

All Saints' Margaret Street

Epiphany Carol Service

The Baptism of the Lord

8th January, 2023, 6pm



ORGAN PRELUDE: Maurice Duruflé (1902-86), Prélude sur l'Introït de l'Épiphanie
Candles are lit during the organ prelude. All stand when the bell rings.

ENTRANCE HYMN: Of the Father's heart begotten

Choir: Of the Father's heart begotten,
Ere the world from chaos rose,
He is Alpha: from that Fountain
All that is and hath been flows;
He is Omega, of all things
Yet to come the mystic Close,
Evermore and evermore.

By his word was all created;
He commanded and 'twas done;
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,
Universe of three in one,
All that sees the moon's soft radiance,
All that breathes beneath the sun,
Evermore and evermore.

**O how blest that wondrous birthday,
When the Maid the curse retrieved,
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,
By the Holy Ghost conceived;
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
In her loving arms received,
Evermore and evermore.**

**This is he, whom seer and sibyl
Sang in ages long gone by;
This is he of old revealed
In the page of prophecy;
Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;
let the world his praises cry!
Evermore and evermore.**

**Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
Let your joyous anthems ring,
Every tongue his name confessing,
Countless voices answering,
Evermore and evermore.**

(R.F. Davis, 1866-1937; Tune: Divinum Mysterium)

THE INTRODUCTION, LORD'S PRAYER AND COLLECT

Beloved in Christ, we are gathered to celebrate with joy the appearance of God's glory in the world through the birth of Jesus, who is Emmanuel, God with us; and to reflect upon the visit of the magi bringing homage to their King at his birth. As we rejoice in this, the Word made flesh, who called us out of darkness into light, so we pray that his love and faithfulness may be known in all the world.

We pray for the unity and mission of Christ's Church, and for all who minister the gospel of Christ; we pray for the world, that we may have reverence for the natural order and respect for every person, made in the image and likeness of God; and we pray for those who stand in need, for the lonely, the fearful, the sick and the bereaved, and for all who have no-one to pray for them.

Believing the promises of God, 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.**

O God, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only-begotten Son to the Gentiles; Mercifully grant that we, who know thee now by faith, may after this life have the fruition of thy glorious Godhead; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All sit.

THE FIRST LESSON: Genesis 1.1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

MOTET: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-94), Surge, illuminare

Surge, illuminare, Jerusalem, quia venit lumen tuum, et gloria Domini super te orta est. Quia ecce tenebrae operient terram et caligo populos. Super te autem orietur Dominus et gloria eius in te videbitur.

Arise, shine, O Jerusalem; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

(Text: Isaiah 60.1-2)

THE SECOND LESSON: Isaiah 60.1-6, 19

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. The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night; but the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.

MOTET: Jacob Handl (1550-91), Omnes de saba venient

Omnes de Saba venient aurum et thus deferentes et laudem annuntiantes Domino.

All they from Saba shall come, bringing gold and frankincense: and shewing forth praise to the Lord.

(Text: Isaiah 60.6)

All stand to sing **HYMN: Brightest and best**

**Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

**Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining,
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall:
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.**

**Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,
Odours of Edom, and offerings divine?
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?**

**Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would his favour secure;
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.**

**Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

(Reginald Heber, 1783-1826; Tune: Epiphany)

THE THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 49.6-13

Thus says the Lord, It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth. Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, 'Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.' Thus says the Lord: In a time of favour I have answered you, on a day of salvation I have helped you; I have kept you and given you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages; saying to the prisoners, 'Come out', to those who are in darkness, 'Show yourselves.' They shall feed along the ways, on all the bare heights shall be their pasture; they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them down, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them. And I will turn all my mountains into a road, and my highways shall be raised up. Lo, these shall come from far away, and lo, these from the north and from the west, and these from the land of Syene. Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people, and will have compassion on his suffering ones.

MOTET: Philip Moore (b.1943), Benedictus Dominus Deus Israel

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel : for he hath visited, and redeemed his people;
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us : in the house of his servant David;
As he spake by the mouth of his holy Prophets : which have been since the world began;
That we should be saved from our enemies : and from the hands of all that hate us;
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers : and to remember his holy Covenant;
To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham : that he would give us;
That we being delivered out of the hands of our enemies : might serve him without fear;
In holiness and righteousness before him : all the days of our life.
And thou, Child, shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest : for thou shalt go before the face
of the Lord to prepare his ways;
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people : for the remission of their sins,
Through the tender mercy of our God : whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us;
To give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death : and to guide our feet
into the way of peace.

(Text: Luke 1.68-79)

THE FOURTH LESSON: Baruch 4.36-5.end

Look towards the east, O Jerusalem, and see the joy that is coming to you from God. Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, 'Righteous Peace, Godly Glory'. Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look towards the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

MOTET: Judith Bingham (b.1952), Lo! the Star

And lo! the star, that they saw in the east, went before them, till it came, and stood above, where the child was. And they saw the star, and joyed with a full great joy. And they entered into the house, and found the child with Mary, his mother; and they felled down, and worshipped him. And when they had opened their treasures, they offered to him gifts, gold, incense and myrrh.

(Text: from the Gospel of Matthew, translated by John Wycliff)

All stand to sing **As with gladness men of old**

**As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious God, may we
Evermore be led to thee.**

**As with joyful steps they sped,
To that lowly manger-bed,
There to bend the knee before
Him whom heaven and earth adore,
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek thy mercy-seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare
At that manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure, and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee our heavenly King.**

**Holy Jesu, every day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds thy glory hide.**

**In the heavenly country bright
Need they no created light;
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,
Thou its Sun which goes not down:
There for ever may we sing
Alleluyas to our King.**

(W. Chatterton Dix, 1837-98; Tune: Dix)

THE FIFTH LESSON: Isaiah 9.2-3, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

MOTET: Edward Elgar (1857-1934), Light of the world

Light of the world, we know thy praise,
The angels and arch-angels raise,
And all the host of Heav'n;
More worthily than our faint hymns,
Whose jarring sound that glory dims,
Which God to Thee hast given.

