

Epiphany Carols

“A journey to Enlightenment”

14 January 2024
6pm

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH

Since 1832 a community has gathered at St John's to worship God and to demonstrate faith at work in our daily lives. Our Parish Church serves the Hyde Park Estate, the area north of Sussex Gardens, Praed Street and the Paddington Basin, but our members come from across our city. This building provides a sacred space for prayer and meeting between God and his people.

We have carefully designed this service to help us celebrate life, to comfort us where we hurt and to challenge us where we have grown complacent. In all we do, we seek to equip each other to live out our faith wherever we may be. As a tangible expression of Jesus' openness to everyone, St John's welcomes all people regardless of gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socio-economic circumstances or spiritual background to our worshipping community and Eucharistic table.

We welcome all who seek God and invite you into our efforts to be a strong facilitator of good in our city. Come join us as we seek to build the Kingdom of God in our souls, our lives and our communities here in London.

Stephen Mason
Vicar

Further information about St John's can be found on our web site:

stjohns-hydepark.com

Follow us: @StJohnsHP



ETIPHANYTIDE

As we mark Epiphanytide, we embark on a spiritual journey reminiscent of the Magi, who, guided by the light of a celestial star, travelled vast distances to worship the newborn king.

We are invited through a journey of enlightenment to witness Jesus' gradual revelation to those who encountered him, inviting us to reflect on the profound significance of the Magi's expedition as we find parallels in our own spiritual journey.

As we embark on this journey together, we will reflect on Christ's Birth, Adoration, Baptism and Call to Discipleship, finishing with the Presentation of Christ in the temple.

Our journey starts with the Incarnation where we reflect on the Nativity of our Lord as we welcome him as he comes among us. We then travel with the Wise Men as they follow the star to Bethlehem to honour Jesus, bringing their gifts and bowing down before the new born king.

At Christ's baptism we see the Holy Spirit come down to reveal Christ as God's Son to John the Baptist.

We are then invited to hear the call to discipleship that went to Christ's first disciples and calls for each of us to be caught up in our own journey of being both transformed and part of God's transformative creativity.

Our journey concludes with Christ's presentation in the temple, which is seen as a fulfilment of prophecy, as we look to take up our cross and seek our future salvation through Jesus.

Please stand for the entrance of the choir and clergy.

HYMN

**See, amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below,
see the tender Lamb appears,
promised from eternal years.**

*Hail, thou ever blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."*

**Lo, within a manger lies
he who built the starry skies;
he who, throned in height sublime,
sits amid the cherubim!**

*Hail, thou ever blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."*

**Say, ye holy shepherds, say,
what's your joyful news today?
Wherefore have ye left your sheep
on the lonely mountain steep?**

*Hail, thou ever blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."*

**Sacred Infant, all divine,
what a tender love was thine,
thus to come from highest bliss
down to such a world as this!**

*Hail, thou ever blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."*

Edward Caswall, CO 1814 – 1878

THE BIDDING

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.

The grace and peace of God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Beloved in Christ, we are gathered to celebrate with joy the Incarnation of the Word, the new light that has dawned upon the world, that all the nations may be brought out of darkness; and to reflect upon Jesus's revelation as the Saviour of all the world and the first signs of his ministry. We remind ourselves of the story of the shepherds who were the first to gather at his feet, of the visit of the Magi crossing from afar to the King of all the earth, of his baptism, of his first miracle at the wedding in Cana and of our call to follow him. We also hear the words of faithful Anna and devout Simeon, the elderly prophets revealing the Christ child as a light to lighten all people. In this we remember the Passion Jesus must pass through and the mysteries of Easter. 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 revealed in all the world.

Please be seated.

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST — INCARNATION —

COLLECT

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time 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,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Luke 2.8-20

Read by Nick Miller

Organ scholar & organist, 2012-2020

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The choir sings:

SHEPHERD'S PIPE CAROL - J RUTTER

Going through the hills on a night all starry
on the way to Bethlehem.

Far away I heard a shepherd boy piping
on the way to Bethlehem.

Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:

"Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King
is come to bring us peace on earth
and he's lying cradled there at Bethlehem."

"Tell me, shepherd boy piping tunes so merrily
on the way to Bethlehem,
who will hear your tunes on these hills so lonely
on the way to Bethlehem?"

Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:

"Dance and sing for the joy that Christ the newborn King
is come to bring peace on earth
and he's lying cradled there at Bethlehem."

