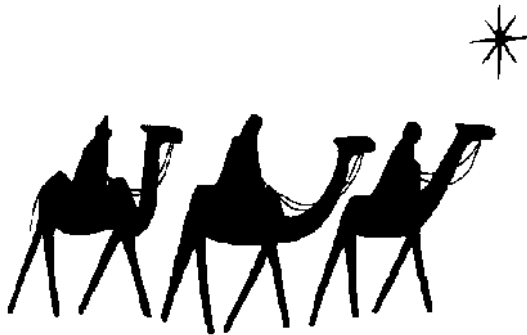


Epiphany Procession



Sunday 7 January 2024
5.30 pm

Welcome to this Epiphany Procession

Epiphany is a season in the Church's liturgical year, beginning on 6 January and continuing until the Feast of Candlemas on 2 February. It is a time of sustained reflection on the mystery of the Incarnation of our Lord.

Christians have grown accustomed to thinking of the Epiphany as exclusively about the 'wise men' or 'Magi', commonly thought of as 'kings' because of Old Testament allusions and the costly nature of the gifts they presented, for example Psalm 72 vv 10, 11

May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.
May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.

The fact that the New Testament mentions three gifts gave rise to the popular tradition of 'three kings'.

There is an older tradition, however, which focuses on three revelations of Christ — the revelation of Christ to the Magi, who were probably Gentiles; the revelation of Jesus as the Son of God at his baptism in the river Jordan; and the revelation of his glory in the first miracle that he wrought at the wedding in Cana of Galilee, the turning of water into wine.

The service begins at the Cathedral where we all come in, as the Magi did, 'from the east'. As the service proceeds we focus on the Crib, and incense is offered as a sign of our worship of Christ the divine Son of God; on the Font, as commemorating the Baptism of the Lord we reaffirm our own baptismal covenant; and on the Nave Altar, as we give thanks for the transforming grace of the Eucharist.

In all of this, we celebrate our union with Christ, as in saving love and power he unites us with himself and calls us to reveal his glory in the world.

Safeguarding

Manchester Cathedral works hard to create safe environments where children and young people are protected and where all people, especially those who may be vulnerable for any reason, are able to worship and pursue their faith journey with encouragement and in safety. We follow the policies and procedures detailed within the Cathedral Safeguarding Handbook. We act promptly on any complaints made, and work in partnership with Manchester Diocese, the police and social care services whenever appropriate to do so. Details of our policy and how to voice a concern can be found on a dedicated page of our website and on the noticeboard at the south porch.

Live streaming

Please note that most acts of worship in Manchester Cathedral are now live streamed. Although cameras are focused on those leading worship, please be aware that your image may be inadvertently captured and streamed. If you would like further information on the position of the camera at a particular act of worship, please ask Cathedral Staff upon arrival.

Gift Aid

During the service there will be a collection for the mission and aims of the Cathedral. If you would like the Cathedral to reclaim the tax that you have paid on the donation, at no cost to yourself, please use the Gift Aid envelope that is with this order of service.

Hearing-loop

The Cathedral has a hearing-loop.
Please set your hearing aid to setting T.

Have you turned off your mobile phone?

Please make sure that you have turned off your mobile phone and any other electronic equipment that might interrupt the service.

Photography

Please do not use cameras, photo-imaging devices or recording equipment during the service.

Musicians

The Cathedral Voluntary Choir is conducted by Geoffrey Woollatt,
Sub-Organist.

The organ is played by Christopher Stokes,
Organist and Master of the Choristers.

Music before the Service

Liebster Jesu wir sind hier, BWV 731
J S Bach (1685-1750)

The procession enters by the east door.

Introit

sung by the Choir

O'er the hill and o'er the vale,
Come three kings together,
Caring nought for snow and hail,
Cold and wind and weather;
Now on Persia's sandy plains,
Now where Tigris swells with rains,
They their camels tether;
Now through Syrian lands they go,
Now through Moab, faint and slow,
Now o'er Edom's heather.

