

# Eglwys St Ffagan, Aberdâr St Fagan's Church, Aberdare

## ALL SORTS SERVICE

### The Feast of the Epiphany

#### ENTRANCE HYMN

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

*Chorus:*

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

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

*Chorus:*

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

*Chorus:*

3. Frankincense to offer have I;  
incense owns a Deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, voices raising,  
worship Him, God most high.

*Chorus:*

5. Glorious now behold him arise;  
King and God and sacrifice:  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
heaven to earth replies.

*Chorus:*

## THE GATHERING

*Priest:* In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*All:* **Amen.**

*Priest:* Grace and peace be with you.

*All:* **And keep you in the love of Christ.**

## PRAYER OF PREPARATION

*All remain standing. The Vicar introduces the theme of the service and invites everyone to call to mind the wrong things we have done and said.*

*All:* **Heavenly Father, we have sinned in thought, word and deed, and have failed to do what we ought to have done. We are sorry and truly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ who died for us, forgive us all that is past and lead us in his way to walk as children of light. Amen.**

*Priest:* Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you and set you free from sin, strengthen you in goodness and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All:* **Amen.**

## GLORIA

*Refrain:* ***Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.***  
***Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.***

**1. Lord God, heavenly King,  
peace you bring to us;  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we sing our song of praise. *Refrain***

**2. Jesus, Saviour of all,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away our sins, O Lord,  
have mercy on us all. *Refrain***

**3. At the Father's right hand,  
Lord, receive our prayer,  
for you alone are the Holy One,  
and you alone are the Lord. *Refrain***

**4. Glory, Father and Son,  
glory, Holy Spirit,  
to you we raise our hands up high,  
we glorify your name. *Refrain***

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Priest:* Gracious 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.**

*All sit for the reading*

### A READING: Ephesians 3. 1-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles, pray to God. Surely you have heard that God in his grace has given me this work to do for your good. God revealed his secret plan and made it known to me. (I have written briefly about this, and if you will read what I have written, you can learn about my understanding of the secret of Christ.) In past times human beings were not told this secret, but God has revealed it now by the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets. The secret is that by means of the gospel the Gentiles have a part with the Jews in God's blessings; they are members of the same body and share in the promise that God made through Christ Jesus. I was made a servant of the gospel by God's special gift, which he gave me through the working of his power. I am less than the least of all God's people; yet God gave me this privilege of taking to the Gentiles the Good News about the infinite riches of Christ, and of making all people see how God's secret plan is to be put into effect. God, who is the Creator of all things, kept his secret hidden through all the past ages, in order that at the present time, by means of the church, the angelic rulers and powers in the heavenly world might learn of his wisdom in all its different forms. God did this according to his eternal purpose, which he achieved through Christ Jesus our Lord. In union with Christ and through our faith in him we have the boldness to go into God's presence with all confidence.

*Reader:* This is the word of the Lord:

*All:* **Thanks be to God.**

*All stand and sing the Gospel Anthem:*

## GOSPEL ANTHEM

**Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the New Born King.  
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name.  
Jesus is Lord of all the earth, he is the King of creation.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name.**

## GOSPEL READING: Matthew 2. 1-12

*Priest:* The Lord be with you

*All:* **and also with you.**

*Priest:* Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St Matthew.

*All:* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the time when Herod was king. Soon afterward, some men who studied the stars came from the East to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the baby born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star when it came up in the east, and we have come to worship him." When King Herod heard about this, he was very upset, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the teachers of the Law and asked them, "Where will the Messiah be born?" "In the town of Bethlehem in Judea," they answered. "For this is what the prophet wrote: 'Bethlehem in the land of Judah,

you are by no means the least of the leading cities of Judah;  
for from you will come a leader

who will guide my people Israel.'"

So Herod called the visitors from the East to a secret meeting and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem with these instructions: "Go and make a careful search for the child; and when you find him, let me know, so that I too may go and worship him." And so they left, and on their way they saw the same star they had seen in the East. When they saw it, how happy they were, what joy was theirs! It went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They went into the house, and when they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshiped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh,

and presented them to him. Then they returned to their country by another road, since God had warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod.

**Priest:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you, O Christ.

*All sit for the talk*

*All stand to say The Creed together.*

## THE CREED

**I believe and trust in God the Father, who created all that is. I believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ, who redeemed humankind. I believe and trust in his Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God. I believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## THE INTERCESSIONS

*All sit or kneel for the prayers.*

Today the wise men knelt before our saviour. Let us also kneel to worship him with great joy, and to make our prayer to his heavenly Father.

Father, your Son is the King of kings and Lord of Lords: grant an abundance of peace to your world.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Father, the Holy Family shared the life of the people of Nazareth: protect in your mercy our neighbours and families, together with the whole community of which we are part.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Father, your son was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor: show your love for the poor and powerless, and strengthen those who suffer.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Father, the wise men presented to your Son gold, incense and myrrh: accept the gifts we bring, and the offering of our hearts at the beginning of this new year.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Father, you are the King of heaven, the hope of all who trust in you: give to the faithful departed the wonders of your salvation.  
Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of wise men, shepherds and angels, and of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph, we commend ourselves and all Christian people to your unfailing love.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father  
**accept these prayers, for the sake of your son, our saviour Jesus Christ.**  
**Amen.**

### THE PEACE

*All stand. The priest introduces The Peace and then says:*

*Priest:* The peace of the Lord be with you always:

*All:* **And also with you.**

*Priest:* Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We greet each other with a sign of peace. During the hymn the collection will be taken*

### HYMN

1. As with gladness, men of old  
did the guiding star behold;  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most glorious Lord, may we,  
evermore be led to thee

2. As with joyful steps they sped  
to that lowly manger bed;  
there to bend the knee before  
him whom heaven and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek thy mercy seat.

