



A welcoming, inclusive, Christian community

Epiphany Carol Service

8th January 2023

6.30pm

Welcome to Lancaster Priory

*The servers, choir and clergy assemble in the Quire Aisle.
When the bell rings, we stand.*

Opening Responsory

Three wonders mark this holy day
as the Church is joined to her heavenly Bridegroom.

This day a star leads the wise men to the Christ-child.
Alleluia.

This day water is made wine at the wedding feast.
Alleluia.

This day Jesus is revealed as the Christ in the waters of baptism.
Alleluia. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Processional Hymn (NEH 49)

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
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 R Heber
1783-1826

Tune EPIPHANY
J F Thrupp 1827-67

Bidding Prayer and Lord's Prayer

We sit.

In the name of Christ, who called us out of darkness into his own marvellous light to become a kingdom of priests to our God, we welcome you.
Grace to you and peace.

As we rejoice in the Word made flesh, who comes among us to reveal God's glory, we pray that the revelation of God in Christ may come to be acknowledged throughout the world.

We pray for the unity and mission of Christ's Church, and for God's world, that people everywhere may respect both the natural order itself, and every person – each made in the image and likeness of God.

We pray for those in special need of any kind: the lonely and the fearful; the sick and the bereaved; all who live in the shadow of war and all victims of war and violence; those who do not know how to pray, and those who have no one to pray for them.

May God open our eyes to see his glory, give us grace to know his will for us, and the strength and courage to do it.

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.

Choir Anthem Here is the little door *H Howells*

Here is the little door.
Lift up the latch; O lift!
We need not wander more, but enter with our gift.
Our gift of finest gold,
Gold that was never bought nor sold;
Myrrh to be strewn about his bed; Incense in clouds about his head; all for the
Child that stirs not in his sleep, but Holy slumber holds with ass and sheep.

Bend low about his bed: for each he has a gift!
See how his eyes awake - lift up your hands! O lift! For gold he gives a keen-
edged sword (defend with it thy little Lord)!
For incense, smoke of battle red.
Myrrh for the honoured happy dead.
Gifts for his children, terrible and sweet,
Touched by such tiny hands and oh! such tiny feet.

Please remain seated.

Reading Isaiah 60.1-5. 6b *Arise, shine; for your light has come*

Choir Anthem *We Three Kings Arr. Drakeford*

Remain seated. During the anthem the servers lead the clergy to the crib

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:

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

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorr'wing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb:

Glorious now, behold him arise,
King, and God, and sacrifice!
'Alleluia, alleluia!'
earth to heaven replies:

Words *J H Hopkins 1822-1900* Tune **KINGS OF ORIENT**

Reading Matthew 2.1-2, 7-12 *The wise men from the east.*

Choir Anthem Bethlehem Down *Warlock*

When He is King we will give him the Kings' 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.

Reading Matthew 2.13-18 *The slaughter of the innocents.*

Please stand.

Hymn (NEH 39 / HCFC 357)

during which the servers lead the clergy to the Priory Prayer Candles.

All Unto us is born a Son,
 King of quires supernal:
 see on earth his life begun,
 of lords the Lord eternal.

Christ, from heav'n descending low,
comes on earth a stranger;
ox and ass their owner know,
be-cradled in the manger.

*Lower
Voices* This did Herod sore affray,
and grievously bewilder,
so he gave the word to slay,
and slew the little childer.

*Upper
Voices* Of his love and mercy mild,
this the Christmas story;
and O that Mary's gentle Child
might lead us up to glory.

All O and A, and A and O,
cum cantibus in choro,
let our merry organ go,
benedicamus domino.

Words 15th c, Tr, G R
Woodward

Please sit.

Hymn (T.NEH 239)

While the organ is played, candles are lit in the area by the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary in recognition of all the pain of the world: conflict, natural disaster, oppression, illness and loss. Lord, have mercy upon us all.

Please remain seated.

Lord, in our waiting and watching, we pray
that you would watch with us as night turns to day,
and if morning comes and we still cannot stand,
through every long moment keep holding our hand.

