



**SERVICE ORDER**  
**Sunday 7 January 2024**  
**Epiphany**



**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

**Lord God,**  
**you revealed your only Son to the nations by the leading of a star.**  
**Lead us, who know you now by faith, to see you in your glory.**  
**We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,**  
**who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,**  
**one God, now and forever.**  
**Amen.**

**OPENING SENTENCES**

*O Come, let us adore Christ our Lord!*  
**The Star in the eastern skies heralded his coming.**  
*Led by the light of the star, the Wise Ones came to pay homage.*  
**We too come seeking the infant King.**  
*Come, Arise! Shine! The Light has come.*  
**God's light of love is shining upon us.**

**INVOCATION**

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

**HERE I AM TO WORSHIP**

**Light of the world You stepped down into darkness**  
**Opened my eyes let me see Beauty that made**  
**This heart adore You Hope of a life spent with You**

**So here I am to worship Here I am to bow down**  
**Here I am to say that You're my God And You're altogether lovely**  
**Altogether worthy Altogether wonderful to me**

King of all days Oh so highly exalted  
Glorious in heaven above Humbly You came  
To the earth You created All for love's sake became poor

So here I am to worship Here I am to bow down  
Here I am to say that You're my God  
And You're altogether lovely Altogether worthy  
Altogether wonderful to me

And I'll never know how much it cost To see my sin upon that cross  
And I'll never know how much it cost To see my sin upon that cross

So here I am to worship Here I am to bow down  
Here I am to say that You're my God  
And You're altogether lovely Altogether worthy  
Altogether wonderful to me

So here I am to worship Here I am to bow down  
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Altogether wonderful to me

Tim Hughes

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### **CONFESSION OF SINS**

*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.**

### **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**LORD HAVE MERCY**

*(spoken)*

*Lord, have mercy.*

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Christ, have mercy.*

**Christ, have mercy.**

*Lord, have mercy.*

**SONG OF ADORATION How Great is our God**

**The splendour of the King, clothed in majesty;  
let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.  
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,  
and trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice.**

**How great is our God! Sing with me: how great is our God!  
And all will see how great, how great is our God!**

**And age to age He stands, and time is in His hands;  
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End.  
The God-head, Three-in-One, Father, Spirit, Son,  
the Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb.**

**How great is our God! Sing with me: how great is our God!  
And all will see how great, how great is our God!**

**Name above all names, worthy of all praise.  
My heart will sing: how great is our God!**

**How great is our God! Sing with me: how great is our God!  
And all will see how great, how great is our God!**

Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Jesse Reeves

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*The Lord be with you.*

**And also with you.**

*Let us pray.*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Loving Lord Jesus,  
shine upon us as we hear of the visit of the Wise Ones,  
who risked everything to follow a star.  
Lead us also to step out in faith to seek you,  
worship you and proclaim you before others as the King of kings.  
May our gifts to you be love, praise and thanks,  
this day and every day. Amen.

## PSALM 72

<sup>1</sup> *Endow the king with your justice, O God,*  
**the royal son with your righteousness.**

<sup>2</sup> *May he judge your people in righteousness,*  
**your afflicted ones with justice.**

<sup>3</sup> *May the mountains bring prosperity to the people,*  
**the hills the fruit of righteousness.**

<sup>4</sup> *May he defend the afflicted among the people*  
**and save the children of the needy; may he crush the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup> *May he endure as long as the sun,*  
**as long as the moon, through all generations.**

<sup>6</sup> *May he be like rain falling on a mown field,*  
**like showers watering the earth.**

<sup>7</sup> *In his days may the righteous flourish*  
**and prosperity abound till the moon is no more.**

<sup>10</sup> *May the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores*  
**bring tribute to him.**

*May the kings of Sheba and Seba*  
**present him with gifts.**

<sup>11</sup> *May all kings bow down to him*  
**and all nations serve him.**

<sup>12</sup> *For he will deliver the needy who cry out,*  
**the afflicted who have no one to help.**

