

St Stephen's, Canonbury

Morning Worship for Epiphany

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

As star-led Magi gathered around the Christ-child
So we gather in awe and wonder,
To offer praise and worship,
To give the humble gifts of our hearts and lives,
To confess our sins and seek the light of forgiveness,
To pray for our pain-filled world,
And to seek God's blessing,
The blessing of the child of Bethlehem,
That we may know his grace and love each day.

But first, let us hear these words of Jesus

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Let us confess the times when we have turned away from the light of Christ
and stumbled in the darkness of the world

God of light,

**As Magi followed the light of the star
into the presence of the Christ-child,**

So we seek to walk in your light and come to see you face to face.

But we confess that we often fail.

The lights of the world call us away,

The darkness in our hearts causes us to turn from you,

And we are soon lost and in need of rescue.

God, forgive us and lead us back into your way,

That with joy we may tread the path you set before us,

As we journey into the light of your eternal love;

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

May God forgive you
and light your way before you.
May he scatter the darkness from your path,
And fill you with the light of his presence.
May he forgive you and bless you,
And make his face to shine upon you,
Now and always. **Amen.**

Give praise, you servants of the Lord:

O praise the name of the Lord.

Let the name of the Lord be blessed:

from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Light has sprung up for the righteous:

And joyful gladness for those who are true of heart

Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous:

Sing to the Lord and praise his name.

(from Psalms 113 and 97)

The Creed

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God:

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.**

**He humbled himself,
and was obedient to death
even the death of the cross.**

**Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Intercessions

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
as our Saviour has taught us, so we pray
**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 for ever. Amen.**

Collect

Readings

Reflection

Closing prayer

**Light of Jesus, surround me,
Love of Jesus, indwell me,
Power of Jesus, sustain me,
Grace of Jesus, renew me,
Hope of Jesus, inspire me,
Joy of Jesus, transform me,
This day and always. Amen.**

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 you in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

Amen.

May God who has brought us out of darkness
give us a place with the saints in light
in the kingdom of his Son.

Amen.

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
shine in your hearts,
and transform your lives,
to bring his light to others.

Amen.

And the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Be amongst you and remain with you, now and always.

Amen