

Family Service - 4th January 2026

Epiphany

Welcome and Notices

Opening Responses

With each new day

There is a new beginning

With each new year

We can make a fresh start

With a fresh start and a new beginning

There is fresh hope

With fresh hope in our hearts

We come to worship God

Opening Prayer

God of all time, we praise and adore you for breaking into the darkness of this world with the glorious light of your presence.

A light which made your love to the world visible in the babe born in Bethlehem – Jesus Christ, your Son, our Saviour. A light which guided those gift-bearing travellers from afar to find and worship the Christ Child.

A light which leads us to you, now revealed in Jesus Christ.

We pray that you will accept our worship, for it arises from hearts and minds in awe over the enormity of your gift to us of pure love.

In Jesus name we pray.

Amen.

Opening song: We three Kings

**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's plain,
Gold I bring, to crown him again,
King forever, 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.***

**Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, voices 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.***

**Myrrh is mine; it's 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.***

**Glorious now, behold him arise,
King and God and sacrifice!
Heaven sings alleluia,
Alleluia 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.***

John Henry Hopkins Jr. (1820–1891)

Introduction to confession

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.

(*Titus 2. 11-14*)

Let us confess our sins

Confession:

Lord Jesus. Illuminate the darkness in our hearts:

Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Lord Jesus, open our eyes to your saving love:

Christ have mercy

Christ have mercy.

Lord Jesus, unstop our ears to hear your living word:

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy.

Moment of silence

We receive God's forgiveness:

May God in his goodness forgive us our sins,
grant us strength in our weakness,
faith in our doubts and peace in the midst of our fears,
May he bring us life in his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Reading: Matthew 2: 1-12 (Andrew)

All age Focus: Are you inside or outside? (Tammy)

All age song: Star of wonder, light to lead us
(Instrumental to the tune of Sing Hosanna)

Star of wonder! Light to lead us!
Show the way to find the Lord of lords,
Star of wonder! Light to lead us!
Show us how to find the Lord.

We bring gold for a king, keep us serving,
We bring gold for a king today.
We bring gold for a king, keep us serving.
Keep us serving Jesus every day.

*Star of wonder! Light to lead us!
Show the way to find the Lord of lords,
Star of wonder! Light to lead us!
Show us how to find the Lord.*

We bring incense today, keep us praying,
We bring incense to him today.
We bring incense today, keep us praying,
Keep us praying to him every day.

*Star of wonder! Light to lead us!
Show the way to find the Lord of lords,
Star of wonder! Light to lead us!
Show us how to find the Lord.*

We bring myrrh now to help us remember,
For the sacrifice that he made.
We bring myrrh now to help us remember,
to remember Jesus every day.

*Star of wonder! Light to lead us!
Show the way to find the Lord of lords,
Star of wonder! Light to lead us!
Show us how to find the Lord.*

We bring all that we have to his manger,
We bring all that we have today,
We bring all that we are to his manger,
As we offer him ourselves today.

*Star of wonder! Light to lead us!
Show the way to find the Lord of lords,
Star of wonder! Light to lead us!
Show us how to find the Lord.*

Sermon: Richard

Creed:

**We believe in God,
who calls us out of darkness
into the light of grace and truth.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
God with us,
revealed in humility and glory,
the light that no darkness can overcome.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who empowers us to walk in that light
and bear it into the world.**

Amen

Intercessions, Collect for Epiphany & Lord's Prayer. (Susan)

Responses

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Merciful Father
**Accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son
our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

Amen

Collect for Epiphany

**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.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our saviour taught us, so we pray

**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 forever. Amen

Offertory song: Light of the World *(Instrumental)*

Light of the world,
You stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore you,
Hope of a life spent with you.

*So, here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that you're my God!
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me!*

King of all days,
Oh so highly exalted,
Glorious in Heaven above,
Humbly you came to the earth you created,
All for love's sake became poor.

*So, here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that you're my God
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me!*

And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross!
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross!

**So, here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that you're my God
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me! (repeat chorus)**

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Offertory prayer

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

Amen

The Peace

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace on earth to all on whom his favour rests.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Opportunity for sharing.

Closing sentences of scripture

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

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. *(Isaiah 60: 1-2)*

Final song: As with Gladness Men of Old. *(Instrumental)*

**As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold,
As with joy thy hailed its light,
Leading onward beaming bright;
So most gracious Lord may we,
Evermore be led to thee.**

**As with joyful steps they sped,
To that lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before,**

**Him whom heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet,
Ever seek thy mercy-seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare,
At the manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy;
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.**

**Holy Jesu, every day,
Keep us on the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last,
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds thy glory hide.**

**In the heavenly country bright
Need they no created light:
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,
Thou its sun which goes not down:
There for ever may we sing
Alleluias to our King.**

William C. Dix (1837-98)

Blessing and Dismissal:

Christ our Lord,
to whom kings bowed down in worship and offered gifts,
reveal to us his glory and pour upon us the riches of his grace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always.

Amen

We have seen his glory,
the glory revealed to all the nations.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Refreshments and Prayer Ministry.

We are here as God's family, to draw closer to God, to live out our faith and welcome all into the love of God.