3. 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.

4. Holy Jesus, every day,  
keep us in the narrow way;  
and, when earthly things are past,  
bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds thy glory hide.

5. 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 forever may we sing  
Alleluias to our King!

## THE THANKSGIVING

*The priest takes the bread and wine*

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

*All:      **Blessed be God for ever.***

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.

*All:      **Blessed be God for ever.***

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

*Priest:*      The Lord be with you.

*All:*      **And also with you.**

*Priest:*      Lift up your hearts.

*All:*      **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Priest:*      Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All:*      **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is always right, wherever we are, to thank you and to praise you, God our Father and King for ever, through Jesus Christ, your Son. Through him you made us and the whole universe. When your Holy Spirit came to Mary, Jesus was born as one of us. He loved us so much that he died for us; on the first Easter Day you raised him to life; and death and evil were conquered for ever. At Pentecost, you gave the Holy Spirit, as Jesus promised, to help us to live as your children. So here on earth, with the angels and archangels and with everyone in heaven we praise your name and sing:

**All:** Holy, holy, holy; holy, holy, Lord God Almighty; and we lift our hearts before you as a token of our love, Holy, holy, holy, holy. Gracious Father, gracious Father, blessed is the one who comes to us in your name; and we lift our hearts before you as a token of our love, gracious Father, gracious Father.

### *We sit or kneel*

Father in heaven, listen to the prayer we make in Jesus' name; through the Holy Spirit's power, gentle as a dove, may this bread and this wine be for us Jesus' body and blood. Father, we remember when Jesus had supper with his friends the night before he died, he took the bread; he thanked you, broke it, gave it to his friends and said: Take this and eat it - this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me. After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine; he thanked you, gave it to his friends and said: All of you drink from this cup, because this is my blood - the new promise of God's love. Do this every time you drink it to remember me.

Together we remember that Jesus is always with us and say:

*All:* Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come in glory.

Father, as we remember your Son, Jesus Christ, who died on the cross and rose again, we offer you these and all the gifts you freely give to us. Send your Holy Spirit to be with us and all who share this bread and drink from this cup. Help us to trust you, bring us closer together and welcome us, with all your people, into Jesus' glorious kingdom. All honour and glory belong to you, Father, through Jesus, your Son, with the Holy Spirit: one God, for ever and ever.

*All* Amen

*Priest:* As our Saviour taught us, we boldly pray:

All: 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.

## THE COMMUNION

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

*All sing:* **Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy;  
bearer of our sins, Lord Jesus, show us mercy;  
Jesus, Lamb of God you take away the sins of the whole world:  
give us peace, Lord, give us peace, Lord.**

*Priest:* Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.  
*All:* **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

*We go to the altar to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.*

## COMMUNION HYMNS

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here;  
Come bow before him now with reverence and fear:  
In him no sin is found - we stand on holy ground.  
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;  
He burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned:  
How awesome is the sight - our radiant King of light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;  
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace -  
No work too hard for him. In faith receive from him.  
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

As the deer pants for the water,  
So my soul longs after You.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship You.

*Chorus:*

*You alone are my strength, my shield,  
To You alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship You.*

I want You more than gold or silver,  
Only You can satisfy.  
You alone are the real joy-giver  
And the apple of my eye.

*Chorus:*

You're my Friend and You are my brother,  
Even though You are a King.  
I love You more than any other,  
So much more than anything.

*Chorus:*

***We keep a time of silence after the hymns***  
**THE SENDING OUT**

**THE BLESSING OF THE EPIPHANY CHALK**

*Everyone gathers at the main door of the church*

*Priest:* The Lord is here

*All:* **God's Spirit is with us**

*Priest:* God who leads your people through the journey of life, as you led Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar to worship Jesus, so lead us to be fearless in making Jesus known in our homes and in our lives. Bless this chalk that those who see this blessing on our homes may know that our doorways are places of welcome and blessing and that you are the God who blesses us every day. We ask this in the name of Jesus, born of Mary, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The priest and/or members of the congregation mark the door-post of the church while saying:*

The three wise men

C Caspar  
M Melchior and  
B Balthasar followed the star which led them to Christ,  
20 two thousand and  
?? (*number of the year*) years ago.  
++ May Christ bless this church  
++ and remain with us through this year.

*Priest:* God our Father, bless us as we gather here at the doorway of our church. Protect us from darkness and fill us with the grace of Christ who calls us to welcome all who come in his name. We ask this through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

*All return to their places in church*

#### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*All:* **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

*Priest:* The Lord be with you:

*All:* **And also with you.**

Christ the Son of God gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Priest:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*All:* **In the name of Christ. Amen**

## FINAL HYMN

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 your burden of carefulness,  
high on his heart he will bear it for you,  
comfort your sorrows and answer your prayerfulness,  
guiding your steps in the way that is true.

Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness  
of the poor wealth you would count as your own;  
truth in its beauty and love in its tenderness  
these are the offerings to bring to his throne.

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.