

The Parish Church of St Giles with St Mary's, Pontefract



Epiphany

3rd January 2021 ~ 10.15 a.m.

Live at St Giles' Church and
Live Streamed on Facebook

WELCOME TO WORSHIP- helping to keep each other safe.

- **MOBILE PHONES**—To avoid loss of signal when livestreaming the service, would you please either turn your phone off or put it onto 'Airplane Mode' in settings
- **FACE MASKS** – must be worn unless you are exempt
- **TEST AND TRACE** – Please give your details to the sidesperson or use the NHS 'Test and Trace' app
- **HAND HYGIENE** – Please sanitise on entry and exit and before receiving communion
- **SOCIAL DISTANCING** – The 2 metres rule to be followed, or if not possible 1 metre plus with mitigations
- **SEATING ARRANGEMENTS** – You will be seated in appropriate seats by the sidespeople
- **SERVICE SHEETS** – Please take home with you
- **MUSIC, SINGING AND RESPONSES** - Singing is not currently permitted for congregations. A small choral group is permitted. All responses will be said using a quiet voice
- **THE PEACE** – please only share by a smile or wave
- **RECEIVING COMMUNION** – The sidespeople will direct you. Please sanitise your hands as directed. When you reach the priest, please remove your mask and stretch out your hands.
- **AT THE END OF THE SERVICE** - Please remain in your seat until a steward asks you to leave, and then please go directly to the designated exit as guided by them. Mingling amongst groups is not permitted by law indoors and outdoors. Rule of six applies.
- **FOOD AND DRINK** – sadly, there can be no refreshments available after the service.
- **LIGHTING OF CANDLES** – can be done after the service.
- **TOILETS** -Toilet facilities are available, but only one person will be able to enter the toilet area at a time to ensure social distancing.
- **TITHES AND OFFERINGS** – please place onto the plate near the exit door.

The Gathering

Hymn (Sung by The Choir)

*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 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.*

*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.*



William Chatterton Dix, 1837-98

✠ In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Greeting

The president greets the people

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.

The Gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh are offered at the Crib

At the offering of gold

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As gold in the furnace is tried
and purified seven times in the fire,
so purify our hearts and minds
that we may be a royal priesthood
acceptable in the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.



At the offering of incense

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As our prayer rises up before you as incense,
so may we be presented before you
with penitent hearts and uplifted hands
to offer ourselves in your priestly service.

Blessed be God for ever.

At the offering of myrrh

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As you give medicine to heal our sickness
and the leaves of the tree of life
for the healing of the nations,
so anoint us with your healing power
that we may be the first-fruits of your new creation.

Blessed be God for ever.

Invitation to confession

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.

cf Titus 2.11-14

Prayers of Penitence

God be gracious to us and bless us, and make your face shine upon us:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May your ways be known on the earth,
your saving power among the nations:
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You, Lord, have made known your salvation,
and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself,
that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh,
and be † cleansed from all your sins through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis Shephard

*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.*

Grateful for the glory revealed to us through God made flesh, let us pray.

The Collect for the feast of the Epiphany

Let us pray

Silence is kept

O God, who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we,
who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory face to face;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Isaiah 60.1-6

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

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.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading Ephesians 3.1-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.

In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Organ Fanfare

Gospel Reading Matthew 2.1-12

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, 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 to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

We come in faith to the throne of grace, offering our prayers to God, the source of all life and holiness.

After each prayer: Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

We pray for those for whom prayers have been requested:

Jonathan; Stephanie; Brenda; Barrie; Roger; Jessie; Diane; Cynthia; Ali; Daniel; Mar; Janis Gallagher, Jenny & Andrew Priest; Jonathan Bellamy; Sandie Morrison; Rhys Williams; Lucy Nicholl; Frances Kemp; Pat Steel; Maureen Steane; Anita Murray; David Murray; Robert Metcalfe.

We pray for those who have recently died:

Robert Broughton; Elizabeth Reed.

Those whose years mind falls at this time:

Gladys Worrell; Francis Leslie Schofield

At the end: Merciful Father
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
since as members of one body you are called to peace.

cf Colossians 3.15

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

*Please **DO NOT** share the peace physically*

Preparation of the Altar

Offertory Hymn (Sung by The Choir)

*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.*

Amen.

Prudentius (348-410), *O sola magnarum urbium*;
tr. Edward Caswall (1814-1878).

Taking of the Bread and Wine

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



Prayer over the Gifts

Pray, my brothers and sisters
that this my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice
at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name.
for our good
and the good of all his church.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

Let us pray.

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

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.

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:

Sanctus & Benedictus Shephard

*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 Our Lady, Giles 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

Believing the promises of God, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

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

The president breaks the consecrated 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.**

Agnus Dei Shephard

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

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

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

Giving of Communion

The president says the invitation to communion.

Christ is the true bread
which has come down from heaven.

Lord, give us this bread always.

The clergy and people receive communion.

The body of Christ broken for you

(this will not be said to each individual as they receive)



All who usually receive communion in their own churches are welcome to do so here.

If you would like to receive a blessing, please carry this service order and keep your hands at your sides. Please come forward as the sides-people direct.

We receive Holy Communion (or a blessing) standing and in silence with outstretched hands, and then return to our place. Organ music will be played.

If you would prefer not to receive Holy Communion, or if you're following the service at home or at a different time, please use this prayer of spiritual communion.

**In union, O Lord with the faithful at every altar of your Church,
where the Holy Eucharist is celebrated, I desire to offer you praise
and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the**

earnest wish that I may always be united to you.

And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me.

May I live and die in your love.

Amen.

Hymn (52) (Sung by The Choir)

*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!*

John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811-1875)

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

Let us pray.

Lord God,
the bright splendour whom the
nations seek:
may we who with the wise men
have been drawn by your light
discern the glory of your presence
in your Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



The Blessing and Dismissal

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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 in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

Amen.

May God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness,
give us a place with the saints in light in the kingdom of his beloved Son.

Amen.

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
shine in your hearts and fill our lives with his joy and peace.

Amen.

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

Amen.

We have seen his glory,
the glory revealed to all the nations.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.
In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, Alleluia.

The clergy and people depart.

Hymn (49)

*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)

*Please respect social distancing and
do not gather anywhere indoors following the service.*



Copyright acknowledgement (where not already indicated above):

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England material from which is included, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000 Common Worship: Times and Seasons material from which is included, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2006

The Scripture quotations contained herein are from The New Revised Standard Version Bible, Anglicised Edition, copyright © 1989, 1995, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Christian Copyright Licence No. 169304

Some material included in this service is copyright: © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ, USA

All songs covered by CCLI have been reproduced under the CCL Licence No. 169304

The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Giles, Pontefract is a charity registered in England and Wales (1135106).