



A welcoming, inclusive, Christian community

THE EUCHARIST

Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord.

8th January 2023

10.00am

Welcome to Lancaster Priory

We are really pleased that you are worshipping with us today. Wherever you have come from, this is your church and you are unconditionally welcome.

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. This major festival is traditionally associated with the visit of the Magi to worship the Christ-child in Bethlehem and to offer their gifts. These 'wise men from the East' (Matthew 2.1) represent the non-Jewish world to whom and for whom, alongside the Jewish people, God sent his Son Jesus Christ into the world.

Please join us for refreshments after the service.

Today's service:

President & Preacher: The Revd Leah Vasey-Saunders, Vicar of Lancaster

The Readers: Gill Jenkinson, Tim Jenkinson.

The Intercessor: Nigel Stewart

Organist: Ian Pattinson FRCO, Priory Organist. Choir: ATB Choir.

Setting: *Mass for three Voyces* (Byrd)

Acknowledgements

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The Gathering and Processional Hymn (NEH 49)

Please stand as the Procession enters and we sing.

Three gifts are placed in front of the altar.

1. Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

2. Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining,
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall:
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.

3. Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,
Odours of Edom, and offerings divine?
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?

4. Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would his favour secure;
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

5. Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Words Reginald Heber 1783- 1826

The Greeting *The president says*

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you. **And also with you.**

Prayers of Penitence *A minister introduces the confession and silence is kept.*

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.

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have
sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole
heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive
what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall
be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.

The choir sings

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.

Christe eleison.

Christ, have mercy.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.

The president says

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive you your sins, and make you holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis (T.NEH 239) *We sing*

Glory to God in the heights of the heaven,
And peace to all people on earth now be given:
Great Father of glory, our worship we bring,
Our praise and thanksgiving, O heavenly King.

Jesus, Messiah, the pure Lamb of God,
Your love takes away the sin of the world.
You sit with the Father, his only true heir:
Have mercy upon us, receive our prayer.

Jesus, most holy, alone you are Lord,
Alone the true Son, the Father's true Word:
You reign with the Spirit in glory above,
The Father's pure glory, the glory of love. Words: C Thompson

The Collect *The president says 'Let us pray' and 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. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word *Please sit.*

First Reading Isaiah 60:1-6 *A reading from the prophet Isaiah.*

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. 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. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

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. 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.

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. For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn *Please stand.*

O Thou Who by a star didst guide
The wise men on their way,
Until it came and stood beside
The place where Jesus lay.

2. Although by stars Thou dost not lead
Thy servants now below,
Thy Holy Spirit, when they need,
Will show them how to go.

3. As yet we know Thee but in part;
But still we trust Thy Word,
That blessed are the pure in heart,
For they shall see the Lord.

4. O Savior, give us then Thy grace
To make us pure in heart,
That we may see Thee face to face
Hereafter, as Thou art.

Words J.M. Neale 1818-1866

Second Reading Ephesians 3:1-12 *A reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians.*

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In 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: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. 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. Although 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, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so 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. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Acclamation *Please stand and face the Gospel*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

We have seen his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Gospel Reading Matthew 2.1-12

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**
In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, '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.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "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." '

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then 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.' When 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon *Please sit for the sermon.*

Affirmation of Faith *Please stand*

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession *Please kneel or sit.*

Lord of glory/Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace *Please stand. The president says*

Christ is our peace. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.
The old has passed away: see, everything has become new.
The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

And all may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn (NEH 52) *A collection is taken and presented and the altar is prepared.*

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.

2. Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness:
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

3. Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.

4. These though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
he will accept for the name that is dear;
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

5. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.

