



ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF WANGARATTA
PAROCHIAL DISTRICT OF WANGARATTA WEST & THE WARBYS

Epiphany Sunday

5th January 2025

8.00am Eucharist with Hymns

9.30am Sung Eucharist



The Epiphany of Our Lord. 2018.

Oil on canvas, 76 x 61 cm. Private collection, North Carolina USA

Artist : Stephen B. Whatley. www.stephenbwhatley.com

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Opening Hymn: AHB 382 / TiS 454. Tune, Was Lebet.

- 1. Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
gold of obedience and incense of lowliness
bring, and adore him: the Lord is his name.**
- 2. Low at his feet lay your burden of carefulness,
high on his heart he will bear it for you,
comfort your sorrows, and answer your prayerfulness,
guiding your steps in the way best for you.**
- 3. Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth you would reckon to own:
truth in its beauty and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings to bring to his throne.**
- 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. Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
gold of obedience and incense of lowliness
bring, and adore him: the Lord is his name.**

John Samuel Bewley Monsell 1811–75 alt.

Welcome and Greeting

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe!

**From the rising of the sun to its setting
your name is proclaimed in all the world.**

The Lord of glory be with you.

The Lord bless you.

Sentence

They saw the child with Mary his Mother;
and they knelt down and worshipped him.

Matthew 2.11

Confession

The grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all. Though we have grieved him, yet he will heal us if we confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Lord of grace and truth, we confess our unworthiness to stand in your presence as your children.

We have sinned: **forgive and heal us.**

The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus. Forgive our disobedience to your will.

We have sinned: **forgive and heal us.**

Your Son our Saviour was born in poverty in a manger. Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

We have sinned: **forgive and heal us.**

The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem. Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.

We have sinned: **forgive and heal us.**

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus the King. Forgive our reluctance to seek you.

We have sinned: **forgive and heal us.**

Absolution

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself, and cleanse you from all your sins that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Gloria is said or sung

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

The Collect

Lord God of the nations,
we have seen the star of your glory rising in splendour.
The radiance of your incarnate Word
pierces the darkness that covers the earth
and signals the dawn of peace and justice.

Make radiant the lives of your people with that same brightness,
and beckon all the nations to walk as one in your light.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
in the splendour of eternal light, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from the prophecy of 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.

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

PSALM 72. 1-7, 10-14

**Give the king your judgement, O God:
and your righteousness to the son of a king,
That he may judge your people rightly:
and the poor of the land with equity.
Let the mountains be laden with peace
because of his righteousness:
and the hills also with prosperity for his people.**

**May he give justice to the poor among the people:
and rescue the children of the needy,
and crush the oppressor.
May he live while the sun endures:
and while the moon gives light,
throughout all generations.**

**May he come down like rain upon the new-mown fields:
and as showers that water the earth.
In his time shall righteousness flourish:
and abundance of peace, till the moon shall be no more.**

**The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring tribute:
the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.
All kings shall fall down before him:
and all nations do him service.**

**He will deliver the needy when they cry:
and the poor that have no helper.
He will pity the helpless and the needy:
and save the lives of the poor.**

**He will redeem them from oppression and violence:
and their blood shall be precious in his sight.**

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the 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.

Hear the Word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn: AHB 391 / TiS 459. Tune, St Bernard or McKee

- 1. In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.**
- 2. In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find,
his service is the golden cord
close-binding humankind.**
- 3. Join hands, then, people of the faith,
whate'er your race may be;
who serves my Father as his child
is surely kin to me.**

**4. In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north,
all Christlike souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.**

William Arthur Dunkerley
(‘John Oxenham’) 1852–1941 alt.

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew [2. 1-12].
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

For the Gospel of the Lord,
praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

After the Gospel, the three figures of the Wise Men are placed in the Crib

The Sermon

A short time of silent reflection is kept after the Sermon.

Affirmation of Faith

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Today the Wise Men knelt before our Saviour.

Let us also kneel to worship him with great joy,
and to make our prayer to his heavenly Father.

Father, the wise men came from the east to worship your Son:
grant to Christians everywhere a true spirit of adoration.

Lord; in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Father, you are the King of Kings and Lord of Lords:
grant an abundance of peace to your world.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Father, the Holy Family shared the life of the people of Nazareth:
protect in your mercy our neighbours and our families,
together with the whole community of which we are part.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Father, though you were rich, for our sake you became poor:
show your love for the poor and powerless, and strengthen
(... and all) those who suffer.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Father, the wise men presented to your Son gold, incense, and
myrrh: accept the gifts we bring, and the offering of our hearts at
the beginning of this new year.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Father, you are the King of Heaven, the hope of all who trust in
you: give to N, N, N and all the faithful departed the wonders of
your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of wise men, shepherds, and angels,
and of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph,
we commend ourselves and all Christian people
to your unfailing love.

