

SAINT BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

PARISH OF BURNLEY



FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

4th January 2026
10:00 a.m.

Before the service, speak with God; during the service, let God speak to you; after the service, speak to one another.

Dear parishioners and friends,

Epiphany, which we celebrate two days early today, is very closely linked to Christmas. It follows immediately on from the twelve days of Christmas, of which Christmas Day is the first. Indeed, Greek and Eastern Orthodox Christians celebrate Christmas on Epiphany, the 6th January. On Epiphany we celebrate the arrival of the magi, the wise men, who follow the star of Bethlehem and reach with joy the Christ child with his Mother. It really is a key celebration of light and joy, with the gospel spreading to the Gentile world. It is a day to rejoice in the coming of the light of Christ which shines on everyone and is welcoming, healing and inclusive.

Dorothy

INTROIT HYMN, AM 95 Bethlehem what greater City

Sentence Arise for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Eternal God, who by a star led Magi to the worship of your son: guide the nations of the world by your light, that the whole world may see your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever Amen.

1ST 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.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

: PSALM 72.1-7,10-14

¹ Response Every nation on earth will adore you

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

That he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;

That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the little hills bring righteousness. R

He shall defend the needy among the people; he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.

In his time shall the righteous flourish; there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more. R

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.

All kings shall bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.

For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, and the oppressed who has no helper. R

He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, and dear shall their blood be in his sight. R

SECOND READING Ephesians 3.1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers

and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia

We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord

Alleluia Alleluia, Alleluia

The Lord be with you.

And also, with you.

A reading from the Gospel according to 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.

For the Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Intercessions

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD: Peace in the Middle East, Sudan, Congo and Ukraine for the Jewish community for the Richmond Churches Food and for all organizations that provide safety and relief during this summer season and all those in need.

FOR THE SICK, RECOVERING, AND THOSE WHO GRIEVE Bruce, Sharon, John Ross, Carol, Jack, Neil, Craig, Helen, Nanette and Liam. *FOR THOSE RECENTLY DECEASED:* Jack Buckingham

FOR THOSE WHOSE YEAR'S MIND OCCURS THIS WEEK: Joseph Clark, Eunice Winter, Roy Moseley, Bradley Ryan, Michael Watson, William Haldine, Jack Cummings, William Beagley, Alice McArthur

Offertory Hymn: AM 96 Brightest and best are the sons of the morning

Recessional Hymn: AM105 WE three Kings of Orient are.

Parish working bee, Saturday the 17th January 9am to 12noon with great morning tea. Many hands make light work.

Thursday 10am Eucharist start this week the 8th January