

St Andrew's Church

Epiphany

Newsletter for January 3rd 2021

10.00am

Celebrant- Fr John; Preacher - Stuart

Collect

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; 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. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

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 Holy Gospel according to Matthew

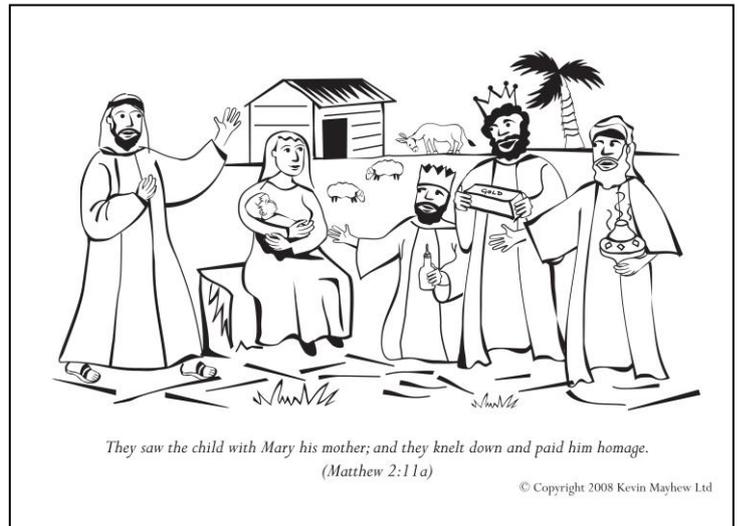
Matthew 2;1-12

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.



Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please pray for people who are sick or in need of prayer: David Binding, Roger Woodward, Mandy Saunders, Gloria Boothe, Eric Homer, Carl F.

For those who have recently died:

Anniversary of death: Jack Jones, Barbara Brown, Louisa Lazarus, John March, Kenneth Carey.

Notices Please join us on Zoom for Evening Prayer Wednesday at 7, and Morning Prayer Friday at 10.

For your prayers

Loving God, we your people seek your presence, your comfort and your love.

In this Epiphany Season of light shine your light upon us – into the recesses of our spirits, those places where we experience anxiety, depression, fear and despair. We lift up in particular all among us who are grieving.

God of grace and healing, shine your light upon us – into those places of conflict and tension in our families, in our friendships, in our work and community relationships. May your light be a healing balm, bringing with it forgiveness and reconciliation.

God of connection; shine your light upon us – on to the common human ties that bind all of your people together: neighbour and stranger, friend and enemy alike. In your light, remind us that you have created us all of us in your image, unique and beloved by you.

God of power and mercy, shine your light upon our nation and its leaders that they may govern justly and wisely, taking into account the needs and concerns, not just of the most wealthy and powerful, but especially of those who are poor, those who struggle with physical and mental illness, members of the LGBTQ community who must fight each day simply to be themselves, those who fear for their families because of financial hardship or immigration status, those who are forgotten and forsaken.

God of compassion and peace, shine your light on all the places around the world where violence and war are found: in Jerusalem, Istanbul and Baghdad; in Aleppo and Azaz; in South Sudan and in places we cannot name or do not know. With your light bring peace to those who languish in fear, violence and despair.

God of goodness, we thank you for the light that shines – the light that we see in the glory and wonder of your creation, in icy peaks and snow-white meadows. Thank you for the light that shines through this community and its members, young and old, who remind us of your presence in tears and laughter, teaching and learning, order and disruption, work and play. Shine your light upon us. And around us, and within us, that we, too may be a light to the world. Amen.

Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson, USA