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government
and of peace there shall be no end.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Offertory Hymn: We Three Kings

1. **We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**
*Oh, ... star of wonder, star of night,
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.**
Oh, ... star of wonder, star of night,
3. **Frank-incense to offer have I,
Incense owns a Deity nigh,
Pray'r and praising, all men raising,
worship Him, God most High.**
Oh,... star of wonder, star of night,
4. **Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
seal'd in the stone-cold tomb.**
Oh, ...star of wonder, star of night,
5. **Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia, earth to the heav'ns replies.**
Oh, star of wonder, star of night,

John H. Hopkins

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 our salvation. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING PRAYER

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 our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

You have revealed this day the mystery of our salvation in Christ,
the light to enlighten all nations.

Now that he has appeared in our mortal flesh,
you have refashioned us in the image of his immortal glory.

And so, with angels and archangels,
with all the heavenly host, we proclaim your glory
and join their unending chorus of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

And now we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine;
may we who receive them, as Jesus said, share his body and his blood. ✠

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread and gave you thanks.
He broke the bread and gave it to his friends, and said,
'Take and eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.' ✠

After supper he took the cup and gave you thanks.
He shared the cup with them and said,
'This is my blood poured out so that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me.' ✠

You have gathered us together to feed on Christ
and to remember all he has done for us:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Fill us with your Spirit that we may follow Jesus in all we do and say,
working for justice and bringing your peace
to this world that you have made.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to 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.

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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

The priest breaks the bread.

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

All say or sing

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.

The priest says

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come for the feast is prepared

happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*After Communion reflection hymn The wise may bring their learning
Tune. TYROL (Tyrolean melody) AHB 176*

- 1. The wise may bring their learning,
the rich may bring their wealth,
and some may bring their greatness,
and some their strength and health;
we too would bring our treasures
to offer to the king:
how shall we greet our saviour,
what presents shall we bring?*
- 2. We'll bring the many duties we have to do each day,
we'll try our best to please him,
at home, at work, at play;
and better are these treasures
to offer to the king,
than richest gifts without them -
yet these we all may bring.*
- 3. We'll bring him hearts that love him,
we'll bring him thankful praise,
and lives for ever striving
to follow in his ways;
and these shall be the treasures
we offer to the king,
the gifts that now and ever
our grateful hearts may bring!*

Unknown

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Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.

**Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.**

**May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.**

**Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Concluding Hymn: Tune, Stuttgart (AHB 216).

- 1. Bethlehem, what greater city
can in fame with you compare?
For the gracious God of heaven
chose to meet our people there.**
- 2. Was there ever beauty brighter
than the star which shone that night
to proclaim the incarnation
of our God, the world's true light?**
- 3. From the East come men of learning,
rich the treasures that they hold
tributes to a greater wisdom,
gifts of incense, myrrh and gold.**
- 4. Sacrifice, redeemer, saviour!
Incense shows that God has come,
gold, our mighty king proclaims him,
myrrh foretells his silent tomb.**
- 5. Jesus Christ, to you be glory,
Lord of lords whom we adore
with the Father and the Spirit:
God be praised for evermore!**

O Sola magnarum urbium (Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348 - c. 410),
tr. Michael Perry (1942 - 1996)
© Mrs B Perry/Jubilate Hymns



The Blessing and Dismissal

May God the Father,
who led the Wise Men by the shining of a star
to find the Christ, the Light of Light,
lead you in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

Amen.

May God who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness
give us a place with the saints in light
in the kingdom of his beloved Son.

Amen.

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ shine in your hearts
and fill your lives with his joy and peace.

Amen.

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

AMEN!

Christ is revealed to all creation.
Go in the peace of Christ.

THANKS BE TO GOD

In the western churches, the Epiphany ('manifestation') became an occasion to celebrate one element in the story of Christ's birth, the visit of the far-travelled magi, understood as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. Matthew's account speaks simply of "wise men from the east"; later tradition fixed their number at three, made them kings, and recalled their resonant names – Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar.

In this perspective, Epiphany-tide is an apt season to pray for the worldwide mission of the Church. The feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, appropriately falls in the Epiphany season.

In the eastern churches, the Epiphany is, rather, the celebration of Christ's baptism at the hands of John, when the heavens were opened, and a voice from heaven declared Jesus to be God's beloved son. The miracle of Cana in Galilee, where Jesus "first manifested his glory", follows immediately:

**Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
And at Cana wedding-guest
In thy Godhead manifest**

(Christopher Wordsworth)

The arrangement of the first Sundays of Epiphany deliberately draws out these aspects.

The season of joyful celebration which begins at Christmas now continues through the successive Sundays of Epiphany, and the festal cycle ends only with the Feast of the Presentation, or Candlemas.

The child who has been manifested to the Magi at his birth is now recognised by Simeon and Anna, when he comes to be presented in the Temple according to the Law of Israel. He is both "a light to lighten the Gentiles," and "the glory of God's people Israel."

But the redemption he will bring must be won through suffering; the Incarnation is directed to the Passion; and Simeon's final words move our attention away from the celebration of Christmas and towards the mysteries of Easter.

A Prayer for the Parish

Guide us always and everywhere, Lord,
by your light from on high,
that we may discern with clear minds
and treasure with deep affection
the mystery you have given us to share.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.