"None may hear my pipes on these hills so lonely
on the way to Bethlehem;
but a King will hear me play sweet lullabies
when I get to Bethlehem."

Angels in the sky came down from on high,
hovered over the manger where the babe was lying
cradled in the arms of his mother Mary,
sleeping now at Bethlehem.

Please sit.

THE ARRIVAL OF THE MAGI — ADORATION —

COLLECT

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.

All **Amen.**

Matthew 2.1-12

Read by Mark James

Community outreach animateur, 2015 organ restoration

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 word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The choir sings:

SEEK HIM THAT MAKETH THE SEVEN STARS - J DOVE

Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion
and turneth the shadow of death into the morning.
Alleluia, yea, the darkness shineth as the day.
The night is light about me.

Please stand.

HYMN

**We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

**Born a King on Bethlehem plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.**

*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,*

guide us to thy perfect light.

**Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising,
worship him, God most high.**

*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.**

*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

**Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
heaven sings, 'Alleluia!'
'Alleluia!' the earth replies.**

*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

John Henry Hopkins 1820-91

THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST — REVELATION —

COLLECT

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;
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.

All **Amen.**

Matthew 3.11-17

*Read by Thorsten Pratscher
Robert Greenhill's husband*

John said to the crowds coming for baptism, "I baptise you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptised by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptised by you and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptised, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The choir sings:

SOMETHING IN THE WATER - C UNDERWOOD, ARR N MILLER

He said, "I've been where you've been before.
Down every hallway's a slamming door."
No way out, no one to come and save me.
Wasting a life that the Good Lord gave me.
Then somebody said what I'm saying to you.
Opened my eyes and told me the truth."
He said, "Just a little faith, it'll all get better."

So I followed that preacher man down to the river
And now I'm changed. And now I'm stronger.
There must've been something in the water.
Oh, there must've been something in the water.
Well, I heard what he said and I went on my way,
Didn't think about it for a couple of days.
Then it hit me like a lightning late one night,
I was all out of hope and all out of fight.
Couldn't fight back the tears so I fell on my knees,
Saying, "God, if you're there come and rescue me."

Felt love pouring down from above,
Got washed in the water, washed in the blood,
And now I'm changed. And now I'm stronger.
There must be something in the water.
Oh, there must be something in the water.
And now I'm singing along to amazing grace,
Can't nobody wipe this smile off my face.
Got joy in my heart, angels on my side.
Thank God almighty, I saw the light.

Gonna look ahead, no turning back.
Live everyday, give it all that I have.
Trust in someone bigger than me
Ever since the day that I believed.
I am changed. And now I'm stronger.
There must be something in the water.

Oh, there must be something in the water,
Oh, there must be something in the water,
Oh, there must be something in the water,
I once was lost but now am found.
Was blind, but now I see.

Please stand.

HYMN

**O worship the King all glorious above;
O gratefully sing his power and his love;
our shield and defender, the Ancient of days,
pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise.**

**O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.**

**This earth, with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, thy power hath founded of old:
hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree
and round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.**

**Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain
and sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.**

**Frail children of dust and feeble as frail,
in thee do we trust nor find thee to fail;
thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
our maker, defender, redeemer and friend.**

**O measureless might, ineffable love,
while angels delight to hymn thee above,
thy humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall sing to thy praise.**

*William Croft 1678-1727
Robert Grant 1779-1838*

Please sit.

THE CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP — TRANSFORMATION —

COLLECT

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace
and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power;
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.

All **Amen**

Matthew 4.18-22

Read by Chris Skarratt

Technical support for school music projects and silent films

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew, his brother, casting a net into the lake - for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The choir sings:

A SABBATH MORNING Op.37 No.3 - E ELGAR

The ship went on with solemn face;
to meet the darkness on the deep,
the solemn ship went onward.
I bowed down weary in the place;
for parting tears and present sleep
had weighed mine eyelids downward.
The new sight, the new wondrous sight!
The waters around me, turbulent,
the skies impassive o'er me,
calm in a moonless, sunless light,
as glorified by even the intent of holding the day glory!

Love me, sweet friends, this Sabbath day.
The sea sings round me while ye roll
afar the hymn, unaltered,
and kneel, where once I knelt to pray,
and bless me deeper in your soul
because your voice has faltered.
And though this sabbath comes to me
without the stolèd minister
and chanting congregation,
God's Spirit shall give comfort:
he who brooded soft on waters drear, Creator on creation.

