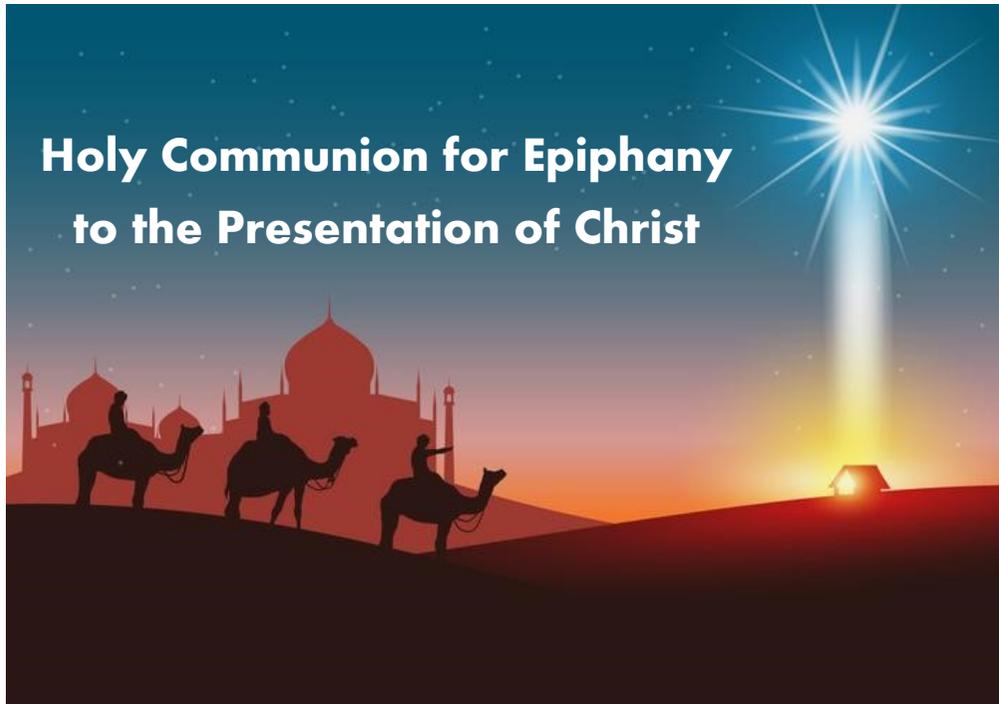


Canalside Benefice



Introduction to the Season

In the Western churches, the Epiphany ('manifestation') became an occasion to celebrate one element in the story of Christ's birth, the visit of the far-travelled Magi, understood as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. Matthew's account speaks simply of 'wise men from the east'; later tradition fixed their number at three, made them kings and recalled their resonant names – Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar.

The season of joyful celebration that begins at Christmas continues through the successive Sundays of Epiphany, and the festal cycle ends only with the Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas). The child who has been manifested to the Magi at his birth is now recognized by Simeon and Anna, when he comes to be presented in the Temple according to the Law of Israel. He is both 'a light to lighten the Gentiles' and 'the glory of God's people Israel'. But the redemption he will bring must be won through suffering; the Incarnation is directed to the Passion; and Simeon's final words move our attention away from the celebration of Christmas and towards the mysteries of Easter.



THE GATHERING

Please stand at the entry of the ministers

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

Introduction

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe.
**From the rising of the sun to its setting your name
is proclaimed in all the world**

The Lord of glory be with you.
The Lord bless you.

Opening Hymn

Prayer of Preparation

Please sit or kneel. There will be a moment of silence.

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Invitation to Confession

(Please Sit or kneel)

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.

We confess our sins (saying sorry)

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.

The Absolution

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour,
forgive you your sins
and make you holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Gloria

We say or sing the Gloria (Please stand)

**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.**

**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.**

**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.
Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Please join in with the words for the Collect on the Pewsheet

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading *(Please sit)*

Following the reading(s) the reader may say:

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Hymn *(Please stand)*

Gospel Reading *(remain standing)*

Epiphany to the Eve of the Presentation

Alleluia, alleluia,
Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations
and believed in throughout the world.

Alleluia

cf 1 Timothy 3.16

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Alleluia, alleluia
This child it the light to enlighten the nations,
And the glory of your people Israel.

Alleluia

cf Luke 2.32

The reader will say:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N...
Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end:

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

The Sermon

Please sit after the introduction

Affirmation of Faith

Please stand

Let us declare our faith in God:

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through
faith, and fills us with his love.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

**We believe in one God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

(Please sit or kneel)

The intercessor may use the response

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

At the end they may say

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

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace *(Please stand)*

From Epiphany to the Eve of the Presentation

Christ is our peace.
If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.
The old has passed away: behold, everything has become
new.

2 Corinthians 5.17

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

We are a chosen race, a royal priesthood,
a holy nation, God's own people,
that we may proclaim the mighty acts of him
who called us out of darkness into his marvellous light.
Gathered as his people we share his peace.

1 Peter 2.9

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

Prayers at the Preparation of the Table

Epiphany to the Eve of the Presentation

Lord, accept your people's gifts,
not gold, frankincense or myrrh,
but hearts and voices raised in praise of Jesus Christ,
our light and our salvation.
Amen.

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Father, in Christ there has sprung up a light for the righteous;
accept the offering of your Church
and grant that Christ may shine in us
to the praise and glory of your name.
Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

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.

(Please sit or kneel)

Epiphany to the Eve of the Presentation

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

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

It is indeed right and good,
always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ, who is one with you from all eternity.
For on this day he appeared in the Temple
in substance of our flesh
to come near to us in judgement.
He searches the hearts of all your people
and brings to light the image of your splendour.
Your servant Simeon acclaimed him as the light to lighten the
nations, while Anna spoke of him to all who looked for your
redemption.
Destined for the falling and rising of many, he was lifted high
upon the cross and a sword of sorrow pierced his mother's

heart when by his sacrifice he made our peace with you.
And now we rejoice and glorify your name
that we, too, have seen your salvation
and join with angels and archangels
in their unending hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with *[N and]* all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive
those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

or:

Let us pray with confidence 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.**

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 light and life.**

The Agnus Dei is said by all

**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.**

or **Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.



Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

**Most merciful Lord,
your love compels us to come in.
Our hands were unclean, our hearts were unprepared;
we were not fit even to eat the crumbs from under your
table.
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation, and share your
bread with sinners.
So cleanse and feed us with the precious body and blood
of your Son, that he may live in us and we in him;
and that we, with the whole company of Christ, may sit and
eat in your kingdom.
Amen**

*All are welcome to come to the communion rail.
All who are confirmed and/or who usually receive communion in an-
other Church are welcome to receive communion.
Please kneel or stand and lift your hands to receive. Authorized
words of distribution are used and the communicant replies **Amen**.*

*If you would rather not receive communion but would like the priest to
pray God's blessing on you, then leave your hands by your side.
During the distribution hymns and anthems may be sung. Please
join in with the hymns if you would like to.*

Prayer after Communion *(Please sit or kneel)*

*The post Communion Prayer (which will be found on the Pewsheet)
is said, followed by:*

**Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Final Hymn *(Please stand)*

Notices may be given.

Blessing and Dismissal

Epiphany to the Eve of the Presentation

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
and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,
fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will;
and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

A minister says

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

The ministers and people depart.



When possible after the service, there will be an opportunity to talk with a minister and / or request prayer.

Refreshments may be served.

We have gathered together as the family of God to worship God, to celebrate Christ's love and to be nurtured through his Word and through the sacrament of bread and wine. We now go back into the world in which we live our daily lives to continue our worship, as we live for him and serve him in any way we can.

