

Epiphany Worship

Theme for today
The visit of the Magi

A verse from scripture

Arise, shine,
for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord
rises upon you. *Isaiah 60:1*



Minister Arise, shine, for
your light has come.
The glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

All: The glory of God shines in the darkness.

Opening Statement

Lord God, by the light of a star you led travellers to the Christ child and when they found Jesus they were filled with joy and worshipped him. May your light of love shine through the darkness of our world, to draw us close to you that we too may worship and discover the joy of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Hymn As with gladness (*Tune Dix*)

Confession

Minister

Lord God who made the stars to shine, may your light shine in our hearts and light up the dark places of our lives. Forgive us when we are preoccupied with ourselves and forget the needs of others. Forgive us when we submit to corrupt systems that oppress the lives of the weak and vulnerable of the world. Forgive us when we are deaf to the cries of those who are weak and suffering.

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

Minister The Lord enrich you with his grace
and nourish you with his blessing;
the Lord defend you in trouble
and keep you from all evil;
the Lord accept your prayers,
and absolve you from your offences,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

Minister O Lord open our lips

All And our mouth shall proclaim your praise

Minister Let us worship the Lord

**All All praise to his name. Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was
in the beginning, is now and shall be for ever. Amen**

Hymn The wise may bring their learning (*Tune Tyrolese*)

The Offering

After the offering is collected it may be brought forward.

The people stand as it is presented and say

**The magi paid homage to Jesus, offering gifts of gold,
frankincense, and myrrh. May we too bring the gifts of
our lives and offer them in joy to Jesus Christ.**

The Collect

Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord. *Common Worship Shorter Collect*

*The reader introduces the reading which can be followed in Partnership News.
At the end of the reading the following words are used*

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**

Hymn Every star shall sing a carol (*Tune Every Star*)

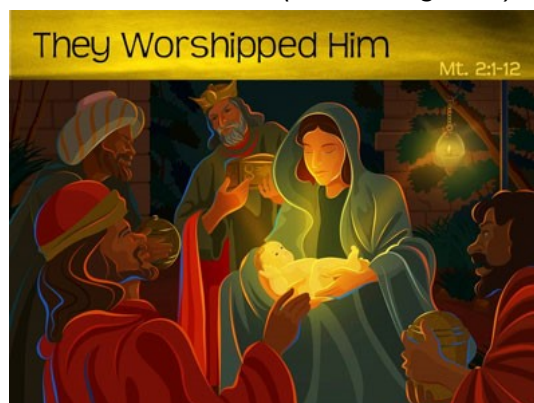
Prayer

**Lord God in the darkness of our world
your light shines with grace and truth.
Open the eyes of our hearts to the glory of your love.
Speak your word of truth and joy.
May the mystery revealed in Jesus draw us closer to you.
May the wonder of your love fill us with wisdom and peace.
As we rejoice in your presence,
teach us to seek justice and righteousness.
Fill our hearts to overflowing with your hope and joy. Amen.**

The Sermon

Hymn

The silent stars shine down on us (*Tune Kingsfold*)



Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Hymn *Brightest and best (Tune Epiphany Hymn)*

The Blessing

Thank you, Lord, for shining on us with the brightness of your presence. Lead us always to worship Christ our king, and to reflect your light to others by lives of loving service.

May God the Father bless you, who loved the world so much that he sent his Son. May Jesus Christ bless you, who took our nature upon himself. May the Holy Spirit bless you, by whose power our Redeemer was born of the Virgin Mary. And may the blessing of the undivided Trinity remain upon you, this day and evermore. Amen.

Minister Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**