

Church of Christ the Cornerstone Milton Keynes

Epiphany Carol Service (online)

17th January 2021

Your radiance will shine to the ends of the earth.

*Many nations will come to you from afar, to your holy name from every corner of the earth,
bearing gifts in their hands for the King of Heaven.*

In you endless generations will utter their joy. Tobit 13.11

Prelude: Adagio in G **[00:08]**

from Sonata in G, BWV 1034 composed by Johann Sebastian Bach in 1724.
Performed by Abigail Burrows (flute) Adrian Boynton (piano).

Introit:
[01:20]

*O magnum mysterium, et admirabile sacramentum
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum, jacentem in praesepio!
Beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt portare Dominum, Iesum Christum. Alleluia.*

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament
that animals should see the new-born Lord, lying in a manger!
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord, Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

‘O Magnum Mysterium’ based on a chant from the Matins of Christmas, a motet composed by Tomás Luis de Victoria in 1572.

Welcome, introduction and Collect for Epiphany Rev. Wendy Carey **[06:42]**

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 our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

HYMN **[08:03]**

The hush of midnight here below
the shining stars above
a night of wonder long ago
when in the stable lantern's glow
is born God's gift of love

To all the waiting world belongs
the child now brought to birth
who comes to right our human wrongs
his praises told in angel songs
proclaiming peace on earth

The kings of earth in homage ride

to where the child is born
A King to whom a star shall guide
whose throne is at the Father's side
his crown a crown of thorn

This child, whose birth the angels tell
whose death our life restored
by whom at last shall all be well
is God with us, Immanuel
our Saviour, Christ the Lord

Words written by Timothy Dudley-Smith in 2000 set to a tune from the oratorio 'Judith' composed by Charles Hubert Hastings Parry in 1888.

GOD FROM ETERNITY

Reading: Job 38: 1-18 Iain Porteous **[11:20]**

Reading: Out of the dark primaeval night
as from the womb of time
and all alone, came Man
When did he first look up
and find the stars his friends?
For a thousand times three thousand years
they did not fail, in their circling paths of light
to stand above the dark keeping their promise safe
until from beyond their unimaginable end
the Word went forth
And Eastern Kings
saw how their magic paled
And glory shone above the cave-born child

Written by Dom Philip Jebb, Prior of Downside Abbey

Choir: Small wonder the star, small wonder the light
the angels in chorus, the shepherds in fright
but stable and manger for God - no small wonder! **[14:35]**

Small wonder the kings, small wonder they bore
the gold and the incense, the myrrh, to adore
but God gives his life on a cross - no small wonder!

Small wonder the love, small wonder the grace
the power, the glory, the light of his face
but all to redeem my poor heart - no small wonder!

'No Small Wonder' written by Paul Wigmore & composed by Paul Edwards in 1983.

GOD WITH US

Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6 Richard May-Miller [16:50]

Choir: O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion [18:14]
get up into the high mountain
O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem
lift up, thy voice, with strength
Lift it up, be not afraid
say unto the cities of Judah Behold your God!

From oratorio 'Messiah' composed by Georg Friederich Händel in 1741. Performed by Elizabeth Weisberg (soprano), Cornerstone Chamber Choir & Orchestra directed by Adrian Boynton.

HYMN
[23:18]

What child is this who laid to rest

on Mary's lap is sleeping
whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping
This, this is Christ the King
whom shepherds worship and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring him praise
the babe, the Son of Mary

Why lies he in such a mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Come, have no fear, God's son is here
his love all loves exceeding
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through
the cross be borne for me, for you
Hail, hail, the Saviour comes
the babe, the son of Mary

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh
all tongues and peoples own him
the King of kings salvation brings
let every heart enthrone him
Raise, raise a song on high
while Mary sings a lullaby
joy, joy for Christ is born
the babe, the son of Mary

Words written by [William Chatterton Dix](#) in 1865 set to the tune of GREENSLEEVES a folk song from the 16th century.

GOD OF ALL NATIONS

Reading: Matthew 2: 1-12 Revd. Dr. Margaret Goodall [25:53]

Reading: Enter this door [23:18]
as if the floor
within were gold
And every wall

of jewels all
of wealth untold
as if a choir
in robes of fire
were singing here
No shout nor rush
but hush!
For God is here

Anon

Choir:

“When He is King we will give him the King’s gifts
myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown
Beautiful robes”, said the young girl to Joseph
fair with her first-born on Bethlehem Down

[28:44]

Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight
Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music
songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold

When He is King they will clothe Him in grave-sheets
myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown
He that lies now in the white arms of Mary
sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down

Here He has peace and a short while for dreaming
close-huddled oxen to keep Him from cold
Mary for love, and for lullaby music
songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold

‘Bethlehem Down’ written by Bruce Blunt & composed by Peter Warlock in
1927.

