

The Parish Church of St. Paul, Wokingham



Epiphanytide Mass

*Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise,
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen.*

*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.*

The Epiphany season continues the theme of Christmas,
that God is here among us.

The wise men see the face of God in Jesus Christ.
The ministry of Jesus begins at his baptism in the Jordan.

He turns water into wine at a wedding
to highlight the new thing God has done-
and then we remember his presentation in the Temple
as a child, when Anna and Simeon rejoice at his birth
and warn Mary about the shadow of the cross over his future.
Jesus is being shown to the world, a gift given to us and for us.

These weeks are a time of ongoing joy and celebration.
The crib and decorations stay in church for the whole of the season
because all of it is Christmas, all of it is cause for joy.

Opening Hymn [*We stand to sing*]

The Gathering

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

I bring you good news of great joy:
a Saviour has been born to us. Alleluia!

For unto us a child is born, for unto us a Son is given. Alleluia!



The Prayers of Penitence *[We sit]*

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

**God our Father, long-suffering,
full of grace and truth,
you create us from nothing and give us life.
You do not turn your face from us, nor cast us aside.
We confess that we have sinned
against you and our neighbour.
We have wounded your love and marred your image in us.
Restore us for the sake of your Son,
and bring us to heavenly joy,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Lord, have mercy: Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy: Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy: Lord, have mercy.**

The Absolution: *God's promise of forgiveness*

May God almighty,
who led the Wise Men to Bethlehem
and showed them there the face of their fulfilment,
meet you in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, forgive you your sins,
and inspire you to lead life to his praise and glory,
now and always. **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis *[We stand to sing]*

a song of praise to God for his grace and goodness

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest!

**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.**

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest!

**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.**

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest!

**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.**

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest!

The Collect:

a prayer which presents the theme for the day

The Lord be with you: and also with you.

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading from the Bible *[We sit]*

At the end, the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord: thanks be to God.

The Gospel [*We stand*]
a reading from Jesus' life

Alleluia, alleluia. Our eyes have seen your salvation,
a light to enlighten the nations
and the glory of your people Israel. **Alleluia.**
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St N.
Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end the priest says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon [*We sit*]

The Creed [*We stand*]

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.
**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten not made,
of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins,
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.** *(Nicene Creed)*

The Prayers of Intercession *[We sit]*

Jesus calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.
Washed clean by the waters of baptism,
let us pray that we may live the life to which he has called us.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace *[We stand]*

Christ is our peace. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.
The old has passed away: behold, everything has become new.
The peace of the Lord be always with you: **and also with you.**

Offertory Hymn *[We stand to sing]*

The Preparation of the Gifts

Blessed be God by whose grace creation is renewed,
by whose love heaven is opened, by whose mercy
we offer this, our sacrifice of praise: **Blessed be God for ever.**

Pray my brothers and sisters,
that our sacrifice may be acceptable
to God the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands,
for the praise and glory of his holy name,
for our good and the good of all his church.**

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

Eucharistic Prayer B

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.

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.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper,
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, 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.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one
in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of all the saints,
may praise and glorify your name for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray as our Saviour has 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.**

The Breaking of the 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 life and light.**

Agnus Dei

**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.**

The Invitation to Communion

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven. Alleluia!
Lord, give us this bread always. Alleluia!

*If you usually receive Communion in your own Church,
or you've done so in the past, you are welcome to receive
the Body and Blood of Christ here today.*

*Please tell the priest if you need a gluten free wafer.
If you would prefer to receive a prayer of Blessing, simply come
forward with everyone else carrying this order of service.
You are invited to join in singing the hymn during communion.*

Post-Communion Prayer *[We stand]*

**God of glory, you nourish us with your Word
who is the bread of life:
fill us with your Holy Spirit
that through us the light of your glory
may shine in all the world.**

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Notices and Banns of Marriage

The Dismissal

The Blessing *[We stand]*

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

May God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness,
give us a place with the saints in light
in the kingdom of his beloved Son. **Amen.**

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
shine in your hearts and fill your lives with his joy and peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing...

Recessional Hymn

The Dismissal:

we are sent into the world to live to God's glory

We have seen Christ's glory, the glory revealed to all the nations.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

*After the service, you are warmly invited to join other members
of the congregation for coffee in the Parish Rooms.*

*If you'd like a visit from a member of the clergy,
or have any questions, or would like to find out more,
then please speak to someone as you leave Church this morning.*



*... This was the moment
when a few farm workers and three members
of an obscure Persian sect
walked haphazard by starlight
straight into the kingdom of heaven.*

from 'This was the moment' by UA Fanthorpe