

THE TEMPLE CHURCH

EVENING PRAYER

WITH HYMNS

FOR THE FEAST OF THE

EPIPHANY

WEDNESDAY 6 JANUARY 2021,

5.45 P.M.

## ORGAN PRELUDE

Das alte Jahr vergangen ist

*J. S. Bach (1685-1750)*

*All stand at the entrance of the clergy.*

*In accordance with current government guidelines, please do not sing. The organist will play through 2-3 verses of the melody.*

## HYMN

As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold,  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
Leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, most gracious God, may we  
Evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,  
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,  
There to bend the knee before  
Thee whom heav'n and earth adore;  
So may we with willing feet  
Ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare  
At thy cradle 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 heav'nly king.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry 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.

*Music:* Conrad Kocher (1786-1872) arr. J. Lionel Bennett  
*Words:* William C. Dix (1837-1989)

## THE BIDDING

The prophet Balaam heard the words of God, and knew the knowledge of the most High, and said, 'I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel.'

*Numbers 24. 16-17*

Beloved in Christ, at this season God revealed on earth the glory of his Christ. The Magi came from the East to worship the infant Jesus; John the Baptist heard in the voice from heaven that Jesus was God's beloved Son; the wedding at Cana was blessed with water transformed into the wine of God's new creation.

Through these unsettled and anxious times in which we live may God lead us in our hearts and minds to the worship of Christ. May we, renewed at our own baptism, live out in all our thoughts, words and deeds our confession of Jesus as God made manifest on earth. In our care and love for others, may we find our lives transformed into the daily presence of God's blessing.

And so may we bear witness throughout our lives to the glory of God in all we do at home, at work, in Chambers and in Court. May we serve our neighbours as Christ has served us; may we promote, with diligence and perseverance, the justice and mercy of heaven in our service of justice here in London and throughout our land.

May the star out of Jacob, through the darkest times, forever hearten and encourage lead us; may the spirit of our baptism forever comfort and inspire us; and so may we come at last to the banquet of God's kingdom at which Christ and his people, freed from the deep shadows of this world, will rejoice in our final and everlasting union.

And so I pray and beseech you to accompany me with a pure heart and humble voice unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying after me:

**Almighty and most merciful Father, We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, We have offended against thy holy laws, We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, And we have done those things which we ought not to have done, And there is no health in us: But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us miserable offenders; Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults, Restore thou them that are penitent, According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord: And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.**

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness, and live. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him, which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure, and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**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 trespasses, As we forgive them that 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.**

*Priest.* O Lord, open thou our lips.

*Answer.* **And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.**

*Priest.* O God, make speed to save us.

*Answer.* **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

*Priest.* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

*Answer.* As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

*Priest.* Praise ye the Lord.

*Answer.* The Lord's Name be praised.

## PSALM 46

**GOD is our hope and strength : a very present help in trouble.**

**Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be moved : and  
though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea;**

**Though the waters thereof rage and swell : and though the  
mountains shake at the tempest of the same.**

**The rivers of the flood thereof shall make glad the city of God:  
the holy place of the tabernacle of the most Highest.**

**God is in the midst of her, therefore shall she not be removed :  
God shall help her, and that right early.**

**Be still then, and know that I am God : I will be exalted among  
the heathen, and I will be exalted in the earth.**

**The Lord of hosts is with us : the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.**

*All sit.*

## THE FIRST LESSON

*The First Lesson is written in the sixtieth chapter of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah beginning at the first verse.*

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all they from Sheba shall come: they shall bring gold and incense; and they shall shew forth the praises of the Lord.

Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise. The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.

*Here endeth the first lesson.*

*All stand.*

## MAGNIFICAT

**My soul doth magnify the Lord:  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.**

**For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden.**

**For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me  
blessed.**

**For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.**

**And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all  
generations.**

**He hath showed strength with his arm:  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.**

**He hath put down the mighty from their seat:  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.**

**He hath filled the hungry with good things:  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.**

**He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:  
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for  
ever.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.**

*Words: St Luke 1. 46-55*

*All sit.*

#### THE SECOND LESSON

*The Second Lesson is written in the second chapter of the Gospel according to St Matthew beginning at the first verse.*

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, in Bethlehem of Judæa: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

When they had heard the king, they departed; and lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

And being warned of God in a dream, that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

*Here endeth the second lesson.*

*All stand.*

NUNC DIMITTIS

**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.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.**

*In the tradition of the Temple Church, we face east to say together:*

## THE CREED

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried, He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Catholick Church; The Communion of saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.**

*Priest*      The Lord be with you.

*Answer*     **And with thy spirit.**

*Priest*      Let us pray.

*Priest*      Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Answer*     **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

*Priest*      Lord, have mercy upon us.

**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 trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.**

*Priest.*      O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

*Answer.*     **And grant us thy salvation.**

*Priest.*      O Lord, save the Queen.

*Answer.*     **And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

*Priest.*      Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

*Answer.*     **And make thy chosen people joyful.**

*Priest.*      O Lord, save thy people.

*Answer.*     **And bless thine inheritance.**

*Priest.* Give peace in our time, O Lord.

*Answer.* **Because there is none other that fighteth for us,  
But only thou, O God.**

*Priest.* O God, make clean our hearts within us.

*Answer.* **And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

## THE COLLECTS

O GOD, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only-begotten Son to the Gentiles: Mercifully grant, that we, which know thee now by faith, may after this life have the fruition of thy glorious Godhead; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord, and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*All sit or kneel.*

## INTERCESSIONS

*All stand.*

## HYMN

*In accordance with current government guidelines, please do not sing. The organist will play through 2-3 verses of the melody.*

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 thy burden of carefulness:  
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,  
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,  
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness  
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:  
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,  
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.

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.

*Music:* WAS LEBET, Melody from Rhenhardt MS. (1754) arr. Paul Bryan  
*Words:* J.S.B. Monsell (1811-1875)

### 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 us also in our pilgrimage to find the Lord.

May God the Holy Ghost, who came down at baptism upon the beloved Son, pour upon us the gifts of new life in our service of God's world.

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

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Et in terra pax

*Nicolas De Grigny (1672-1703)*