**Epiphany**

**3rd January 2021**

Introduction & welcome:

Nations shall come to your light,

and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Gathering

We welcome the King:

**may he judge his people with righteousness.**

We receive the King:

**may he defend the cause of the poor and needy.**

We honour the King:

**may our lives reflect his glory.**

We worship the King:

**may he reign for ever and ever.** **Amen.**

A prayer of confession:

Loving God, we come before you with open hearts to ask your forgiveness for our failure to live as your children.

Loving God, giver of all good gifts, you give us ears and we do not listen; eyes, and we do not see.

You fill our lives with love and we do not return it.

You fill us with your life and we do not share it.

You give us each other and we refuse the gift.

Forgive us our blindness, our deafness and our ignorance;

forgive us our narrowness and our smallness.

Help us to grow in the gift of your love and fulfil the promise you have set within us. **Amen**.

Hear the words of grace ‘Your sins are forgiven.’

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Collect:

Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey’s end in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Old Testament reading:**

*Isaiah 60:1-6*

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses’ arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God**

Prayer of praise

A prayer of wonder Creator God, over millions of years and through billions of selections your earth has evolved on a truly amazing journey. Our own personal development is also amazing to us. May your eternal wisdom guide us as we seek constructive ways to develop your kingdom for all creation. Praise and glory to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Gospel:

*Matthew 2: 1 - 12*

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: **Thanks be to God**

Prayers of intercession**:**

We pray for our world…

We pray that Christ will be revealed to the whole world through his Church.

We pray for our community, our workplaces, schools and colleges…

We pray that we will be Christ’s representatives in those places.

We pray for our church…

We pray that we will worship Christ in spirit and in truth, giving of ourselves and loving our neighbours.

We pray for our homes and families…

We pray that our lives will be a true reflection of Christ’s love.

We pray for ourselves…

Lord Christ, reveal yourself to each one of us.

We pray all these things in the name of Christ*.* **Amen**

A prayer for all ages

God of all daily journeys, may we know that you are always with us even though we can’t see you. Help us to recognize that sometimes we have to risk getting things wrong or being foolish. Give us the courage sometimes to choose to risk making mistakes for the sake of trying to do something good and worthwhile for you. Help us to learn well from all our experiences. **Amen.**

We pray together as Jesus taught us, **Our Father…**

The Peace:

The peace of the Lord be always with you;

**And also with you**

Tangnefedd yr Arglwydd a fo gyda chwi bob amser

**A hefyd gyda thi**

The Blessing:

Dear Lord, as we recognize your greatness, let us not keep it to ourselves. Guide us to proclaim your majesty to all those we meet today and every day, for a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
And may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you now and forever. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! **Amen**