

# St Stephen's, Canonbury

## Holy Communion for Epiphany

Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth  
and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his  
glory appears over you. (Isaiah 60:1-2)

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you  
**and also with you.**

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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 our sins

**Lord, we confess:  
Our failure to live in your light,  
Our neglect of your commands,  
Our indifference to your word,  
Our reluctance to share your love.  
Forgive us for our lack of commitment  
and for living 'lightly' to your Gospel.  
Renew us to walk the journey you set before us  
with dedication and joy;  
through Jesus 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.

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**We believe in God our Father,  
Creator and sustainer,  
Source of all light and love.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
Redeemer and saviour,  
Born to be the light of the world.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
Comforter and guide,  
Who scatters the darkness and lights our way.**

**We believe in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
The glorious trinity of light,  
Who is and was and is to come. Amen**

Intercessions

Collect

Readings

Reflection

## Communion

Flour is milled and bread is baked,  
Grapes are pressed and wine is poured,  
May these gifts of creation  
Become for us the gift of life  
In the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Lord our God,  
as wise travellers followed the light of the star  
and beheld the glory of the incarnate Word in the infant Christ,  
so we seek to travel faithfully  
until we behold you face to face  
in the glory of your eternal kingdom.  
May these gifts be a foretaste of the banquet  
where saints and angels join with one voice and proclaim,

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,  
God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,  
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Light of the World has come,  
Shining from Bethlehem's manger,  
Streaming from Golgotha's cross,  
Bursting from the empty tomb,  
Filling this place and burning in our hearts.  
For the true light that gives light to all people is here,  
coming to us in bread and wine.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus gathered with his friends to celebrate the freedom of God's people. During the meal he took bread, blessed it and broke it and gave it to each saying: 'This is my body broken for you.' At the end of the meal he took the cup, blessed it and shared it saying: 'This is my blood shed for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.'

Blessed Lord, with thankful hearts we come to this feast,  
where heaven and earth are made one  
and we join the ceaseless song of praise, saying:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power,  
Be yours for ever and ever. Amen**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you,  
Eat in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

You are invited to receive Communion

**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**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord,  
**May we shine like stars in the universe  
as we hold out the word of life.**