



Epiphany

Benefice Services of Holy Communion
For Christmas to Epiphany, ending on Candlemas



Newbury, St George & St John



Christmas and Epiphany.

In Western churches, the Epiphany ('revealing') became an occasion to celebrate one element in the story of Christ's birth, the visit of the far-travelled magi, understood as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. In Eastern churches, the Epiphany is, rather, the celebration of Christ's baptism at the hands of John, when the heavens were opened and a voice from heaven declared Jesus to be God's beloved Son. The miracle at the wedding in Cana, where Jesus 'first manifested his glory', and the conversion of Paul are included in this season—where a new light is revealed.

The joyful celebrations that begin at Christmas continue through the successive Sundays of Epiphany, and the festal cycle ends with the Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas). The child now recognized by Simeon and Anna, in the Temple as 'a light to lighten the Gentiles' and 'the glory of God's people Israel'.

But the redemption he will bring must be won through suffering; the Incarnation is directed to the Passion; and Simeon's final words move our attention away from the celebration of Christmas and towards the mysteries of Easter.

Adapted from *Times & Seasons*,
The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England

Benefice Eucharist Celebration for Christmas Season

The Gathering

The presiding priest greets the people:

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

Words of Welcome and Introduction

The Prayer of Preparation is used.

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom
no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Prayer of Penitence

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.

A short silence follows offering space for reflection.

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:
Forgive our hardness towards others and ourselves.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart:
Help us to share grace and peace in all the world.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided:
Forgive us for when we have excluded others from you light.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The presiding priest says:

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

Gloria in Excelsis

We join in the angel's hymn of praise.

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 on 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.

The Collect

Let us pray

The Collect of the day is preceded by a short period of silent prayer.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

At the end:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations
and believed in throughout the world.

Alleluia.

The Lord be with you,
and also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N*
Glory to you, O Lord

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon or Presentation

A short period of silence for reflection may follow the sermon.

The Creed

We affirm our faith together;

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Please sit or kneel as we pray

*One of the responses below may be used at the end of
each prayer.*

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

And 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

*Please stand as the presiding priest introduces the Peace
with these or other suitable words:*

We are the body of Christ.
In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace
and builds up our common life.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

The presiding priest takes the bread and wine and praises God in these or similar words:

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.

Alternative Form

As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together
from the corners of the earth
into your kingdom.

Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

[Eucharistic Prayer E]

The presiding priest says:

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:

**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 he gave up himself for us all
he took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

Bells may be rung at this point.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
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.
Bells may be rung at this point.

Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

Or;

Christ is the bread of life:
**When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
until you come in glory.**

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 the Blessed Virgin Mary,
St George, St John 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

As our Saviour taught us,
so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin
against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Let us pray with confidence as our
Saviour has taught us

**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 presiding priest breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Or

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.**

We say the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) as the bread is broken.

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

The presiding priest says this invitation to communion:

Christ is the true bread which has
come down from heaven.
Lord, give us this bread always.

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Or

The presiding priest and people receive communion.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

The presiding priest says a Post Communion prayer

Ending with;

**Father of all, we give you thanks and praise
that, when we were still far off,
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us
so we and all your children shall be free
and the whole earth live to praise your name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Dismissal

Notices are given.

The Blessing

The presiding priest uses a suitable blessing:

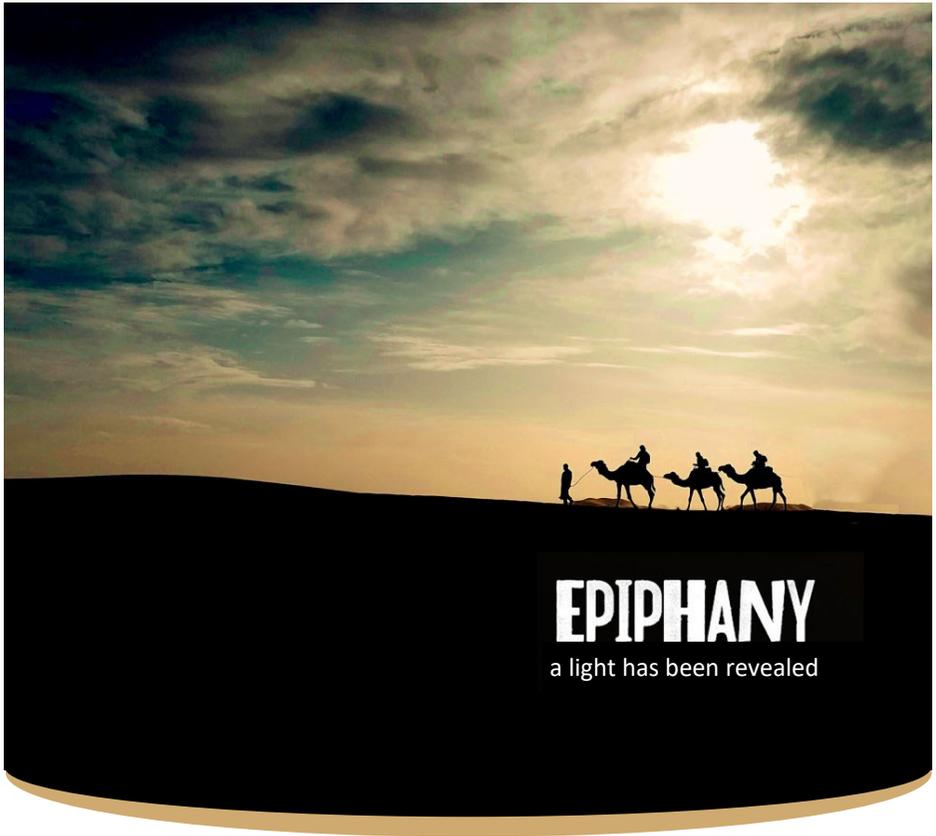
May the God of all hope
who led the wise men by the
shining of a star
to find the Christ,
the Light from light,
lead you also in your pilgrimage
to find the Lord.
Amen.

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

Or

The Dismissal

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.
In the name of Christ. Amen.



EPIPHANY

a light has been revealed

Cover Photography. Absnc/Prsnc,
Back page. Adapted from Photo by Akua Sencherey on Unsplash.

Benefice of St George and St John 2020.

Material in this service is copyright:
Common Worship© 2000 The Archbishops' Council
Benefice Office, 206 Andover Road, RG14 6NU. Tel: 01635 41249
www.stg-stj.org.uk



Newbury, St George & St John