

St John's College Chapel



Epiphany Carol Service

Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd January 2011
6.00 pm

EPIPHANY

Epiphany celebrates the appearance of God's glory in the world through the birth of Jesus, our Emmanuel ('God with us'), and the revelation of the incarnation to the Gentiles, and indeed the whole of creation. It has been marked since the 3rd century with a Feast Day on the 6th of January and celebrated in both East and West in a rich variety of ways. In the Western Church, the emphasis has been on the nativity itself and the acknowledgement of Christ's sovereignty over all through the visit of the Magi bringing their gifts of frankincense, gold and myrrh. The revelation of his true nature is echoed by the words of the prophet Simeon, the *Nunc Dimittis*, at the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (February 2nd) that marks the end of the season of Epiphany.

The Greek word epiphany (ἐπιφάνεια) means literally 'sudden appearance' and refers above all to the 'manifestation' of a god. It is the moment and the means by which we see that Jesus is so much more than a good human being, a wise teacher and a moral example but in fact God made man, the Word become flesh. It is in this sense that Simeon declares him to be 'salvation' and 'a light to lighten the Gentiles' and that later Jesus calls himself 'the Light of the World', and so the symbolism of light pervades both this season and our service. Christ calls us out of darkness and into light, so that we may recognise the imprints of his divine fashioning in all creation. We pray that our eyes may be opened to see his glory: to have reverence for the whole of creation and respect for every person, for all are made in the image and likeness of God.

ORGAN MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

Played by Freddie James

Toccata in D minor

Johann Jakob Froberger
(1616–1667)

Chorale Fantasia ‘Wie schön leuchtet’

Dieterich Buxtehude
(c.1637–1707)

from La Nativité du Seigneur
Desseins éternels

Olivier Messiaen
(1908–1992)

Played by John Challenger

from La Nativité du Seigneur
Les bergers
Les mages

Olivier Messiaen
(1908–1992)

ORDER OF SERVICE

The service begins with the Chapel in darkness.

FIRST LESSON

SAINT JOHN 1 verses 1–14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM

O magnum mysterium et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum iacentem in praesepeio.
Beata virgo, cuius viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Christum.

*O great mystery and wonderful sacrament,
that beasts should see the new-born Lord lying in a manger.
Blessed is the virgin, whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Christ.*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

¶ *Stand*

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.

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.

Words *Prudentius* (348–413)
Trans. R.F. Davis (1866–1937)

Tune DIVINUM MYSTERIUM
*Melody from 'Piae Cantiones
Theoderici Petri Nylandensis' 1582*

Brothers and sisters, 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; to reflect upon the visit of the magi bringing homage to their King at his birth; and to hear the prophetic words of Anna and Simeon revealing the Christ child as a light to lighten all people.

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.

May God our Father take us and use us in his service; may he open our eyes to see his glory and equip us to bless his people, now and at all times. **Amen.**

Believing the promises of God, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

I THE WORD MADE FLESH

SENTENCE

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the shadow of death, upon them has the light shined.

Priest: Arise, shine, for your light has come:

Response: **And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.**

COLLECT

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

SECOND LESSON

¶ *Sit*

SAINT MATTHEW 1 verses 18–23

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ‘Look, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him ‘Emmanuel’, which means, ‘God is with us.’

AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me for ever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Words *Anonymous, 19th century*

Music *William Kirkpatrick*
(1838–1921)

Arr. *David Willcocks*
(b.1919)

BENEDICAMUS DOMINO

Procedenti puero,
Eya, nobis annus est:
Virginis ex utero—Gloria, laudes!
Deus homo factus est—et immortalis.
Sine viri semine
Natus est de virgine;
Sine viri copia
Natus est ex Maria.
In hoc festo determino
Benedicamus Domino.

*For the advent of a child,
Hurrah! the season is upon us.
From a virgin's womb—Glory, praises!
God has been made man—and immortal.
Without a husband's seed
He has been born of a virgin;
Without recourse to a husband
He has been born of Mary.
Upon this festal tide.
Let us bless the Lord.*

Words from *Sloane MS 2593*

Music *Peter Warlock*
(1894–1930)

THIRD LESSON

SAINT LUKE 2 verses 8–20

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

WHAT SWEETER MUSIC?

What sweeter music can we bring,
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heavenly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string!

Dark and dull night, fly hence away,
And give the honour to this Day,
That sees December turned to May.

Why does the chilling Winters morne
Smile, like a field beset with corn?
Or smell, like a meadow newly-shorn,
Thus, on the sudden? Come and see

The cause, why things thus fragrant be:
'Tis he is born, whose quickening Birth
Gives life and luster, public mirth,
To Heaven, and the under-Earth.

We see him come, and know him ours,
Who, with his sun-shine and his showers,
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.

The Darling of the world is come,
And fit it is, we find a room
To welcome him. The nobler part
Of all the house here, is the heart,

Which we will give him; and bequeath
This holly, and this ivy wreath,
To do him honour; who's our King,
And Lord of all this revelling.

What sweeter music can we bring,
Than a carol for to sing
The birth of this our heavenly King?