<sup>13</sup> *He will take pity on the weak and the needy*  
**and save the needy from death.**

<sup>14</sup> *He will rescue them from oppression and violence,*  
**for precious is their blood in his sight.**

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

### **BIBLE READING**

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

**60** 'Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. <sup>2</sup>See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. <sup>3</sup>Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. <sup>4</sup>'Lift up your eyes and look about you: all assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. <sup>5</sup>Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. <sup>6</sup>Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise 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

**3** For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles – <sup>2</sup>Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. <sup>4</sup>In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup>which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. <sup>6</sup>This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup>I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. <sup>10</sup>His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the

heavenly realms, <sup>11</sup> according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup> In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

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

**GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12** Wise men worship Christ the king

*Before the reading*  
**Glory be to You, O LORD.**

<sup>2</sup> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.' <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> 'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they replied, 'for this is what the prophet has written: <sup>6</sup> "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" <sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, 'Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.' <sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

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

## **THIS I BELIEVE (THE CREED)**

**Our Father everlasting The all creating One  
God Almighty Through Your Holy Spirit  
Conceiving Christ the Son Jesus our Saviour**

**I believe in God our Father I believe in Christ the Son  
I believe in the Holy Spirit Our God is three in One  
I believe in the resurrection That we will rise again  
For I believe in the Name of Jesus**

**Our judge and our defender Suffered and crucified  
Forgiveness is in You Descended into darkness  
You rose in glorious life Forever seated high**

**I believe in God our Father I believe in Christ the Son  
I believe in the Holy Spirit Our God is three in One  
I believe in the resurrection That we will rise again  
For I believe in the Name of Jesus**

**I believe in You I believe You rose again  
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord**

**I believe in life eternal I believe in the virgin birth  
I believe in the saints' communion And in Your holy Church  
I believe in the resurrection When Jesus comes again  
For I believe in the Name of Jesus**

**I believe in God our Father I believe in Christ the Son  
I believe in the Holy Spirit Our God is three in One  
I believe in the resurrection  
That we will rise again  
For I believe in the Name of Jesus**

**CCLI Song # 7018338**

**Ben Fielding | Matt Crocker**

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## **MESSAGE**

**At this point you may wish to watch the Sermon.  
For Church YouTube Channel ([click here](#))  
For LCA Worship Resources ([click here](#))**

## NOEL

**Love incarnate love divine Star and angels gave the sign  
Bow to babe on bended knee The Savior of humanity  
Unto us a Child is born He shall reign forevermore**

**Noel Noel Come and see what God has done  
Noel Noel The story of amazing love  
The light of the world given for us Noel**

**Son of God and Son of man There before the world began  
Born to suffer born to save Born to raise us from the grave  
Christ the everlasting Lord He shall reign forevermore**

**Noel Noel Come and see what God has done  
Noel Noel The story of amazing love  
The light of the world given for us Noel**

**Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Matt Redman  
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## OFFERING PRAYER

**Lord Jesus, alongside the gifts of the wise men  
we bring to you our gifts of money, time and talents –  
indeed, the gift of our very selves.  
Bless our offerings so that they may be a blessing to others.  
Use them to bring good news, hope, comfort  
and help to those who feel overwhelmed by darkness. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**Our heavenly Father has rescued us from darkness, and brought us into his wonderful light through his Son Jesus Christ. We pray to him that his light may shine in the darkness of our world.**

**We thank you for sending your dear Son Jesus to bring the light of life to those who were in darkness and in death's shadow. Help your Church throughout the world to be bold in sharing this good news with all people. May your light shine on our nation's leaders and people so that we may live in peace and justice may prevail.  
Heavenly Father: **shine your light on us.****



Just as a star first blazed forth to shine the way to your incarnate Son, help your people to shine the light of Your Word into the darkness of this world and point the way for all to come home. Bless the work of the Board for Mission and protect them in their service.

