

Lincoln Cathedral



Epiphany Carol Service



Sunday, 16th January 2021
3.45 pm

Collections are not taken during the course of services at the moment.

Maintaining the cathedral as a place of prayer, and continuing its daily round of prayer and worship is only possible through the generosity of those who support its work financially.

YOUR GENEROSITY WILL ENABLE GOD'S PRAISES TO CONTINUE TO BE SUNG, AND THE CATHEDRAL TO CONTINUE TO BE A PLACE OF PEACE AND SANCTUARY IN TIME TO COME

There are opportunities to make a cash or card donation as you leave the cathedral after the service.

Welcome to Lincoln Cathedral

We are delighted to welcome you to this Epiphany Carol Service.

The season of Epiphany follows Advent and Christmas and begins the second half of Christmastide.

In the Christian churches of the East, Epiphany is the major festival at this time of year, eclipsing Christmas. This is because Epiphany (meaning 'revelation', or 'manifestation') celebrates the occasion on which Jesus was recognised by the magi. The magi had 'travelled from afar', and are representative of us and of all people everywhere recognising the universal nature of God's love and coming to worship Jesus, the manifestation of that love.

As such, Epiphany resonates with our recognition of Jesus as our Saviour, and this season gives us an opportunity to reflect on what it means to us for the Son of God to have revealed himself as Jesus of Nazareth.

During the season of Epiphany, we remember again the visit of the magi from the east, Christ's baptism in the Jordan, and the turning of the water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana. These are all revelations of God's glory in Christ and his identification with his people in every time and place.

Before the service, the Cathedral Organist plays

In dir ist Freude, BWV 615

Johann Sebastian Bach

Prélude sur l'Introit de l'Épiphanie, Op. 13

Maurice Duruflé

Order of Service

*From the south transept the choir sings **The Three Kings** by Peter Corelius*

Solo:

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.

Chorale:

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.

Stand

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

**Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega;
He the source, the ending He,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see
evermore and evermore!**

**O that birth forever blessed,
when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Saviour of our race;
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!**

**This is He whom seers in old time
chanted of with one accord;
whom the voices of the prophets
promised in their faithful word;
now He shines, the long expected,
let creation praise its Lord,
evermore and evermore!**

**Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;
angels and Archangels, sing!
wheresoe'er you be, ye faithful,
let your joyous anthems ring,
every tongue his name confessing,
countless voices answering,
evermore and evermore!**

Words: Latin, Prudentius (348-413), tr. Roby Furley Davis and others

Tune: Divinum Mysterium

Remain standing

WELCOME AND BIDDING PRAYER

The dean welcomes the people and leads the Bidding Prayer

In the name of Christ, who called us out of darkness into his own marvellous light, to be a kingdom of priests to our God, we welcome you.

Grace to you and peace.

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

And so we pray for the unity and mission of Christ's Church, for the ministers of the gospel of Christ, and for all for whom we bear witness.

We pray for this world, which is already Christ's, 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, and the anxious, for 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 for his service; may he open our eyes to see his glory, and equip us to bless his people, now and at all times.

All

Amen.

The dean continues

Rejoicing in the presence of God among us,
let us pray with confidence
as our Saviour has taught us:

And all respond:

**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.**

Sit

FIRST LESSON

Matthew 1: 18–23

Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus

The choir sings **Look up, sweet babe** by Lennox Berkeley

Look up, sweet babe, look up and see;
For love of thee, though far from home,
The East is come to seek herself in Thy sweet eyes.

To Thee, thou day of nights, thou East of West,
Lo we at last have found the way:
To thee, the world's great universal East,
The general and indifferent day.

Richard Crashaw (c.1613-49)

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 2: 1–12

The Visit of the Wise Men

The choir sings **There shall a star from Jacob** by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

Recitative:

When Jesus, our Lord, was born in Bethlehem, in the land
of Judea; behold, from the east to the city of Jerusalem
there came wise men and said:

Trio:

Say, where is he born, the king of Judea? For we have seen
his star, and are come to adore him.

Chorus:

There shall a star from Jacob come forth and a Sceptre from
Israel rise up and dash in pieces princes and nations.

Chorale:

How brightly beams the morning star!
With sudden radiance from afar
With light and comfort glowing!
Thy Word, Jesus, inly feeds us,
Rightly leads us, Life bestowing.
Praise, oh praise such love o'erflowing.

Stand

HYMN

**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), tr. Edward Caswell (1814-78)

Tune: Stuttgart, adapted from a melody in C.F. Witt's

'Harmonia Sacra' Gotha 1715

Sit

THIRD LESSON

Luke 2: 21–32

Jesus is presented in the temple

The choir sings **Bethlehem Down** by Peter Warlock

When He is King we will give him the King's gifts,
Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown,
Beautiful robes", said the young girl to Joseph
Fair with her first-born on Bethlehem Down.

Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight
Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

When He is King they will clothe Him in grave-sheets,
Myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown,
He that lies now in the white arms of Mary
Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.

Here He has peace and a short while for dreaming,
Close-huddled oxen to keep Him from cold,
Mary for love, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

Words: Bruce Blunt

FOURTH LESSON

Matthew 3: 13-17

The baptism of Jesus

Stand

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?

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

Sit

*The choir sings **A spotless rose** by Herbert Howells*

A spotless Rose is blowing,
Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,
Of Jesse promised fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds yo light
Amid the cold, cold winter,
and in the dark mid-night.

The Rose which I am singing,
Whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing
In Mary, purest Maid;
For through our God's great love and might
The Blessed Babe she bare us
In a cold, cold winter's night.

Anon., 14th century

FIFTH LESSON

John 2: 1-12

The wedding at Cana

*The choir sings **No small wonder** by Paul Edwards*

Small wonder the star,
small wonder the light,
the angels in chorus,
the shepherds in fright;
but stable and manger for God -
no small wonder!

Small wonder the kings,
small wonder they bore
the gold and the incense,
the myrrh, to adore;
but God gives his life on a cross -
no small wonder!

Small wonder the love,
small wonder the grace,
the power, the glory,
the light of his face;
but all to redeem my poor heart -
no small wonder!

Words: Paul Wigmore

Stand

PRAYERS AT THE CRIB

The dean and clergy gather in front of the altar platform, and the dean leads the congregation in prayer.

As we remember the gift of gold:

Dean 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.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

As we remember the gift 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.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

As we remember the gift 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.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

HYMN, *during which the crib is censed.*

**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: John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811–1875)

Tune: Was lebet

THE BLESSING

Dean Christ our Lord,
to whom kings bowed down in worship
and offered gifts,
reveal to you his glory
and pour upon you the riches of his grace;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY

Épiphanie

Gaston Litaize

SERVICES FOR EPIPHANYTIDE 2022

**Wednesday 2nd February: The Feast of the Presentation of Christ in
the Temple (Candlemas)**

1730 SOLEMN EVENSONG

with music sung by Lincoln Cathedral Consort

Acknowledgements

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