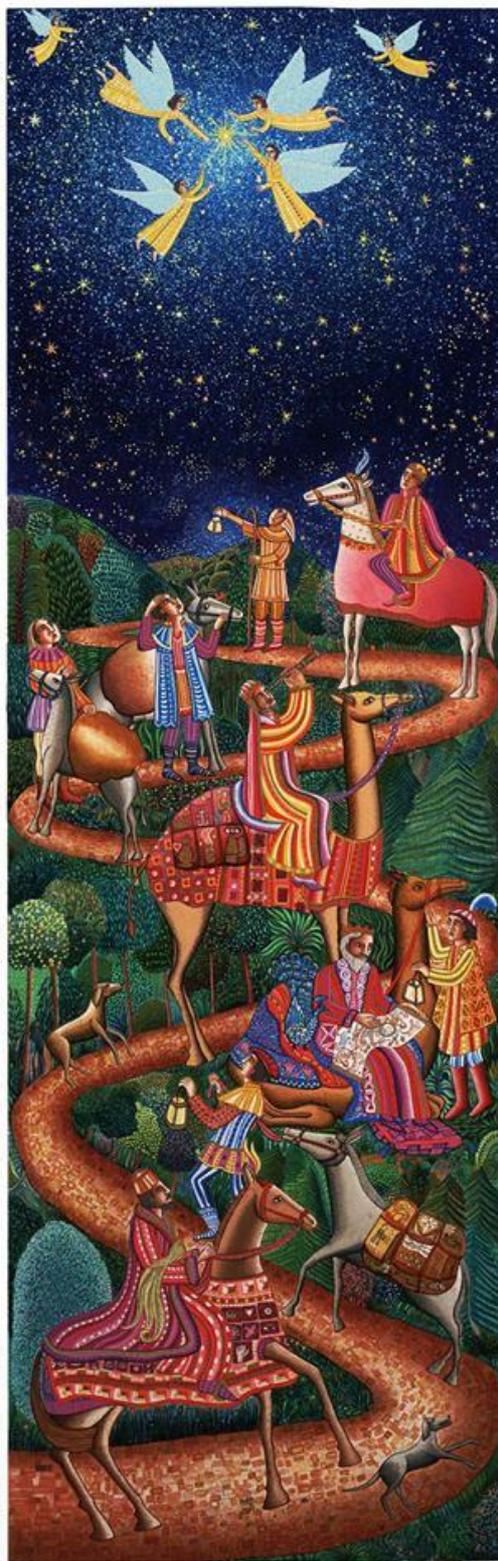


The Eucharist for Epiphany



Cotham Parish Church

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, Epiphanytide is an apt season to pray for the worldwide mission of the Church. The feast of the Conversion of St Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, appropriately falls in the Epiphany season, as does the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. 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.*

The season of joyful celebration that begins at Christmas now continues through the successive Sundays of Epiphany, and the festal cycle ends only with the Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas). The child who has been manifested to the magi at his birth is now recognized 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.

From Common Worship, Times and Seasons

Attending

*Step aside: let the day breath,
Look within: let your heart be still.
Listen well: hear the still, small voice,
calling you back to what God has made you to be.
In the middle of all that life offers us
in the eye of all the storms, we thank you for the gift of this moment,
for the grace of this presence.*

From The Earth Cries Glory, Steven Shakespeare

*Those parts of the service that change from week to week can be found in a supplementary sheet – please turn to this sheet where indicated with this symbol: ¶
We say or sing the words in **bold type***

The Gathering

A church warden welcomes all who have gathered and invites us to some moments of shared quiet preparation. This is followed by a piece of reflective music ('the Introit')

We may stand before or after the Introit hymn, song or chant

¶ Introit: Hymn 527

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake, and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.
2. Then cleansed be ev'ry breath from sin:
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come.
3. For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.
4. To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.
5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent doth thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

C Coffin, tr. J Chandler

The Greeting

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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Words of introduction and invitation

Prayers of Penitence

The grace of God has dawned upon the world
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
Let us come to the light of Christ,
as we confess our sins

Lord Jesus, illuminate the darkness in our hearts:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, open our eyes to your saving love:
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, unstop our ears to hear your living word:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy

Absolution

A minister proclaims the good news of God's mercy and forgiveness

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Gloria

We sing these or other words led by a cantor

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his 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

a prayer set for the day is said

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;
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.

The Liturgy of the Word

We sit

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 43.1-7

But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.
I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you,
I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.
Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, 'Give them up',
and to the south, 'Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.'