Heavenly Father: **shine your light on us.**

As the wise men knelt and worshipped the infant Jesus and offered to Him their precious gifts, lead us to join them in their worship and to offer up all we have in service to our Lord.

Heavenly Father: **shine your light on us.**

In your mercy remember all those who suffer in mind, body and spirit. Shine on them, Lord, the comfort of Your Word, and relieve them in their distress.

Heavenly Father: **shine your light on us.**

We thank and praise you that through your Son you have destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light, so that through faith, all who fall asleep in him share in his victory over the grave.

Heavenly Father: **shine your light on us.**

Father, make us walk in your light, and shine in the darkness of our world, so that all may see your life-bringing light. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who 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.**

## **BLESSING TO SHARE**

*May God bless you with the faith to always seek Jesus.*

**May God bless you with the faith to always seek Jesus.**

*May the light of God's love always guide you and lead you.*

**May the light of God's love always guide you and lead you.**

*May the joy of God's salvation be yours, now and always.*

**May the joy of God's salvation be yours, now and always.**

**Amen.**

## **WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME IT IS**

**You were the Word at the beginning  
one with God the Lord Most High,  
Your hidden glory in creation,  
now revealed in You our Christ.**

**What a beautiful Name it is, what a beautiful Name it is;  
the Name of Jesus Christ my King. What a beautiful Name it is,  
nothing compares to this; what a beautiful Name it is,  
the Name of Jesus**

**You didn't want heaven without us,  
so Jesus, You brought heaven down.  
My sin was great, Your love was greater,  
what could separate us now?**

**What a wonderful Name it is, what a wonderful Name it is;  
the Name of Jesus Christ my King. What a wonderful Name it is,  
nothing compares to this; what a wonderful Name it is,  
the Name of Jesus.**

**Death could not hold You, the veil tore before You,  
You silenced the boast of sin and grave.  
The heavens are roaring, the praise of Your glory,  
for You are raised to life again.**

**You have no rival, You have no equal,  
now and forever, God You reign.  
Yours is the Kingdom, Yours is the glory,  
Yours is the Name above all names.**

**What a powerful Name it is, what a powerful Name it is,  
the Name of Jesus Christ my King. What a powerful Name it is,  
nothing can stand against; what a powerful Name it is,  
the Name of Jesus.**

**What a powerful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.  
What a powerful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.**

Brooke Lightwood / Ben Fielding  
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## **HYMNS AND SONGS**

### **First reading: Isaiah 60:1-6**

#### **LHS**

- 16 Hail to the Lord's Anointed G6
- 43 Gentiles, rise to greet the morning G7
- 45 Hail, Thou source of every blessing\* G4
- 222 Thou whose almighty word G6

#### **AT**

- 126 The light of Christ
- 217 Shine, Jesus, shine
- 221 They were waiting
- 315 Drawn to the light
- 389 Light of the nations

### **Second reading: Ephesians 3:1-12**

#### **LHS**

- 38 In peace and joy I now depart\* G4
- 41 O Jesus, King of glory\* G4
- 44 Thou light of gentile nations\* G4
- 45 Hail, Thou source of every blessing\* G4
- 47 Songs of thankfulness and praise\* G4
- 799 In Christ there is no east or west G7
- 898 Now Lord, you let your servant go GS
- 900 O Lord, now let your servant G6

#### **AT**

- 104 Now, Lord, you let your servant go

## **Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12**

### **LHS**

- 16 Hail to the Lord's Anointed G6
- 29 Come, your hearts and voices raising G4
- 40 As with gladness men of old G7
- 42 Earth has many a noble city\* G4
- 46 Angels from the realms of glory G7
- 147 O Morning Star, so bright and fair\* G3
- 744 The first Nowell G7
- 749 When Christ's appearing was made known G6
- 751 Wise men, they came to look for wisdom G6

### **AT**

- 199 I know where I'm going
- 221 They were waiting
- 315 Drawn by the light
- 371 We are all the wise men