



Worship at Home for Epiphany (including the season of Epiphany)

We believe that wherever we worship God ‘in Spirit and in truth’, He will be present.

To worship in your household, choose a specific place - perhaps somewhere you can light a candle, and where you and those joining you can sit together undisturbed. Choose a time when you can be unhurried. Then read slowly through the service sheet, praying the prayers as you go. If you are with others, then one of you can take the lead and say the words in normal type, with the other(s) reading the lines in bold, or you could take it in turns to lead. If it is just you, then read it all yourself. Some people find it helps to read the prayers and responses aloud, even on their own.

The Collect, the Bible readings and the Reflection are provided separately. Short intercessions are included, but you may wish to use your own prayers, or some may be provided by your church.

At any point, you could pause to look at the ‘pick n mix’ activities, or do them later instead – whatever age you are! Hymns and songs are not included in the written version of this service. But these written words also accompany an audio version of this service which does include music. You can find each week’s audio service via www.lordsbridge.org

Find what works for you and, as you worship, pray and learn at home, may God bless you and those others doing the same.



Introduction to the Epiphany services

The nearest Sunday to the 6th January is the one on which we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, for many denominations and from way back in history, this has been known as a 'principal feast' along with Christmas and Easter. Like Easter and the celebratory Sundays that follow it known in church circles as the Easter season, Epiphany also has a season made up of the following Sundays. Epiphany means revelation or realisation. And it is on these Sundays that we hear the stories in which Jesus is first revealed to the world as the Son of God. This starts with the story of the visit of the wise men. Then the story of Jesus' baptism as an adult, with the audible voice of the Father and the symbol of God's Spirit. Then depending on the year, we hear how Jesus calls the disciples, of his first miracle at the wedding at Cana, or his first public words in the synagogue. Then on the last Sunday of Epiphany we return to his earliest days and his presentation in the Temple to Anna and Simeon.

The words in this service reference the visit of the wisemen, and also some of those other moments of revelation.

Gathering to worship God

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen
The Lord of Glory be with you.

Opening words

Welcome, Child of Bethlehem, revered by wise men,

All: A light revealed for us.

Welcome, Man of Nazareth, teacher, Messiah

All: A light revealed for us.

Welcome, Son of God, beloved, anointed

All: A light revealed for us.

Welcome, Light of Salvation, named in Simeon's song

All: A light revealed for us.

Words of confession and forgiveness

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.

Cf Titus 2:11-14

Let us confess our sins.

Keep silence for a few moments of reflection and your own prayers.



God, be gracious to us and bless us,
and make your face shine upon us:

Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

May your ways be known on the earth,
your saving power among the nations:

Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

You, Lord, have made known your salvation,
and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations:

Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw us to himself and cleanse us from all our sins
that we may behold the glory of his Son
the Word made flesh
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Words of Praise

Blessed are you, Lord our God,
King of the universe

All: Blessed be God for ever

Your light shines on us
and all peoples shall see your glory.

All: Blessed be God for ever

You gave us Jesus to be the light of the world;
he makes our darkness light.

All: Blessed be God for ever

Through the Holy Spirit your light
and love burns within us,
bearing witness to your truth.

All: Blessed be God for ever

As we bear your light,
may our lips never cease to sing your praise.

All: Blessed be God for ever

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All: Blessed be God for ever



The Church's Prayers for the season of Epiphany

There is a prayer here for each Sunday in the Church's Epiphany season (excluding the Feast of the Presentation). Choose the one for the right date.

*The Feast of the Epiphany –
the first Sunday of January*

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Epiphany 2 – the third Sunday of January

Eternal Lord,
our beginning and our end:
bring us with the whole creation
to your glory, hidden through past
ages
and made known
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*The Baptism of Christ –
the second Sunday of January*

Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as
your Son:
may we recognize him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be your
beloved children;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen

Epiphany 3 – the fourth Sunday of January

God of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news to
the poor,
release to the captives,
and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free
to praise you in Christ our Lord. Amen

*Alternative Collects, Epiphany
From Common Worship ©Archbishop's Council 2013*

Reading and Responding to God's Word

*The **Bible readings** and a **Reflection** on them for this Sunday are provided separately. Please pause here, read and ponder them now. You might also like to use the Pic 'n' Mix family activities or any other resources at this point.*

Affirming our faith

These words, to affirm our faith in God revealed as Father, Son and Spirit, come from the book of Revelation, the final book of the Bible. These words declare that Jesus Christ is revealed for all people. The 'Bride' is a metaphor for the 'Church'.

**All: Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.
We believe in God the Father,
who created all things:**



All: for by his will they were created and have their being.

We believe in God the Son,
who was slain:

**All: for with his blood, he purchased us for God,
from every tribe and language,
from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:

**All: the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'
Even so come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

cf Revelation 4.8,11;5.9;22.17,20

Prayers for others and ourselves

The wise men brought Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, the revelation of who he was, symbolised in objects. Our prayers take these three gifts as their inspiration.

Star of wonder, star of night

All: guide us to thy perfect light.

Blessed are you Lord God king of the universe
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As gold denotes kingship and authority
we pray for our government and leaders
that in both negotiations and in the making of policy, in our current situation as a nation,
they may seek over all else the common good,
and the good of those on the growing margins of our society;
we pray for our own ability to lead and influence
that we might be wise and generous in our own places
that we might serve your kingdom here on earth.

Star of wonder, star of night

All: guide us to thy perfect light.

Blessed are you Lord God king of the universe
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As frankincense denotes the presence of God
we ask your forgiveness for our preoccupation with our own importance
for our reluctance to be curious, for our lack of courage in seeking you and your ways.
We pray that you would convince us of the change we need
and guide us into a deeper sense of your presence in our lives.

Star of wonder, star of night

All: guide us to thy perfect light.

Blessed are you Lord God king of the universe



to you be praise and glory for ever.

As myrrh denotes both suffering and healing
we pray for all who suffer in body, mind or spirit
and we for those we know

We pray for the healing of the nations
for those who offer their healing skills to the physically or mentally ill,
for those who heal relationships, the peace-makers and peace-keepers
for those who bring humanitarian aid to people in desperate need.
We pray for the resolve and the resources to do what we can,
practically, financially, and in other ways
to bring healing and relieve suffering in our communities and beyond them.
Star of wonder, star of night

All: guide us to thy perfect light.

The Lord's Prayer

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Closing words

Ever-living God,
whose glory was revealed in the Word made flesh,
may we, who have seen such splendour in the coming of your Son,
be true witnesses to your self-giving love in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

The Grace

**All: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all, evermore. Amen.**