But Thou didst not disdain to take our low estate,
Or e'en to make the tomb Thy resting place;
So Thou might bring into our night
The dawn of Thine eternal Light
To shine upon our face.

Nor death, nor hell, nor sin is Lord,
But Thou, O Son of God.
Thy word is now our sovereign law.
Therefore we thank Thee and we pray
Thy light may shine unto the perfect day;
Thy light may shine on us for evermore.

(Text: The Rev'd E. Capel-Cure)

THE SIXTH LESSON: Revelation 21.22-22.5

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day – and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honour of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practises abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

MOTET: Francis Poulenc (1899-1963), Videntes stellam

Videntes stellam Magi gavisus sunt gaudio magno: et intrantes domum obtulerunt Domino aurum, thus et myrrham.

Upon seeing the star, the Magi rejoiced in great joy: and entering the house they offered gold, frankincense and myrrh.

(Text: Antiphon at Matins for Epiphany, abridged)

All stand to sing **HYMN: Bethlehem, of noblest cities**

**Bethlehem, of noblest cities
None can once with thee compare;
Thou alone the Lord from heaven
Didst for us incarnate bear.**

**Fairer than the sun at morning
Was the star that told his birth;
To the lands their God announcing,
Seen in fleshly form on earth.**

**By its lambent beauty guided
See the eastern kings appear;
See them bend, their gifts to offer,
Gifts of incense, gold and myrrh.**

**Solemn things of mystic meaning:
Incense doth the God disclose,
Gold a royal child proclaimeth,
Myrrh a future tomb foreshows.**

**Holy Jesu, in thy brightness
To the Gentile world displayed,
With the Father and the Spirit
Endless praise to thee be paid. Amen.**

(Edward Caswall, 1814-78; Tune: Stuttgart)

All remain standing for **THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 2.1-12**

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

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.

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

Please extinguish your candles now. The Blessed Sacrament is placed on the altar during the following hymn, at which point the bell rings and all kneel:

HYMN: O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
With gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
Kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!**

**Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,
High on his heart he will bear it for thee,
Comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
Guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.**

**Fear not to enter His courts in the slenderness
Of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:
Truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
These are the offerings to lay on his shrine.**

**These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
He will accept for the name that is dear;
Mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
Trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.**

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
With gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
Kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!**

(J.S.B. Monsell, 1811-75; Tune: Was lebet)

BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *are offered*

The Magi knelt before our Saviour. Let us also worship him with great joy, and pray:
Lord, have mercy.

King of nations, the wise men came from the East to worship you: grant us the true spirit of adoration and submission.
Lord, have mercy.

King of glory, your people look to you for judgement: grant an abundance of peace to our world.
Lord, have mercy.

King of ages, your word is ever powerful: may it penetrate our hearts and lives today.
Lord, have mercy.

King of justice, show your love for the poor and the powerless; strengthen those who are suffering.
Lord, have mercy.

King of heaven, hope of all who trust in you; give to the faithful departed the wonders of your salvation.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, you were revealed by a guiding star as the Father's Only-Begotten Son to all the peoples of the world. Lead us from the faith by which we know you now to the vision of your glory, face to face.

Silence is kept.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus:

Have mercy on us.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus:

Have mercy on us.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus:

Have mercy on us.

TANTUM ERGO *is sung by the choir*

Tantum ergo sacramentum
Veneremur cernui,
Et antiquum documentum
Novo cedat ritui
Præstet fides supplementum
Sensuum defectui

Genitori genitoque
Laus et jubilatio,
Salus, honor, virtus quoque
Sit et benediction
Procedenti ab utroque
Compar sit laudatio. Amen.

(Setting: Louis Vierne, 1870-1937)

*Therefore we, before him bending,
This great Sacrament revere;
Types and shadows have their ending,
For the newer rite is here;
Faith, our outward sense befriending,
Makes the inward vision clear.*

*Glory let us give, and blessing
To the Father and the Son,
Honour, might, and praise addressing,
While eternal ages run;
Ever too his love confessing,
Who from both with both is One. Amen.*

Thou gavest them bread from heaven. **Containing within itself all sweetness.**

Let us pray: O God, who in a wonderful sacrament hast left unto us a memorial of thy Passion: grant us, we beseech thee, so to venerate the sacred mysteries of thy Body and Blood, that we may evermore perceive within ourselves the fruits of thy redemption; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

The Celebrant blesses the people with the Blessed Sacrament.

All repeat the Divine Praises after the Celebrant:

Blessed be God.

Blessed be his holy Name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.

Blessed be the Name of Jesus.

Blessed be his most Sacred Heart.

Blessed be his most Precious Blood.

Blessed be Jesus in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

Blessed be the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.

Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.

Blessed be her glorious Assumption.

Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.

Blessed be Saint Joseph, her spouse most chaste.

Blessed be God in his angels and in his saints.

While the Blessed Sacrament is replaced in the tabernacle, all sing Psalm 117:

Let us adore, for ever, **the most holy Sacrament.**

O praise the Lord, all ye heathen : **praise him, all ye nations. For his merciful kindness is ever more and more towards us: and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise the Lord.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

Let us adore, for ever, **the most holy Sacrament.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY: Gaston Litaize (1909-91), Épiphanie

*A retiring collection is raised. Please make donations in the collection plate
or tap your debit or credit card on the machine.*

*The bar will open for one hour after Benediction, for members and their guests.
Annual subscriptions are now due, at a cost of £5. New members are welcome.*