At the end of the reading:

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading Acts 8.14-17

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

At the end of the reading:

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We stand as we sing:

Gradual: Chant 947

Veni, lumen cordium,

Veni, Sancte Spiritus.

The Gospel Reading

The gospel is announced:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading: Luke 3.15-17,21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

At the end of the reading of the gospel:

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise be to you, O Christ.

We sit

Reflection

One of the ministers shares thoughts and reflections on the readings and themes of the day; an encouragement to connect faith with our lives

We stand

Profession of Faith

Let us affirm our common faith in Jesus Christ.

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

I believe and trust in God.

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

I believe and trust in Jesus Christ.

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?

I believe and trust in the Holy Spirit.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

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

We sit

The Intercessions

The prayers may end:

Merciful Father

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

We stand

The Peace

In the tender mercy of our God
the dayspring from on high has broken upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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

We offer a gesture of peace to those around us

Offertory: Hymn 609

1. Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, 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 addressed:
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 pow'r divine,
changing water into wine;
anthems be to thee addressed:
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 addressed:
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.

C Wordsworth

Preparation of the table

*As we come to the Table, bread and wine are taken and blest, and the bread is broken
as we share the meal that re-members Jesus, the food that 'tastes of freedom'.*

Gracious God,
accept the offering of your Church,
the hearts of your people
joined in praise and thanksgiving,
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here

God's Spirit is with us

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.

God of love, you shaped your purposes
for your chosen people and your church
before the foundations of the world;
and you knew each one of us before you formed us in the womb.
You have given your people tongues to speak your name,
prophecy to see your works and faith to see your power;
but most of all you have given us love to imitate your life.
In that love your Son laid down his life for us on the cross,
and through that love you raised him to glorious life.
Moved by that love
and inspired by the tongues of angels and archangels,
we join the heavenly song of everlasting praise, singing:

We sing:

**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.

Generous God, as you turn the crumbs of wheat into bread
and change the juice of grapes into wine,
send down your Holy Spirit,
that we may be transformed into the likeness of your living Word
and that these signs of your creation
may be for us the gifts of your new creation,
the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Who at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks,
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

After supper he took the cup,
Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
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.

Great is the mystery of faith

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again.

Revealing God, you give us prophecies, but they come to an end;
you give us tongues, but they cease;
you give us knowledge, but it is only partial.
Give us in this sacred meal faith to move mountains,
hope in the power of your transforming kingdom
and love that never comes to an end;
until the day when we look in the mirror
and see your face in the face of your church -
fully known by you
and transformed into the image of you Son;
through whom and with whom and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours,
now and for ever.

Amen.

We sit

The Lord's Prayer

Believing the promises of God,
as our Saviour taught us, so we 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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Breaking 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.**

Agnus Dei

We sing:

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Invitation

Here is the table of the Lord,
**we are gathered to his supper,
a foretaste of things eternal.**

Come, when you are fearful, to be made new in love.
Come, when you are doubtful, to be made strong in faith.
Come, when you are regretful, and be made whole.
Come, there is room for all.

Communion

*We keep an **Open Table** - **all** are invited and **all** are welcome to receive the bread that has been taken, blest and broken. If you would prefer to receive a blessing then please bring this service sheet with you to indicate this.*

Please ask if you need to receive gluten free bread.

Communion: Hymn 326

1. In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid-winter, long ago.

2. Our God, heav'n cannot hold him nor earth sustain;
heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

3. Enough for him whom cherubim worship night and day,
a breast-ful of milk, and a manger-ful of hay:
enough for him, whom angels fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel which adore.

5. What can I give him, poor as I am?
if I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man I would do my part,
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

C Rossetti

† Prayer after Communion

Blessing and Dismissal

May Christ, who draws the nations to himself,
teach us to love our enemies;
may Christ, who enters the water of baptism,
lead us to die to all but love;
may Christ, who gives new wine for the world,
turn our bitterness into joy;
and the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Banns of Marriage, news and notices may be shared

We stand

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Final: Hymn 516

1. O love, how deep, how broad, how high!
It fills the heart with ecstasy,
that God, the Son of God, should take
our mortal form for mortals' sake.

2. He sent no angel to our race
of higher or of lower place,
but wore the robe of human frame
himself, and to this lost world came.

3. For us he was baptized and bore
his holy fast, and hungered sore;
for us temptation sharp he knew;
for us the tempter overthrew.

6. To him whose boundless love has won
salvation for us through his Son,
to God the Father glory be,
both now and through eternity.

15th Century, tr. B Webb