**Morning Prayer – 2nd Sunday of Christmas - Epiphany**

Sunday 5th January 2025 at 9.30 (call in from 9.15)

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85649430168?pwd=QzFzNytXM01TQTc5cTROaHc2aElvZz09

Meeting ID: 856 4943 0168

Passcode: 336782

**Telephone instructions:**

\* Dial: 0131 460 1196  
  
\* You are then welcomed to Zoom and asked to type in the meeting ID ie. 856 4943 0168  
  
\* If the next instruction is to add your personal ID just press # to ignore  
  
\* When passcode requested type numbers i.e. 336782 plus #.  
  
\* At this point you should be admitted to the call.

**Preparation**

God in Christ has revealed his glory.

*All* **Come let us worship.**

From the rising on the sun to its setting

*All* **the Lord’s name is greatly to be praised.**

Give him praise, you servants of the Lord.

*All* **O praise the name of the Lord.**

**A picture containing person, hand

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**Act of Penitence**

The grace of God has dawned upon the world

through our Saviour Jesus Christ,

who sacrificed himself for us

to purify a people as his own.

Come, let us return to the Lord and say:

*All* **Lord our God,**

**in our sin we have avoided your call.**

**Our love for you is like a morning cloud,**

**Like the dew that goes away early.**

**Have mercy on us;**

**deliver us from judgement;**

**bind up our wounds and revive us;**

**in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

**Absolution**

May the God of love bring us back to himself,

forgive us our sins,

and assure us of his eternal love

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**The Word of God**

*First reading:* 1 John 3: 22-4: 6

**21**Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God **22**and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. **23**And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. **24**The one who keeps God’s commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

**6**We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John%204&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30610a)] of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 72: 10-15**

**10**May the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores  
    bring tribute to him.  
May the kings of Sheba and Seba  
    present him gifts.  
**11**May all kings bow down to him  
    and all nations serve him.

**12**For he will deliver the needy who cry out,  
    the afflicted who have no one to help.  
**13**He will take pity on the weak and the needy  
    and save the needy from death.  
**14**He will rescue them from oppression and violence,  
    for precious is their blood in his sight.

**15**Long may he live!  
    May gold from Sheba be given him.  
May people ever pray for him  
    and bless him all day long.

*Second reading:* Matthew 2: 1-12

### The Magi Visit the Messiah

**2**After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew%202&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23171a)] from the east came to Jerusalem **2**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.”

**3**When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. **4**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. **5**“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

**6**“‘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.’[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew%202&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23176b)]”

**7**Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. **8**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.”

**9**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. **10**When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. **11**On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. **12**And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

*We pause to reflect on the readings before turning to prayer.*

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**Intercessions**

Let us worship the Saviour with joy

and make our prayer to our heavenly Father.

The magi came from the east to worship your Son:

Father, grant to Christians everywhere

the spirit of adoration…

Lord of glory,

**hear our prayer.**

The infant Christ received gifts of gold, incense and myrrh:

Father, accept the offering of our hearts and minds

at the beginning of this year…

Lord of glory,

**hear our prayer.**

**The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ:**

**Father, grant an abundance of peace to your world…**

Lord of glory,

**hear our prayer.**

**The Holy Family lived in exile and in the shadow of death:**

**Father, look in mercy on all who are poor and powerless,**

**and all who suffer…at this time, we remember especially …………**

Lord of glory,

**hear our prayer.**

**Your Son shared the life of his home and family at Nazareth:**

**Father, protect in your love our neighbours,**

**our families and this community of which we are a part…**

Lord of glory,

**hear our prayer.**

Father, we rejoice in our fellowship

with the shepherds, the angels, the magi,

the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph

and all the faithful departed.

In your unfailing love for us and for all people,

hear and answer our prayers through your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**Collect**

*Collect for Epiphany*

O God,

who by the leading of a star

manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth,

mercifully grant that we,

who know you now by faith,

may at last behold your glory face to face;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

*The Lord’s Prayer*

Awaiting his coming in glory,

as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

*All* **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.**

*Blessing*

Christ our Lord,

to whom kings bowed down in worship and offered gifts,

reveal to you his glory

and pour upon you the riches of his grace.

And the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among us and remain with us

and those we love and pray for

now and always.

*All* **Amen**.

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**Contacting Church Office**

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10.00am -12 noon

Email: [office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org](mailto:office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org) Tel:01884 250417 or 07733949295

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