

A Short Act of Worship, Epiphany 2021

The Lord will be your everlasting light and your God will be your glory.

Please take a few moments of quiet to reflect on all that has passed and on what lies ahead.

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

*How brightly beams the Morning Star!
What sudden radiance from afar doth glad us with its shining,
Brightness of God that breaks our night and fills the darken'd souls with light
Who long for truth were pining!
Thy Word, Jesu, only feeds us, rightly leads us, life bestowing;
Praise, oh praise such love o'erflowing.*

God's Word:

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.

(Matthew 2: 1-12)

Take a few moments of silence to think about these words

You may then like to spend a few minutes in silence, or slowly read (maybe sing) this hymn:

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?

