

Hymn at the Closing

**Hail, Thou source of every blessing,
Sovereign Father of mankind!
Gentiles now, Thy grace possessing,
In Thy courts admission find.**

**² Once far off, but now invited,
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,
Jesus Christ, our Lord and king.**

**⁵ May we, body, soul, and spirit,
Live devoted to Thy praise,
Glorious realms of bliss inherit,
Grateful anthems ever raise!**

Words: Basil Woodd (1760 - 1831)

Tune: REDHEAD NO. 46
R. Redhead (1820 - 1901)

Dismissal

From the West Door the Presbyter says

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

Postlude

‘Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern’
(How brightly beams the Morning Star)

Pachelbel (1653 - 1706)

ST. THOMAS' CATHEDRAL

3 Veer Nariman Road, Fort, Mumbai – 400 001

Presbyter-In-Charge: The Revd. Avinash T. Rangayya

Telephone: (Vestry) **2283 9783**, (R) **2207 1275**, **98207 50090**

Contact the Presbyter for pastoral visits and administering Communion to the house-bound.

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY. PLEASE SHARE THIS SERVICE BULLETIN WITH A FRIEND.

Website <http://stthomascathedralmumbai.com>

Subscribe to the Cathedral's YouTube channel



St. Thomas'

CATHEDRAL Mumbai • Estd. 1718

The Church of North India

A member of the worldwide Anglican Communion

A SERVICE OF EVENING PRAYER

to celebrate

The Epiphany of our Lord



Thursday 6th January 2022 • 6.30 pm

Welcome

Celebrating the revelation of God in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ.

The word 'Epiphany' means 'showing forth', 'revelation' or 'disclosure'. Originally, 6th January, the day on which the Church celebrates the *Feast of the Epiphany* (or the showing forth of the Christ Child to the Gentiles or non Jewish world), was the date of Christmas. Later, in the fourth century, the date of Christmas was moved in the West to coincide more or less with the pagan celebrations of the winter solstice. But Epiphany has remained central to the Christian celebration and understanding of the Christmas festival - and indeed, the Eastern Churches continue to celebrate Christmas on 6th January.

In this service of evening prayer, we deepen our understanding of the mystery of God who takes human form and flesh. We hear again the account of the visit of the wise men to the Christchild and the gifts they offer. As nice as it is to think that this is the end of the story, we know that there are tragic consequences to the visit as the wise men have to leave secretly, the Holy Family become refugees and an inhuman slaughter of all male children under the age of two takes place on the instruction of Herod. Here we see the dichotomy between the glory of God and the vulnerability of the most defenceless within our world – a theme sadly still evident today.

The congregation is asked to join in all text printed in **bold**.

For your safety please respect others and give one another space.

▼
Please use **face covering** at all times during the service.

▼
Please use **hand sanitiser** on the way in and out.

▼
Please take this **service bulletin away with you** and dispose it yourself.

The kingdoms of this world have become
the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ:
Father, grant an abundance of peace to your world.
Lord of glory,
All hear our prayer.

The Holy Family lived in exile and in the shadow of death:
Father, look in mercy on all who are poor and powerless,
and all who suffer. We pray for all migrants and refugees.
Lord of glory,
All hear our prayer.

Your Son shared the life of his home and family at Nazareth:
Father, protect in your love our neighbours,
our families and this community of which we are a part.
Lord of glory,
All hear our prayer.

Father, we rejoice in our fellowship
with the shepherds, the angels, the magi,
the Virgin Mary, Joseph
and all the faithful departed.
In your unfailing love for us and for all people,
hear and answer our prayers through your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
All Amen.

The Blessing *The Presbyter*

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;
and the blessing of God almighty, the † the Father, the Son and the Holy
Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
All Amen.

All STAND and the sing the hymn.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth:
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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 be SEATED

Homily

The Revd Avinash Rangayya

The Prayers of the People

Let us worship the Saviour with joy
and make our prayer to our heavenly Father.
The magi came from the east to worship your Son:
Father, grant to Christians everywhere the spirit of adoration. Lord of glory,
All hear our prayer.

The infant Christ received gifts of gold, incense and myrrh:
Father, accept the offering of our hearts and minds. Lord of glory,
All hear our prayer.