2. Lord, when our tears do not bring us relief
you weep at our side in our pain and our grief;
Whenever it seems that we suffer alone,
In life's hardest moments, Lord, make yourself known.

3. Lord, in our anger when pain is ignored,
when voices are silenced, experience is scorned,
Sustain us, and raise us to speak and be heard,
and soften hard hearts with the power of your word.

4. Lord, in our weariness, give us your peace,
the hope that the world's many troubles will cease,
Then help us to find that in each place of need,
your love is transforming each thought, word and deed.

Words Ally Barrett b. 1976

Reading Luke 2.22-28 *Simeon and Anna*

Nunc Dimittis *Collegium Regale Nunc Dimittis* (Howells)

The choir sings

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation:

which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten
the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Reading Luke 2.33-40 *Simeon and Anna continued*

Please stand.

Hymn (NEH 58) *during which the clergy move to the Font.*

The sinless one to Jordan came
To share our fallen nature's blame;
God's righteousness he thus fulfilled
And chose the path his Father willed.

2. Uprising from the waters there,
The voice from heaven did witness bear
That he, the Son of God, had come
To lead his scattered people home.

3. Above him see the heavenly Dove,
The sign of God the Father's love,
Now by the Holy Spirit shed
Upon the Son's anointed head.

4. How blest that mission then begun
To heal and save a race undone;
Straight to the wilderness he goes
To wrestle with his people's foes.

5. Dear Lord, let those baptized from sin
Go forth with you, a world to win,
And send the Holy Spirit's power
To shield them in temptation's hour.

6. On you shall all your people feed
And know you are the Bread indeed,
Who gives eternal life to those
That with you died, and with you rose.

Words *G B Timms b.1910*

Tune SOLEMNIS HAEC FESTIVITAS
Paris Gradual 1685

Please sit.

Reading John 1.29-34 *The Baptism of Jesus.*

Please stand and face the Font.

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society, by prayer for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

With the help of God, I will.

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit. **Amen.**

Choir Anthem (HCFC 122) *New Year Carol* Britten

during which water is sprinkled over the people as the servers and clergy move to the front of the nave.

Here we bring new water from the well so clear,

For to worship God with this happy New Year.

Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;

The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe,

Open you the West Door, and turn the Old Year go:

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin,

Open up the East Door, and let the New Year in:

Please sit.

Reading John 2.1-11 *The Wedding at Cana*

During the reading water and wine are brought from the Tower.

The Epiphany Collect

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn (NEH 56)

Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesu, Lord, to thee we raise,
manifested by the star to the sages from afar;
branch of royal David's stem in thy birth at Bethlehem;
anthems be to thee address, God in Man made manifest.

2. Manifest at Jordan's stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
and at Cana wedding-guest in thy Godhead manifest;
manifest in power divine, changing water into wine;
anthems be to thee address, God in Man made manifest.

3. Manifest in making whole palsied limbs and fainting soul;
manifest in valiant fight, quelling all the devil's might;
manifest in gracious will, ever bringing good from ill;
anthems be to thee address, God in Man made manifest.

4. Sun and moon shall darkened be, stars shall fall, the heavens shall flee;
Christ will then like lightning shine, all will see his glorious sign;
all will then the trumpet hear, all will see the Judge appear;
thou by all wilt be confest, God in Man made manifest.

5. Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, mirrored in thy holy word;
may we imitate thee now, and be pure, as pure art thou;
that we like to thee may be at thy great Epiphany,
and may praise thee, ever blest, God in Man made manifest.

Words C Wordsworth 1807-85

Tune ST EDMUND

The Blessing

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

May God the Father, who led the wise men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from light, lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord. **Amen.**

May God the Son, who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, transform your lives and make glad your hearts. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit, who came upon the beloved Son at his baptism in the river Jordan, pour out his gifts on you who are his people by the waters of new birth. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Organ Voluntary *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern* (Buxtehude)

during which the procession departs.