

Diocese of Yukon  
Online Worship Service for January 3, 2021  
The Epiphany of the Lord

**A Penitential Office**

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the oppressed. (Isaiah 61.1)

Leader: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbour

**All: God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done and the evil done on our behalf.  
Forgive, restore and strengthen us through our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
so that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

Leader: May the God of love and power  
forgive you and free you from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by the Holy Spirit  
and raise you to new life in Jesus Christ. Amen.

This service, along with other morning and evening prayer outlines, is available on the Anglican Church of Canada website. It can be found at:

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING  
Morning and Evening Prayer for the Seasons of the Church Year  
<https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/Seasonal-Daily-Prayer.pdf>

**Morning Prayer for Epiphany**  
**The Gathering of the Community**

**Opening Hymn:** The First Nowell. #139 Common Praise

The first nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

***Refrain: Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.***

They looked up and saw a star,  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. ***Refrain***

And by the light of that same star,  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow that star where ever it went. ***Refrain***

This star drew nigh to the north-west;  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay,  
right over the place where Jesus lay. ***Refrain***

Then entered in those wise men three,  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. ***Refrain***

Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
who has made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood salvation bought. ***Refrain***

**Introductory Response**

**Leader:** Blessed are you, David's heir, born to rule,

**All:** you received gifts from the magi.

Blessed are you, Son of Man, baptized by John,  
**you saved us from ourselves.**

Blessed are you, Servant Lord,  
teaching and preaching, healing and comforting,  
**you proclaimed God's gracious reign.**

With all the voices of heaven and earth,  
we celebrate your epiphany.  
**Let heaven and earth shout their praise.**

**Leader:** Blessed are you, Sovereign God,  
ruler of the nations,  
to you be praise and glory for ever.  
From the rising of the sun to its setting  
your name is proclaimed in all the world.  
As the Sun of Righteousness dawns in our hearts,  
anoint our lips with the seal of your Spirit  
so that we may witness to your gospel  
and sing your praise in all the earth.

Blessed be the holy and undivided Trinity, one God.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

### **The Proclamation of the Word**

**The Psalm:** 72.1-7, 10-14

**Leader:** Give the king your justice, O God, \*  
and your righteousness to the king's son;

**People:** **That he may rule your people righteously \***  
**and the poor with justice;**

That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
and the little hills bring righteousness.

**He shall defend the needy among the people; \***  
**he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
from one generation to another.

**He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \***  
**like showers that water the earth.**

In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, \***  
**and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.**

All kings shall bow down before him, \*  
and all the nations do him service.

**For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, \***  
**and the oppressed who has no helper.**

He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; \*  
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.  
**He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, \*  
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.**

**O God, bring our nation and all nations to a sense of justice and equity, that  
poverty, oppression, and violence may vanish and all may know peace and plenty.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ.**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 60.1-6

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.

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom

**Thanks be to God.**

**The Responsory.** *The Responsory is said or sung*

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
**let the whole earth tremble before God.**  
Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is sovereign.  
**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness**  
Tell out the salvation of God from day to day  
**Let the whole earth tremble before God.**

Declare the glory of the Holy One among the nations  
and the wonder of God among the peoples.

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
let the whole earth tremble before God**

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 3.1-12

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 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 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.

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom

**Thanks be to God**

*A canticle or hymn may follow the second reading*

**Gradual Hymn:** Wise Men, They Came to Look for Wisdom. #161 Common Praise

Wise men, they came to look for wisdom,  
finding one wiser than they knew;  
rich men, they met with one yet richer—  
King of the kings, they knelt to you:  
Jesus, our wisdom from above,  
wealth and redemption, life and love.

Pilgrims they were, from unknown countries,  
searching for one who knows the world;  
lost are their names and strange their journeys,  
famed in their zeal to find the child;  
Jesus, in you the lost are claimed,  
aliens are found and known and named.

Magi, they stooped to see your splendour,  
led by a star to light supreme;

promised Messiah, Lord eternal,  
glory and peace are in your name.  
Joy of each day, our song by night,  
shine on our path your holy light.

Guests of their God, they opened treasures—  
incense and gold and solemn myrrh;  
welcoming one too young to question  
how came these gifts, and what they were.  
Gift beyond price of gold or gem,  
make among us your Bethlehem.

**The Gospel:** Matthew 2.1-12

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.

The Gospel of Christ

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

**The Sermon:** The Rt Rev Lesley Wheeler-Dame

**Affirmation of Faith:** Hear, O Israel

**All: Hear, O Israel,  
the Lord our God, the Lord is one.  
Love the Lord your God**

**with all your heart,  
with all your soul,  
with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.  
This is the first and the great commandment.  
The second is like it:  
Love your neighbour as yourself.  
There is no commandment greater than these.**

## **The Prayers of the Community**

### **The Litany**

*In the Diocesan cycle of prayer today we pray for the people and community of Watson Lake, St. John the Baptist. We lift up to God Licensed Lay Incumbent Mr Tim Liverton, lay minister Dianne Amann and seminary student Mr. John Vaissi Nagy and Riitta.*

*In the worldwide Anglican Communion prayer cycle we pray for the Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria.*

*In the Canadian Anglican/Lutheran prayer cycle we pray in the Anglican Church of Canada for Archbishop Mark Macdonald, National Indigenous Archbishop, and the staff of Indigenous ministries, the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples. In the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada we pray for Bishop Michael Pryse, the people and rostered ministers of the Easter Synod.*

**Leader:** Everlasting Light of creation, may your people in all the world worship in spirit and in truth.

**All: Holy One, shine upon us and hear us.**

May the church discover that unity which is your will.

**Holy One, shine upon us and hear us.**

May the nations of the earth seek after the ways that make for peace.

**Holy One, shine upon us and hear us.**

May the whole creation be set free to enjoy the glorious liberty of your children.

**Holy One, shine upon us and hear us.**

May all who with Christ have entered the shadow of death rest in peace and rise in glory.

**Holy One, shine upon us and hear us.**

*Additional intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings may be offered in silence or aloud. Among these concerns it is appropriate to remember*

- the unity of the church;*
- the peace of the world;*
- the healing of the sick;*
- the revelation of Christ to those from whom his glory is hidden and*
- all who travel.*

*After a period of silence either the Collect of the Day or one of the following collects may be said or sung.*

### **The Collect**

**O God of light and peace, whose glory, shining in the child of Bethlehem, still draws the nations to yourself: dispel the darkness that shrouds our path, so that we may come to kneel before Christ in true worship, offer him our hearts and souls, and return from his presence to live as he has taught. Amen**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Leader:** Believing in the promises of God and gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

**Closing Hymn:** As With Gladness Men of Old #160 Common Praise

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;  
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped, Saviour, to thy lowly bed,  
there to bend the knee before thee, whom heaven and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at that cradle rude and bare,  
so may we with joyful song, raising voices pure and strong,  
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee our heavenly king.

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 forever may we sing alleluias to our king.

### **The Blessing**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

May Christ, who sends us to the nations, give us the power of the Spirit. Amen.