He shall assist me to look higher,
he shall assist me to look higher,
where keep the saints, with harp and song,
an endless sabbath morning,
an endless sabbath morning,
and, on that sea commixed with fire,
on that sea commixed with fire,
oft drop their eyelids raised too long
to the full Godhead's burning, the full Godhead's burning.

Please Stand.

HYMN

BE THOU MY VISION
WITH YOU LIGHT UP MY LIFE

Choir Jesus, my Saviour, my song in the night;
waking or sleeping, your presence, my light.
You and you only are my soul's delight,
my comfort by day and my song in the night.

All **Lord, you light up my life,
you give me hope to carry on.
You light up my days
and fill my nights with song.
You light up my life.
You give me hope to carry on.
You light up my days
and fill my nights with song.**

Choir Jesus, my Saviour, my song in the night;
waking or sleeping, your presence, my light.

All **You light up my life,
you give me hope to carry on.
You light up my days
and fill my nights with song.**

Choir You give me hope to carry on.
Lord, you light up my life.

Be Thou My Vision
Irish c 8th century
tr Mary Byrne 1880-1931
traditional Irish melody

You Light up My Life
Debby Boone
Songwriters: Joe Brooks
You Light Up My Life lyrics
© Universal Music Publishing Group, Warner Chappell Music, Inc

Please sit.

THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE – FULFILMENT AND DESTINY –

COLLECT

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Luke 2.22-32

*Read by Louise Lloyd
Choral scholar, 2007-2009*

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 turtledoves 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

The congregation light their candles as symbols of the Light of Christ coming into the world. Please ensure children are supervised at all times.

The choir sings:

NUNC DIMITTIS - K JENKINS

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 tuæ Israel.

*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.*

PRAYERS

Heavenly Father, you sent your Son
to bring good news to the poor, sight to the blind,
freedom to the captives and salvation to your people.
May our lives shine as a witness
to the saving grace you have given for all
and we ask for your comfort and healing power
to bring hope to those in distress;
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.

All **Amen.**

Let us pray to the Father in the words our Saviour gave us:

All

**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 forever. Amen.**

Please stand.

OFFERTORY HYMN

A collection will be taken during this hymn.

St John's receives no funding except from our congregation. Please fill in the gift Aid envelope if you are a UK tax payer to make the most of your donation.

**How shall I sing that majesty
which angels do admire?
Let dust in dust and silence lie;
sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.
Thousands of thousands stand around
thy throne, O God most high;
ten thousand times ten thousand sound
thy praise; but who am I?**

**Thy brightness unto them appears,
whilst I thy footsteps trace;
a sound of God comes to my ears,
but they behold thy face.
I shall, I fear, be dark and cold,
with all my fire and light;
yet when thou dost accept their gold,
Lord, treasure up my mite.**

**Enlighten with faith's light my heart,
in flame it with love's fire;
then shall I sing and bear a part
with that celestial choir.
They sing because thou art their Sun;
Lord, send a beam on me;
for where heaven is but once begun
there alleluyas be.**

**How great a being, Lord, is thine,
which doth all beings keep!
Thy knowledge is the only line
to sound so vast a deep.
Thou art a sea without a shore,
a sun without a sphere;**

**thy time is now and evermore,
thy place is everywhere.**

*John Mason c 1645-1694
Ken Naylor 1931-1991*

THE BLESSING

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 also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

May God the Son,
who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana,
transform your lives and make glad your hearts.

May God the Holy Spirit,
who came upon the beloved Son at his baptism in the river Jordan,
pour out his gifts on you who have come to the waters of new birth.

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

All **Amen.**

Voluntary

Deborah's Theme - Once Upon a Time in America

E Morricone, arr N Miller

*Following the service we are having a farewell party for our retiring
Director of Music, Robert Greenhill, in celebration of his contributions to
our music and worship during his nearly 18 years here at St John's.
Please join us in thanking Robert for his hard work and dedication in
planning our music and in wishing him well in this new phase of his life.*



ST JOHN'S
HYDE PARK

Upcoming Events at St John's

St John's *Lates*

JANUARY

21

6PM

Jazz Mass

28

6PM

Compline by candlelight

FEBRUARY

11

6PM

Choral Evensong

14

6PM

Ash Wednesday

18

6PM

Lent Carols