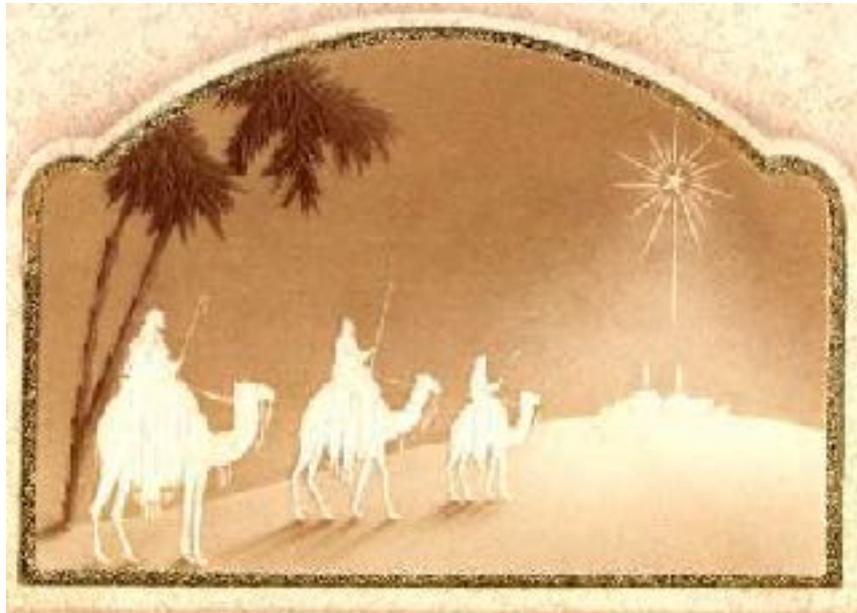


*The Benefice of St Mary the Virgin,
Higham Ferrers with St John the Baptist,
Chelveston-cum-Caldecott*

Meeting Point



Feast of the Epiphany

9th January 2022

Welcome to our online Worship

As Sunday Services now take place in our churches, our Online Worship continues in 'Meeting Point' – we are joined together as one worshipping family through our services at home and in church through the seasons of the Church Year and the themes of the Gospel. Sunday Meeting Point helps us deepen our faith as we explore readings from scripture and experiences from our day to day lives.

In this week's service we celebrate the manifestation of the deity of Christ as King by the visit of the Magi

Many thanks to all who have helped with this Online Service

Introduction - Paul



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.**

**In the heav'nly 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!**

Acclamation - Michelle

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
‘From the rising of the sun to its setting
**my name is great among the nations,’ says the
Lord.**

All kings shall fall down before him;
all nations shall do him service.
I will give you as a light to the nations,

**that my salvation may reach
to the end of the earth.**

The Lord will be your everlasting light
and your God will be your glory.

The Collect - Linda

Let us pray that our joy in the birth of Christ will last for ever.

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.**

Gospel – Matthew 2:1-12 – read by Michelle

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew

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 Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Hymn

**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.**

**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.**

**Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would his favour secure:
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.**

**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.**

Meditation *from Linda*

Anthem – Three kings from Persian lands afar

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.

*How brightly shines the morning star!
With grace and truth from heaven afar
Our Jesse tree now bloweth.*

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.

*Of Jacob's stem and David's line,
For thee, my Bridegroom, King divine,
My soul with love o'erfloweth.*

Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem
The kings are travelling, 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.
Offer thy heart!

Prayers - Michelle, Chris, Georgie & Bella

In our prayers we focus on the three gifts of the Magi; gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
As gold in the furnace is tried and purified seven times in
the fire,
so purify our hearts and minds that we may be a royal
priesthood
acceptable in the service of your kingdom.
Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
As our prayer rises up before you as incense,
so may we be presented before you with
penitent hearts and uplifted hands
to offer ourselves in your priestly service.
Blessed be God for ever.



Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
As you give medicine to heal our sickness and the leaves
of the tree of life
for the healing of the nations, so anoint us with your
healing power
that we may be the first-fruits of your new creation.
Blessed be God for ever.

Lord God of the nations,
we have seen your star of your glory rising in splendour.
The radiance of your incarnate Word pierces the darkness
that covers the earth and signals the dawn of peace and
justice.
Make radiant the lives of your people with that same

brightness,
and beckon all the nations to walk as one in your light.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh,
who live and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
in the splendour of eternal light, God for ever and ever.
Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God with us,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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 Peace - Paul

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there shall be no end.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace. 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 for ever, ceasing never
over us all to reign:**

**Frankincense to offer have I,
incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising, all men raising,
worship him, God most high:**

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

**Glorious now behold him arise,
king and God and sacrifice.
Heaven sings: 'Alleluia';
'Alleluia,' the earth replies:**

Final Prayer - Michelle

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.

Blessing - Michelle

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.
Amen.

May God, who has delivered us from the dominion of
darkness,
give us a place with the saints in light
in the kingdom of his beloved Son.
Amen.

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
shine in your hearts and fill your lives
with his joy and peace.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you in this holy season
and remain with you always

Amen.

*Material used in this booklet is copyright of its respective rights owners. Music and
hymn words are reproduced under ONE LICENSE number A-633137, Church
Copyright License 2148907 and Music*

*Reproduction License 2216255. Material in this order of service is taken from
Common Worship, copyright*

© The Archbishops' Council 2000-2006 and is used here with permission.

www.commonworship.com