THE SEVEN JOYS OF MARY

^{1.} The first good joy our Mary had,
It was the joy of one;
To see the blessed Jesus Christ
When he was first her son, good man:

*And blessed may he be,
Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
To all eternity.*

^{2.} The next good joy our Mary had,
It was the joy of two;
To see her own son Jesus Christ
To make the lame to go, good man:

Refrain

^{3.} The next good joy our Mary had,
It was the joy of three;
To see her own son Jesus Christ
To make the blind to see, good man:

Refrain

^{4.} The next good joy our Mary had,
It was the joy of four;
To see her own son Jesus Christ
To read the Bible o'er, good man:

Refrain

^{5.} The next good joy our Mary had,
It was the joy of five;
To see her own son Jesus Christ
To raise the dead alive, good man:

Refrain

^{6.} The next good joy our Mary had,
It was the joy of six;
To see her own son Jesus Christ
To bear the Crucifix, good man:

Refrain

^{7.} The next good joy our Mary had,
It was the joy of seven;
To see her own son Jesus Christ
To wear the Crown of heaven, good man:

Refrain

Words *Anonymous, 14th Century*

Music *Traditional melody*
arr. *William Whitehead*
(b. 1970)

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

Words *Prudentius (348–413)*
Trans. *Edward Caswell*
(1814–1878)

Tune STUTTGART
Adapted from a melody in C.F. Witt's
'Harmonia Sacra' Gotha 1715

II THE KING OF THE NATIONS

¶*Remain standing*

SENTENCE

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow; in heaven, on earth and under the earth: and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Priest: Nations shall come to your light:

Response: **And kings to your dawning brightness.**

COLLECT

Almighty Father, by the leading of a star you revealed your only-begotten Son to the peoples of the earth: in your mercy grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SAINT MATTHEW 2 verses 1–12

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.

THE THREE KINGS

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.
How brightly shines the morning star!
With grace and truth from heaven afar
Our Jesse tree now bloweth.

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.
Of Jacob's stem and David's line,
For thee, my Bridegroom, King divine,
My soul with love o'erfloweth.

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.
Thy word, Jesu, inly feeds us,
Rightly leads us, life bestowing.
Praise, O praise such love o'erflowing.

Words *Peter Cornelius*
(1824–1874)
Philipp Nicolai
(1556–1608)
Trans. *H.N. Bate*

Music *Peter Cornelius*
(1824–1874)
Arr. *Ivor Atkins*
(1869–1953)

I WONDER AS I WANDER

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Saviour did come for to die.
For poor on'ry people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall,
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from the heavens a star's light did fall,
And promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,
He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

Words *John Niles*
(1892–1980)

Music *Carl Riitti*
(b. 1949)

FIFTH LESSON

SAINT MATTHEW 2 verses 13–18

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

COVENTRY CAROL

*Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child,
By, by, lully, lullay,
Lully, thou little tiny child,
Lully, lulla, lullay.*

O sisters too, how may we do,
For to preserve this day?
This poor youngling, for whom we sing,
By, by, lully, lullay?

Refrain

Herod the king, in his raging,
Charged he hath this day
His men of might, in his own sight,
All children young to slay.

Refrain

That woe is me, poor child for thee!
And ever mourn and day,
For thy parting neither say nor sing,
By, by, lully, lullay!

Refrain

Words *The pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors*
(15th Century)

Music *Traditional tune of 1591*

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.

Words *Reginald Heber*
(1783–1826)

Tune EPIPHANY
Joseph Thrupp
(1827–1867)

III LIGHT TO THE WORLD

¶*Remain standing*

SENTENCE

But the hour is coming, and now is, when true worshippers will worship in spirit and truth.

Priest: And the Lord, whom you seek:

Response: **Shall suddenly come to his temple.**

COLLECT

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was presented in the Temple in substance of our flesh, and was acclaimed the glory of Israel and the light of the nations: grant that in him we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, and in the world may reflect his glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GLORY TO THE CHRIST CHILD

¶*Sit*

Glory, alleluia to the Christ!

Glory, alleluia to the Christ Child!

¹ Out of the orient, crystal skies
A blazing star did shine,
Showing the place where sleeping lies
A blessed Babe divine.

Refrain

² This very star three kings did guide
Even from the furthest East,
To Bethlehem where it betide
This blessed Babe did rest.

Refrain

³ And for the joy of His great birth
A thousand angels sing:
‘Glory and peace unto the earth
Where born is this new King!’

Refrain

SIXTH LESSON

SAINT LUKE 2 verses 21–32

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons’.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’

NUNC DIMITTIS

Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine,
Secundum verbum tuum in pace:
Quia viderunt oculi mei salutare tuum
Quod parasti ante faciem omnium populorum:
Lumen ad revelationem gentium, et gloriam plebis tuae Israel.
Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto,
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,
Et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

*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;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
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.*

Words *Luke 2 vv. 29–32*

Music *Gustav Holst*
(1874–1934)

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,
And 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!

Words *J.S.B. Monsell*
(1811–1875)

Tune WAS LEBET
Melody from the 'Reinhardt' MS 1754

THE COLLEGE PRAYER

¶*Remain standing*

Bless, O Lord, the work of this College which is called by the name of thy beloved disciple, and grant that love of the brethren and all sound learning may ever grow and prosper here, to thy honour and glory, and to the good of thy people, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit livest and reignest, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

from La Nativité du Seigneur
Dieu parmi nous

Oliver Messiaen
(1908–1992)

The retiring collection will be in aid of the



WATOTO AND WATOTO'S CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Watoto is a Christian charity which seeks to care for the orphaned and vulnerable children of Africa, whose lives have been ravaged by war and HIV/AIDS, through the provision of holistic, residential care, education and the promotion of active citizenship. To support and promote this vision, the Watoto Children's Choir have been touring internationally since 1994 as advocates for the children of Africa giving audiences the opportunity to respond to Africa's HIV/AIDS and war crisis.

Further details can be found at www.watoto.com