of your people
joined in praise and thanksgiving,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Please be seated

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.

The Eucharistic Prayer continues, ending with the words

Therefore, with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

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

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

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;

do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All ♪ Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Michael, St Mary Magdalene, and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

All ♪ Amen.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray
**All 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.**

THE BREAKING OF 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.**

**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.**

THE GIVING OF COMMUNION

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.
**All Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Communion is distributed at the Chancel Steps. All who usually receive Communion in their home church are welcome to do so here. If you wish to receive a blessing instead please carry your hymn book. If you are sensitive to gluten, we do have gluten free wafers.

COMMUNION HYMN

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The post-Communion prayer is said and all respond.

All Amen.

**All Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

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.

CLOSING HYMN

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

All ♪ In the name of Christ. Amen.

The ministers, servers and choir will process out of the church.

*Refreshments will be served
in the annexe.*

Don't forget to turn your

mobile devices back on.

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