



Grace Lutheran Church Redcliffe
Service Order For 2nd January,
Commemoration of Epiphany



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

LORD God, loving Father:
as You led the Magi by the light of a star,
draw us ever closer to You by the light of faith.
Fill us with Your Spirit,
and help us to desire You as ardently as they did;
in Jesus' name. Amen.

OPENING SENTENCE: Matthew 2:11

*They came to the house where the child was
and saw Him with His mother, Mary,
and they bowed down and worshiped Him.*

INVOCATION

*In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

LHS 40: As with gladness men of old ([click here](#))

**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 Lord, may we evermore Your glory see.**

**As with joyful steps they sped, Saviour, to Your lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before one whom heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet ever seek Your mercy-seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare at Your cradle rough and bare;
so may we with holy joy pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to You, our heavenly king.**

**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 Your glory hide.**

CONFESSION

*Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins,
and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.*

**Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to You all my sins,
and repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased You and deserve Your
punishment in time and in eternity. But I am sorry for my sins, and I ask You, for the
sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, to be
gracious and merciful to me. Amen.**

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to
die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He
has given the right to become children of God, and has given them His Holy Spirit.
Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.*

INTROIT: From Psalm 72

*¹ Give the king Your justice, O God,
and Your righteousness to the royal son!*

*² May he judge Your people with righteousness,
and Your poor with justice!*

May all kings fall down before Him!

*⁵ May they fear You while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!*

*⁶ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth!*

*⁷ In his days may the righteous flourish,
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!*

May all kings fall down before Him!

*¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands
render him tribute;*

may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!

*¹¹ May all kings fall down before him,
all nations serve him!*

May all kings fall down before Him!

**Glory to the Father
and the Son
and the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now,
and will be forever.
Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray that people of all nations
come to faith in Christ.*

[silence]

Almighty God,
you wonderfully created us in your own image,
and even more wonderfully restored us.

As your Son our Lord Jesus Christ
was made in our likeness,
so let us share in his divine nature.

For he lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BIBLE READING

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6 The nations will come to the light

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD shines over you. ² For look, darkness covers the earth, and total darkness the peoples; but the LORD will shine over you, and His glory will appear over you. ³ Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your radiance. ⁴ Raise your eyes and look around: they all gather and come to you; your sons will come from far away, and your daughters will be carried on the hip. ⁵ Then you will see and be radiant, and your heart will tremble and rejoice, because the riches of the sea will become yours and the wealth of the nations will come to you. ⁶ Caravans of camels will cover your land— young camels of Midian and Ephah— all of them will come from Sheba. They will carry gold and frankincense and proclaim the praises of the LORD.

After the reading

This is the Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12 God reveals His age-long purpose in Christ

¹ This is the reason why I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — ² For you surely must have heard of the mystery of God's grace that was entrusted to me on your behalf, ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by a revelation, as I have briefly written. ⁴ Reading this, you will be able to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ It was not disclosed to human beings in previous generations, but now it has been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit, ⁶ namely that the Gentiles have become coheirs, members of the same body, and sharers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷ I became its minister by God's grace bestowed on me through the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given me: to proclaim to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ ⁹ and to enlighten all concerning the administration of the mystery that had been kept hidden throughout the ages in God, the creator of all things. ¹⁰ In this way, the wisdom of God in its infinite variety might be made known through the Church to the principalities and powers in the heavens.

¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that He has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,
¹²in whom we have free access to God in boldness and confidence because of our faith in Him.

After the reading
This is the Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

*They came to the house where the child was
and saw Him with His mother, Mary,
and they bowed down and worshiped Him.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12 The Magi worship Christ the king

Before the reading
Glory be to You, O LORD.

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, ²“Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.” ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet: ⁶‘And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah; for out of you shall come forth a ruler who will shepherd My people Israel.’ ⁷ Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him.” ⁹ After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over the place where the Child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.

After the reading
This is the gospel of the LORD.
Praise be to You, O Christ.

Lord Jesus Christ,
thank you for coming with grace and truth.
Lead us to know God by knowing you.

Amen.

From the Eastern Mountains (click [here](#))

**From the eastern mountains pressing on they come,
wise men in their wisdom, to His humble home;
stirred by deep devotion, hasting from afar,
ever journeying onward, guided by a star.**

**There their Lord and Saviour as an infant lay,
wondrous light that led them onward on their way,
ever now to lighten nations from afar,
as they journey homeward by that guiding star.**

**Lord, who in a manger once had lowly lain,
Lord, who now in glory, o'er all kingdoms reign,
gather in the peoples, who, both near and far,
never saw the brightness of Your guiding star.**

**Gather in the outcasts, all who've gone astray,
shine Your radiance on them, guide them on their way;
those who never knew You, those who've wandered far,
guide them by the brightness of Your guiding star.**

Godfrey Thring (1823–1903)