O'er the hill and o'er the vale,
Each king bears a present;
Wise men go a Child to hail,
Monarchs seek a peasant:
And a star in front proceeds,
Over rocks and rivers leads,
Shines with beams incessant:
Therefore onward, onward still!
Ford the stream and climb the hill:
Love makes all things pleasant.

He is God ye go to meet:
Therefore incense proffer:
He is King ye go to greet;
Gold is in your coffer.
Also Man, He comes to share
Every woe that man can bear;
Tempter, railer, scoffer:
Therefore now, against the day
In the grave when Him they lay,
Myrrh ye also offer.

*In vernali tempore
Harmony by G R Woodward (1848-1934)*

*Anon
Tr by John Mason Neale (1818-66)*

The King of all the world is revealed to the Magi

Hymn

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!

Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,
High on his heart he will bear it for thee,
Comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
Guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
Of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:
Truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
These are the offerings to lay on his shrine.

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.

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!

Was Lebet NEH 52

Melody from the Rheinhardt MS 1754

J S B Monsell (1811-75)

Please sit

Reading

Matthew 2. 1-11

The coming of the Magi

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.

Thanks be to God.

Gifts representing gold, frankincense, and myrrh are offered at the crib as The Rev'd Grace Thomas says

At the offering of Gold

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:
to you be praise and glory for ever!

As gold in the furnace is tried
and purified seven times in the fire,
so purify our hearts and minds
that we may be a royal priesthood
acceptable in the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever!

At the offering of Incense

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:
to you be praise and glory for ever!

As our prayer rises up in your presence as incense,
so may we be presented before you
with penitent hearts and uplifted hands
to offer ourselves in your priestly service.

Blessed be God for ever!

At the offering of Myrrh

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:
to you be praise and glory for ever!

As you give medicine to heal our sickness
and the leaves of the tree of life
for the healing of the nations,

so anoint us with your healing power
that we may be the first-fruits of your new creation.

Blessed be God for ever!

Anthem

sung by the Choir

During the anthem, the crib is censed.

Three Kings from Persian lands afar
to Jordan follow the pointing star:
and this the quest of the travellers three,
where the new-born King of the Jews may be.
Full royal gifts they bear for the King;
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

The star shines out with a steadfast ray;
the kings to Bethlehem make their way,
and there in worship they bend the knee,
as Mary's child in her lap they see;
their royal gifts they show to the King;
gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem
the Kings are travelling, travel with them!
The star of mercy, the star of grace,
shall lead thy heart to its resting place.
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring;
offer thy heart to the infant King.

How brightly shines the morning star!
With grace and truth from heaven afar
our Jesse tree now bloweth.
Of Jacob's stem and David's line,
for thee, my Bridegroom, King divine,
my soul with love o'erfloweth.
Thy word, Jesu, inly feeds us,
rightly leads us, life bestowing.
Praise, O praise such love o'erflowing.

*Peter Cornelius (1824-74)
arr Ivor Atkins (1869-1953)*

*Peter Cornelius
Tr H N Bate (1871-1941)*

Collect

The Rev'd O God, who by the leading of a star
Grace manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:
Thomas mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory face to face;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Christ is revealed in the waters of Baptism

All stand

Hymn

During the hymn the congregation follows the Choir and clergy in procession to the Baptistry. All gather around the Font.

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.

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.

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?

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.

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.

Epiphany NEH 49
J F Thrupp (1827-67)

Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

The Baptism of the Lord

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Thanks be to God.

During the following prayer, The Rev'd Grace Thomas pours water into the Font

God in Christ gives us the water welling up for eternal life.
 With joy you will draw water from the well of salvation.
Lord, give us this water, and we shall thirst no more.

