

Service for Caversham Park URC on Sunday 8 January 2023

Epiphany, year A

Preparing to hear God's Word

Call to Worship

Paul wrote to the Ephesians: I understand the secret purpose of Christ. In former generations that secret was not disclosed to mankind; but now by inspiration it has been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets, that through the Gospel the Gentiles are joint heirs with the Jews, part of the same body, sharers together in the promise made in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 3:4b-6

Let us therefore worship the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Hymn As with gladness men of old

Prayers of Approach, Adoration and Confession

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-living God, through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord: for at this time we celebrate your glory made present in our midst. In the coming of the magi the King of all the world was revealed to the nations. In the waters of baptism Jesus was revealed as the Christ, the Saviour sent to redeem us. In the water made wine the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast. Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy. And so we come to worship you, And to celebrate your proclamation to people of every nation And the grace you offer to all people. We bless your name, O Lord. **Amen.**

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own. Let us 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.

Assurance of Pardon

The Lord Jesus has come to save us from our sins. Hear what he says to all who turn to him: Your sins are forgiven. **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

Hearing God's Word

Theme Introduction

(Off the cuff!)

Prayer for Grace or Collect for the Day

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.**

Reading from Scripture Isaiah 60.1-6

Hymn You are the king of glory

Psalm Psalm 72.10-15

Reading from Scripture Matthew 2.1-12

Hymn We three kings of Orient are

Sermon - including clip from Stephen Cottrell [EW Music](#) where indicated then back to

Responding to God's Word

Hymn Amazing grace

An Affirmation of Faith

1. Christ is the image of the unseen | God, the first-born of all creation;
for in him all things were made, in heaven and on earth.
- 2.
3. Through him and for him all things were made;
he exists before all things, and holds them in unity.

4. The Church is his body, and he is its head; he is the beginning, the first-born from the dead.
5. **God made all his fullness to dwell in him, to reconcile through him all creation to himself.**
6. Everything on earth and everything in heaven,
when he made peace by his death on the cross.

Rejoice and Sing 752 from Colossians 1:15-20

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

We pray for the coming of God's kingdom.

You sent your Son to bring good news to the poor, sight to the blind, freedom to the captives and salvation to your people: anoint us with your Spirit; rouse us to work in his name. We pray for this Church...

Father, by your Spirit
bring in your kingdom.

Send us to bring help to the poor and freedom to the oppressed. We pray for all who are in need or poverty, all who are suffering in places of warfare, all who are seeking a place of safety, all who are victims of discrimination or oppression, all who are affected by climate change. Give wisdom to all leaders and rulers, and inspire them to serve their people according to the Gospel values of your Kingdom.

Father, by your Spirit
bring in your kingdom.

Send us to tell the world the good news of your healing love. We pray for all who are sick or suffering, especially Joy Bosier, Richard Stainthorp, and Eric Anderson. Father, by your Spirit
bring in your kingdom.

Send us to those who mourn, to bring joy and gladness instead of grief. Father, by your Spirit
bring in your kingdom.

Send us to proclaim that the time is here for you to save your people. May we be bold to bring your good news to all the people in this area. Father, by your Spirit
bring in your kingdom.

Father, use us, unworthy as we are, to bring in your kingdom of mercy, justice, love and peace. Empower us by your Spirit and unite us in your Son, that all our joy and delight may be to serve you, now and for ever. **Amen.**

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:

Our Father...

The Offering

Generous God, we bring to you our gifts, our prayers, ourselves. Let our gifts be used well, our prayers be sincere and our lives reflect your generosity and love. So may our offering be acceptable to you; and may we be ready to receive your healing and your grace.

Amen.

Hymn O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

The Blessing

May God the Father, who led the wise men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from light, lead us also in our pilgrimage to find the Lord.

Amen.

May God the Son, who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, transform our lives and make glad our 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 us who have come to the waters of new birth.

Amen.

Let us bless one another with the Grace:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore.

Amen.