

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Epiphany

Voluntary:

Chorale Preludes for Christmas and Epiphany from the "Orgelbüchlein"

J S Bach

Introit: A New Year Carol

Benjamin Britten

Call to Worship

"By its light shall the nations walk; and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory into it..."

Revelation 21:24

Hymn: 323 The First Nowell

The First Nowell

1. The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay:
In fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,

Born is the King of Israel.

2. They lookéd up and saw a star,
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,

Born is the King of Israel.

3. And by the light of that same star,
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,

Born is the King of Israel.

4. This star drew nigh to the north-west,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,

Born is the King of Israel.

5. Then entered in those wise men three,
Full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in His presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.*

6. Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our Heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with His blood mankind hath bought.
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.*

***We bring to God our prayers and
The Lord's Prayer***

**Our Father,
Which art in heaven
Hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom,
The power and the glory, forever.
Amen**

We hear the Word of God

Old Testament: **Isaiah 60:1-6**
(Read by: Gourab Choudhury)

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.

3 And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
4 Lift up your eyes round about, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far,
and your daughters shall be carried in the arms.
5 Then you shall see and be radiant,
your heart shall thrill and rejoice;
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
6 A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Mid'ian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Amen

Children's Time

We respond to God's Word with our Offering
(Children invited to help with the Offering)

Offertory:
Chorale Prelude on "Das alte Jahr vergangen ist", BWV 614 J S Bach

Prayer

Children leave for Crèche and Sunday Club

Hymn: 327 Brightest and best of the sons of the morning
Was Lebet Was Schwebet

1. 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.

2. 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.
3. Say, shall we yield Him, in costly devotion,
Odours of Edom, and offerings divine,
Gems of the mountains and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?
4. Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would His favour secure;
Richer by far is the heart's adoratio;
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.
5. 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.

We bring to God our Prayers of Confession

We hear the Word of God

New Testament: **Matthew 2:1-12**

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, ²“Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will govern my people Israel.’”

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; ⁸and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; ¹¹and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and

they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. Amen

Anthem: The Three Kings

Peter Cornelius, arr. M.W

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 trav'ling – 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.

Intimations

Hymn: 314 Child in the manger

Bunessan

1. Child in the manger, infant of Mary,
Outcast and stranger, Lord of all!
Child Who inherits all our transgressions,
All our demerits on Him fall.
2. Once the most holy Child of salvation
Gently and lowly lived below;
Now as our glorious mighty Redeemer,
See Him victorious o'er each foe.
3. Prophets foretold Him, infant of wonder;
Angels behold Him on His throne;
Worthy our Saviour of all their praises;
Happy for ever are His own.

***We bring to God our prayers
of Thanksgiving and Intercession***

Hymn: 326 As with gladness men of old

Iris

1. As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onwards, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led to Thee.
2. As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour to Thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
Thee, Whom heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.
3. As they offered gifts most rare
At Thy homely cradle 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 for ever may we sing
Alleluias to our King.

Benediction and Threefold Amen