Continued

The Gathering

Voluntary

Prelude on 'Whence is that goodly fragrance?'

Harrison Oxley (1933 - 2009)

All keep silence and prepare for worship.

We gather near the crib, and sing together.

Carol

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 light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

² Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign:

³ Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, all men raising,
Worship Him God on high:

⁴ Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone cold tomb:

⁵ **Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Peals through the earth and skies.**

John Hopkins Jr. (1820 - 1891)

Please be SEATED

Bidding Prayer

Read by the Presbyter

Dearly beloved, we are gathered to celebrate with joy the appearance of God's glory in the world through the birth of Jesus, who is Emmanuel, God with us; to reflect upon the visit of the wise men bringing homage to their King at his birth; and to hear the of the tragic events that followed the showing forth of Christ's divinity and purpose.

As we rejoice in this, the Word made flesh, who called us out of darkness into light, so we pray that his love and faithfulness may be known in all the world. We pray for the unity and the mission of Christ's Church, and for all who minister in Christ's name; we pray for the world, that we may have reverence for the created order and respect for every person, made in the image and likeness of God; and we pray for those who stand in need, for the lonely, the fearful, the sick and the bereaved, and for all who have no one to pray for them.

May God our Father take us and use us in his service; may he open our eyes to see his glory and equip us to bless his people, now and at all times

All Amen.

Adoration

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;

All let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense;

All the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Glory to the Father, our Creator;

Glory to the Son, our Redeemer;

Glory to the Spirit, who sanctifies us;

**All As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
to the end of the ages. Amen.**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might,

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

All Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

WHEN Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea, in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them, where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou, Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go, and search diligently for the young child, and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and lo, the star which they saw in the east went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

St Matthew 2: 1 - 12

The Gospeller This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

All Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Remain STANDING for the Creed, all reciting together

³ **By its lambent beauty guided,
See the eastern kings appear;
See them bend, their gifts to offer,
Gifts of incense, gold and myrrh.**

⁴ **Solemn things of mystic meaning:
Incense doth the God disclose,
Gold a royal child proclaimeth,
Myrrh a future tomb foreshows.**

⁵ **Holy Jesu, in thy brightness
To the Gentile world displayed,
With the Father, and the Spirit,
Endless praise to thee be paid.
Amen.**

Words: Prudentius, b. 348

Tune: STUTTGART

Remain **STANDING** for the Gospel

The Gospel of Christ

All Alleluia.
We have seen his star at its rising,
and have come to pay him homage. *Matthew 2.2*
Alleluia.

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

**All Heaven and earth are full of your glory;
hosanna in the highest.**

A cantor sings

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 - 75)

Tune: WAS LEBEL, WAS SCHWEBET
from the 'Rheinhardt MS,' 1754

Silence is kept.

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,
so may your mercy come down upon us
to cleanse our hearts
and set us free to sing your praise
now and for ever.

All Amen.

OUR FATHER,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name;
Thy Kingdom come;
Thy will be done; in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that 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.

The Liturgy of the Word

Epistle

The Collect for Epiphany

Read by the Presbyter

O GOD, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only-begotten Son to the Gentiles: Mercifully grant, that we, which know thee now by faith, may after this life have the fruition of thy glorious Godhead; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

While SEATED, read the text printed in bold.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 72

Response **Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

O God, with your judgment endow the king,
and with your justice, the king's son;
He shall govern your people with justice
and your afflicted ones with judgement.

Response **Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

Justice shall flower in his days,
and profound peace, till the moon be no more.
May he rule from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Response **Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts;
the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute.
All kings shall pay him homage,
all nations shall serve him.

Response **Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out,
and the afflicted when he has no one to help him.
He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor;
the lives of the poor he shall save.

Response **Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

FOR this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles; if ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God, which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery (as I wrote afore in few words, whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy Apostles and Prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellow-heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ, by the Gospel: whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: to the intent, that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the Church the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

Ephesians 3: 1 - 12

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

All STAND and join in singing the gradual hymn

Gradual Hymn

**Bethlehem, of noblest cities
None can once with thee compare;
Thou alone the Lord from heaven
Didst for us Incarnate bear.**

² **Fairer than the sun at morning
Was the star that told his birth;
To the lands their God announcing,
Hid beneath a form of earth.**

Continued overleaf