The Rev'd Grace Thomas prays over the water

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 thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,
 at all times to give you thanks and praise,
 for at the baptism of your Son
 the grace of the Holy Spirit
 in the form of a dove descended upon the waters.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
 accept our sacrifice of praise,
 and by the power of your life-giving Spirit
 sanctify these waters of your new creation,
 that we, with all who have been born anew
 by water and the Spirit,
 may be renewed in your image,

walk by the light of faith,
and serve you in newness of life.
Through your anointed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
we lift our voices of praise:

**Blessed be God, our strength and our salvation
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Rev'd Grace Thomas invites the people to reaffirm their baptismal commitment.

At your baptism you turned to Christ, repented of your
sins, and renounced evil.

Do you renew your allegiance to Christ?

**I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Saviour
and Lord.**

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 persevere in resisting evil, and whenever you fall into sin,
repent and return to the Lord?

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 recognise 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 God the Creator, the rock of our salvation, who has given us
new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and forgiven all our sins
through our Lord Jesus Christ, keep us faithful to our calling, now
and for ever.

Amen.

Anthem

sung by the Choir

As the anthem is sung the baptismal water is sprinkled over the congregation.

Here is the little door, lift up the latch, oh 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 who 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.

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Frances Chesterton (1869-19)

Collect

The Rev'd Almighty God,
Grace we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with
Thomas all those who have been baptized in your name.
 Keep us faithful to our baptism,
 and so make us ready for that day
 when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our
 Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The new creation is revealed in the water made wine

Hymn

During the hymn the congregation follows the Choir and clergy in procession to the Nave.

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.

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.

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.

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.

St Edmund NEH 56
Charles Steggall (1826-1905)

Christopher Wordsworth (1807-85)

Reading

John 2. 1-11

The Miracle at Cana

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Thanks be to God.

The Rev'd Christ, though he was rich, for our sake became poor:
Grace **that through his poverty we might be rich.**
Thomas

If anyone is in Christ there is a new creation:
the old order has passed away; behold, the new is come.

See, I am making all things new.

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

Anthem

sung by the Choir

As the anthem is sung a flagon of wine is placed upon the Altar and the Altar is censed.

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 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 chin;
Open you the East Door and let the New Year in.
Sing levy-dew, sing levy-dew, the water and the wine,
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.

Benjamin Britten (1913-76)

British Folk Song

Collect

The Rev'd Almighty God,
Grace in Christ you make all things new;
Thomas 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 our Lord.
Amen.

Epilogue

Epiphany Responsory

sung by the Choir

Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is King.
Ascribe unto the Lord the honour due unto his name:
Bring presents, and come into his courts.
O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
Let the whole earth stand in awe of him.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
Bring presents and come, to his courts.

Ronald Frost (1933-2015)

Prayers

The Rev'd Grace Thomas

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray for the coming of the kingdom in the words our Saviour taught us:

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.**

All stand

Hymn *during which a collection is taken*

Hail to the Lord's Anointed!
Great David's greater Son;
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free;
To take away transgression,
And rule in equity.

He comes with succour speedy
To those who suffer wrong;
To help the poor and needy,
And bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
Were precious in his sight.

Kings shall fall down before him,
And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore him,
His praise all people sing;
To him shall prayer unceasing
And daily vows ascend;
His kingdom still increasing,
A kingdom without end.

O'er every foe victorious,
He on his throne shall rest,
From age to age more glorious,
All-blessing and all-blest:
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand for ever;
That name to us is Love.

Crüger NEH 55

*Adapted by W H Monk (1823-89)
from a chorale by J Crüger (1598-1662)*

*James Montgomery (1771-1854)
based on Psalm 72*

Blessing

The Rev'd May God the Father, who led the wise men by the
Grace shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light,
Thomas lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

Amen.

May God the Son, who turned water into wine at the
Wedding Feast of 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 have come to the water of new birth.

Amen.

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

Amen.

Postlude

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

The Choir and clergy depart

*Please take this order of service away with you to reflect upon the music, readings and prayers,
and as a reminder of your visit.*

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