Words J.S.B. Monsell 1811-1875

The Eucharistic Prayer *The president sings*

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

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

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

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God, through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord: for at this time we celebrate your glory made present in our midst. In the coming of the magi the King of all the world was revealed to the nations. In the waters of baptism Jesus was revealed as the Christ, the Saviour sent to redeem us. In the water made wine the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast. Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy. 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:

The Choir sings:

<i>Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus</i>	<i>Holy, Holy, Holy,</i>
<i>Dominus Deus Sabaoth,</i>	<i>Lord God of hosts,</i>
<i>Pleni sunt Coelu et terra gloria tua.</i>	<i>heaven and earth are full of thy glory.</i>
<i>Hosanna in excelsis.</i>	<i>Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.</i>
<i>Benedictus qui venit</i>	<i>Blessed is he that cometh</i>
<i>In nomine Domini.</i>	<i>in the name of the Lord.</i>
<i>Hosanna in excelsis.</i>	<i>Hosanna in the highest.</i>

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:

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 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. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer *Silence is kept.*

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 president breaks the consecrated bread*

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

The Giving of Communion *The president says*

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Agnus Dei *Please kneel or sit. The choir sings*

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

*O Lamb of God
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.*

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

*O Lamb of God
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.*

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.

*O Lamb of God
that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.*

The priest and people receive communion. We welcome communicant members of all Christian denominations to receive communion. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please carry this booklet with you. Gluten-free hosts are available, please indicate this to the president, green cards are available from the sidespeople for this purpose.

Choir Anthem *Bethlehem down* (Warlock)

When He is King we will give him the King's gifts,
"Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown,
Beautiful robes", said the young girl to Joseph
Fair with her first-born on Bethlehem Down.

Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight
Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

When He is King they will clothe Him in grave-sheets,
Myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown,
He that lies now in the white arms of Mary
Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.

Here He has peace and a short while for dreaming,
Close-huddled oxen to keep Him from cold,
Mary for love, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

Communion Hymn (NEH 51)

1. Hail, thou Source of every blessing,
Sovereign Father of mankind!
Gentiles now, thy grace possessing,
In thy courts admission find.

2. Once far off, by now united,
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 Saviour!
Gentiles now their offerings bring,
In thy temple seek thy favour,
Jesu Christ, our Lord and King.

Words Basil Wood 1760-1831

Prayer after Communion *We pray together*

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. Amen.

Processional Hymn (NEH 50, T.338) *We process to the crib with the three gifts.*

1. From the eastern mountains
pressing on they come,
wise men in their wisdom,
to his humble home;
stirred by deep devotion,
hasting from afar,
ever journeying onward,
guided by a star.

2. There their Lord and Saviour
as an infant lay,
wondrous light that led them
onward on their way,
ever now to lighten
nations from afar,
as they journey homeward
by that guiding star.

3. Gather in the outcasts,
all who've gone astray,
throw thy radiance o'er them,
guide them on their way;
those who never knew thee,
those who've wandered far,
guide them by the brightness
of thy guiding star.

4. Onward through the darkness
of the lonely night,
shining still before them
with thy kindly light,
guide them Jew and Gentile,
homeward from afar,
young and old together,
by thy guiding star.

5. Until every nation,
whether bond or free,
'neath thy star-lit banner,
Jesu, follows thee,
o'er the distant mountains
to that heavenly home
where nor sin nor sorrow
evermore shall come.

Words G Thring 1823-1903

The Offering of the Gifts at the Crib

At the offering of gold

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe: to you be praise and glory for ever. As gold in the furnace is tried and purified seven times in the fire, so purify our hearts and minds that we may be a royal priesthood acceptable in the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

At the offering of incense

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe: to you be praise and glory for ever. As our prayer rises up before you as incense, so may we be presented before you with penitent hearts and uplifted hands to offer ourselves in your priestly service.

Blessed be God for ever.

At the offering of myrrh

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe: to you be praise and glory for ever. As you give medicine to heal our sickness and the leaves of the tree of life for the healing of the nations, so anoint us with your healing power that we may be the first-fruits of your new creation.

Blessed be God for ever.

The crib is censed.

The Blessing *The president says*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. **Amen.**

Organ Voluntary *Epilogue on 'Dix' (Harris)*

Please remain standing while the servers and choir depart.