

# All Saints' Margaret Street Epiphany Carol Service



## The Epiphany of the Lord

*7<sup>th</sup> January, 2024, 6pm*

**ORGAN PRELUDE** *Les Mages*, from *La Nativité du Seigneur* – Olivier Messiaen, 1908-1992

*“The Magi left, and the star went before them”*

*Candles are lit during the organ prelude. All stand when the bell rings.*

## ENTRANCE HYMN Of the Father's heart begotten

1 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.*

4 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,

5 This is he, whom seer and sybil  
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!

6 Let the storm and summer sunshine,  
Gliding stream and sounding shore,  
Sea and forest, frost and zephyr,  
Day and night their Lord adore;  
Let creation join to laud thee  
Through the ages evermore,

7 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.*

*(Text: Latin, PRUDENTIUS, 348-413; tr. R. F. Davis, 1866-1937)*

## THE INTRODUCTION & COLLECT

As we rejoice in the Word made flesh, who comes among us to reveal God's glory, let us pray that his kingly reign may be acknowledged throughout the world.

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

*All sit.*

## MOTET The Three Kings – Peter Cornelius, 1824-1874

Three Kings from Persian lands afar  
to Jordan follow the pointing star:  
and this the quest of the travellers three,  
where the new-born King of the Jews may be.  
Full royal gifts they bear for the King;  
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

The star shines out with a steadfast ray;  
the kings to Bethlehem make their way,  
and there in worship they bend the knee,  
as Mary's child in her lap they see;  
their royal gifts they show to the King;  
gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem  
the Kings are travelling, travel with them!  
The star of mercy, the star of grace,  
shall lead thy heart to its resting place.  
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring;  
offer thy heart to the infant King.

How brightly shines the morning star!  
With grace and truth from heaven afar  
our Jesse tree now bloweth.  
Of Jacob's stem and David's line,  
for thee, my Bridegroom, King divine,  
my soul with love o'erfloweth.  
Thy word, Jesu, inly feeds us,  
rightly leads us, life bestowing.  
Praise, O praise such love o'erflowing.

## THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 60.1-6, 19

Arise, shine; 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. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side. Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee. The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all they from Sheba shall come: they shall bring gold and incense; and they shall shew forth the praises of the Lord. The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.

*All stand to sing the HYMN: Brightest and best sons of the sons of the morning*

**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.**

*(Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826)*

## THE SECOND LESSON Baruch 4.36-5.9

Look towards the east, O Jerusalem, and see the joy that is coming to you from God. Look, your children are coming, whom you sent away; they are coming, gathered from east and west, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing in the glory of 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 Omnes de Saba – Jacob Handl, 1550-1591**

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

All they from Sheba shall come, bringing  
gold and frankincense,  
and showing forth praise to the Lord.  
Alleluia.

V: Surge et illuminare Jerusalem  
Quia Gloria Domini super te orta est, gloria  
Domini  
Alleluja.

*(Text: Isaiah 60.6)*

**THE THIRD LESSON Matthew 2.1-12**

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

**MOTET Videntes Stellam – Huw Belling, b. 1986**

Videntes stellam Magi, gavi sunt gaudio. Obtulerunt Domino aurum, thus et myrrham.

Seeing the star, the Magi rejoiced with great joy. They offered the Lord gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Lay him in this stall, and from the Orient, Starres and wise men will travell to prevent th' effect of Herrods jealous gen' rall doome. But Oh, hath th'Inne no roome? Seest thou, my Soule, with thy faith's eyes, how He which fills all place, yet none holds Him, doth lye?

*(Text: from Matthew 2: 10-11, and Nativitie by John Donne)*

*All stand to sing the* **HYMN: O Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness**

**1 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.**

**2 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.**

**3 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.**

*(Text: J. S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875)*

**THE FOURTH LESSON** Matthew 2.13-end

And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son. Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not. But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.

**4 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.**

**5 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.**

**MOTET Vox in Rama – George Kirbye, 1565-1634**

Vox in Rama audita est  
ploratus et ululatus multus,  
Rachel plorans filios suos,  
et noluit consolari, quia non sunt.

A voice is heard in Ramah  
of weeping and great lamentation.  
Rachel is weeping for her children,  
and will not be comforted because they are  
no more.

*(Text: Matthew 2:18 citing Jeremiah 31:15)*

*All stand to sing the* **HYMN: Why impious Herod**

**1 Why, impious Herod, shouldst thou fear  
Because the Christ is come so near?  
He who doth heavenly kingdoms grant  
Thine earthly realm can never want.**

**4 Yet he that ruleth everything  
Can change the nature of the spring,  
And gives at Cana this for sign--  
The water reddens into wine.**

**2 Lo, sages from the East are gone  
To where the star hath newly shone:  
Led on by light to Light they press,  
And by their gifts their God confess.**

**5 Then glory, Lord, to thee we pay  
For thine Epiphany to-day;  
All glory through eternity  
To Father, Son, and Spirit be. Amen.**

**3 The Lamb of God is manifest  
Again in Jordan's water blest,  
And he who sin had never known  
By washing hath our sins undone.**

*All remain standing for* **THE HOLY GOSPEL** Luke 2.21-32

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

And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called Jesus, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb. And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord; (As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons. And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

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

## BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

*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.*

*All stand to sing the HYMN: Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

**1 Hail to the Lord's Anointed,  
Great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed,  
His reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
To set the captive free;  
To take away transgression,  
And rule in equity.**

**2 He shall come down like showers  
Upon the fruitful earth;  
And love, joy, hope, like flowers,  
Spring in His path to birth:  
Before Him on the mountains  
Shall peace, the herald, go;  
And righteousness, in fountains,  
From hill to valley flow.**

**3 Kings shall fall down before Him,  
And gold and incense bring;  
All nations shall adore Him,  
His praise all people sing;  
For He shall have dominion  
O'er river, sea, and shore,  
Far as the eagle's pinion,  
Or dove's light wing can soar.**

**4 To Him shall prayer unceasing  
And daily vows ascend;  
His kingdom still increasing,  
A kingdom without end.  
The mountain dews shall nourish  
A seed in weakness sown,  
Whose fruit shall spread and flourish,  
And shake like Lebanon.**

**5 O'er every foe victorious  
He on His throne shall rest,  
From age to age more glorious,  
All-blessing and all-blest.  
The tide of time shall never  
His covenant remove;  
His Name shall stand forever,  
His changeless Name of Love.  
Amen.**

*(Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854 after Psalm 72)*

## THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*The response is:*

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

**TANTUM ERGO** *is sung by the choir*

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.

*(Setting: Hector Berlioz, 1803-1869)*

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.**

**VOLUNTARY** Dieu Parmi Nous, *from* La Nativité du Seigneur – Olivier Messiaen, 1908-1992

*“The words of the communicant, of the Virgin, and of the whole Church: He who created me dwells in my tabernacle, the Word is made flesh and dwells within me. My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my saviour.”*

*A retiring collection is raised. Please make donations by tapping your debit or credit card on the machine or by scanning the QR code.*

*The bar will open for one hour after Benediction.*