SERMON

At this point you may wish to Listen to Sermon, or Read and Discuss the Sermon
The Sermon online may be different to the manuscript.
For LCA Worship Resources (click [here](#))

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one LORD, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through Him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and His kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the LORD, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Ancient of Days – CityAlight (click [here](#))

**Though the nations rage, kingdoms rise and fall,
there is still one King reigning over all. So I will not fear for this truth remains
that my God is the Ancient of Days.**

**None above Him, none before Him, all of time in His hands.
For His throne it shall remain and ever stand. All the power, all the glory; I will trust in His name.
For my God is, the Ancient of Days.**

**Though the dread of night overwhelms my soul;
He is here with me, I am not alone. O His love is sure, and He knows my name;
for my God is, the Ancient of Days.**

**None above Him, none before Him, all of time in His hands.
For His throne it shall remain and ever stand. All the power, all the glory;
I will trust in His name. For my God is, the Ancient of Days.**

**Though I may not see what the future brings, I will watch and wait for the Saviour King.
Then my joy complete, standing face to face in the presence of the Ancient of Days.**

**None above Him, none before Him, all of time in His hands.
For His throne it shall remain and ever stand. All the power, all the glory; I will trust in His name.
For my God is, the Ancient of Days. For my God is, the Ancient of Days.**

Words and Music by Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Michael Farren & Jesse Reeves
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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

By his birth as a human being, Jesus has made the Father known to us. Let us therefore pray to our Father in heaven.

Father God, we ask you to strengthen all pastors and lay-readers as they preach your word, that Christ may be known to the ends of the earth. Through your Holy Spirit open the hearts of all who listen, that they may truly hear and come to you with joyful and thankful hearts.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

God of all creation, we give you thanks for the harvest, and for all people who produce our food and drink. Thank you for your abundant blessings in our lives and bless the food we eat for our nourishment. Help us to trust in you when crops fail, the weather is challenging, and through all natural disasters. Give us generous hearts eager to support people who do not have enough to eat.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Lord God, as the world groans under the weight of many problems, we turn to you for strength and guidance. We pray for [insert current issues and people in trouble here].

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Holy God, we ask for your blessing on the new year. Through your grace and mercy, you make each one of us a new creation in Christ. Help us to live as your redeemed and forgiven people in this fallen world. Let your light shine on us, and help us to reflect that love and hope to all around us, in your name,

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Heavenly Father, you revealed yourself through your only Son, Jesus Christ. In his name, hear our prayer, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be Your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours
now and forever. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

*Let us bless the LORD.
God be praised forevermore.
May all kings fall down before Him,
all nations serve Him!*

*The LORD bless us and keep us.
The LORD make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.
The LORD look upon us with favour, and give us peace.*

Amen!

GROWING FAITH AT HOME BLESSING

May God lead you to see and worship Jesus.

May He fill you with great joy.

May God lead you to see and worship Jesus.

May He fill you with great joy.

WORDS OF SENDING

Go in peace.

Live your life in joyful homage to Christ the king.

In the name of Christ.

Amen.

Come, let us join our cheerful song (click [here](#))

**Come, let us join our cheerful songs with angels round the throne;
ten thousand thousand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.**

**Jesus is worthy to receive honour and power divine;
and blessings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for ever Thine.**

**Let all creation join in one to bless the sacred name
of Him that sits upon the throne, and to adore the Lamb.**

**To Father, Son, and Spirit, Lord, the God whom we adore,
be glory, as it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.

HYMNS AND SONGS

First reading : Jeremiah 31:7-14

LHS

435 Christians, now praise ye G6

623 Now sing we, now rejoice G4

630 O thou holiest, O thou happiest G7

732 Comfort, comfort GS

AT

25 Comfort, comfort

94 God give you joy

235 In your hand, my Saviour

253 He turned my mourning into dancing

Second reading : Ephesians 1:3-14

LHS

- 20 O Jesus Christ all praise to Thee* G4
22 Let us all with gladsome voice* G4
32 O rejoice, ye Christians, loudly G7
33 Hark, the herald angels sing G4
147 O Morning Star, so bright and fair* G3
322 Dear Christians, one and all rejoice* G3
323 Blessed are the sons of God* G4
441 With joyful heart your praises sing* G3
777 Father in heaven GS
805 We are heirs of the Father GS
871 My heart is filled with faith and wonder (vv 1-4) G6

AT

- 12 We are family
40 Holy, holy
41 Father, we adore you
57 Father God
115 Father in heaven
145 What wondrous love

Gospel : John 1: (1-9) 10-18 (*see Christmas Day Proper III*)

LHS

- 47 Songs of thankfulness and praise* G4
141 Father of heaven whose love G5
154 Amazing love, that rent the heavens* G4
746 What child is this GS
822 God has spoken by his prophets G6
823 Your strong word (vv 1, 2, 3, 6 or all) G5

AT

- 132 Anna's song
244 We have seen the Word of life
329 This kingdom