Short reflection

Rev. Wendy Carey

[32:23]

HYMN

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness
bow down before him, his glory proclaim
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his Name

[37:28]

Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,
high on his heart he will bear it for thee
Comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be

Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine
Truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine

These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness
he will accept for the name that is dear

Mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
bow down before him, his glory proclaim
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his Name!

Words written by John Samuel Bewley Monsell in 1863, set to the tune WAS
LEBET WAS SCHWEBET composed by Johann Heinrich Reinhardt in 1754.

GOD OF THE INNOCENT

Matthew tells of the deaths of innocent children in the days after Jesus' birth; Ann Lewin reflects that the tragedy the death of innocent children remains in our own time:

Readings: Matthew 2: 16-18 Adrian Boynton [41:00]

God you must weep to see
the massacre of different
innocents
Stick limbs on swollen bellies
faces old before their time
skin stretched on grinning skulls

We sit before the screen
and watch them die
And from the world
mingling with your tears
comes Rachel's anguish cry
because they are not

And we could have helped

'Why them' published by Ann Lewin in 2009

Choir: Sing lullaby Lullaby baby, now reclining Sing lullaby [43:13]
Hush, do not wake the Infant King
Angels are watching, stars are shining
Over the place where he is lying Sing lullaby

Sing lullaby, Lullaby baby, now a-sleeping Sing lullaby
Hush, do not wake the Infant King
Soon will come sorrow with the morning
Soon will come bitter grief and weeping Sing lullaby

Sing lullaby Lullaby baby, now a-dozing Sing lullaby
Hush, do not wake the Infant King
Soon comes the cross, the nails, the piercing
Then in the grave at last reposing Sing lullaby

Sing lullaby, Lullaby, is the babe a-waking? Sing lullaby
Hush, do not wake the Infant King
Dreaming of Easter, gladsome morning
Conquering death, its bondage breaking Sing lullaby

'The Infant King' by Sabine Baring-Gould in 1925. Composed by Edgar
Pettman in 1920, based on OI BETLEEM, a traditional Basque carol.

PRAYER

Rev. Wendy Carey

[47:07]

God of the cosmos, living Word
come to heal and save

Come from the depths of eternity
unfolding the purposes of God.
Come from the dawn of time
shaping the universe;
divine expression
mystery made known

In your quiet hidden way
come to heal and save

Incognito, in our streets
beneath the concrete, between the cracks
behind the curtains, within the dreams
in ageing memories, in childhood wonder
in secret ponds, in broken hearts
in Bethlehem stable, still small voice:
Word of God
amongst us

Come to our divided world
come to our fragmented lives
come to heal and save

In you our life is one again
and all things come together:
each connected to the other
each reflected in the other
ourselves and all things living:
heaven and earth
time and space
the whole created universe
in you

Christ of the cosmos, living Word,
come to heal and save

'Living Word' written by Jan Sutch Pickard in 2000, of the Iona Community.

GOD BEYOND US

Reading:

Ephesians 1: 3-10

Hilary Webb

[49:12]

Choir:

On this day earth shall ring
with the song children sing
to the Lord, Christ our King
Born on earth to save us
him the Father gave us
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo

[50:47]

His the doom, ours the mirth
When he came down to earth
Bethlehem saw his birth
Ox and ass beside him
from the cold would hide him
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo

God's bright star, o'er his head
Wise Men three to him led
Kneel they low by his bed
lay their gifts before him
praise him and adore him
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo

On this day angels sing
With their song earth shall ring
praising Christ, heaven's King
born on earth to save us
Peace and love he gave us
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo

Medieval song "Personent hodie" published in 1582, translated by Jane Marian Joseph in 1924. Composed by Haldane Campbell Stewart in 1934.

Blessing

May Christ, the Son of God, perfect in us
the image of his glory and gladden our hearts
with the good news of his kingdom
and may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be among us and remain with us always.

Rev. Wendy Carey
[53:53]
Amen

HYMN

Hail to the Lord's Anointed
great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free
to take away transgression
and rule in equity

[54:19]

He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth
And love, joy, hope, like flowers
spring in His path to birth
Before Him on the mountains

shall peace, the herald, go
And righteousness, in fountains
from hill to valley flow

Kings shall fall down before Him
and gold and incense bring
All nations shall adore Him
His praise all people sing
To Him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend
His kingdom still increasing
a kingdom without end

O'er every foe victorious
He on His throne shall rest
from age to age more glorious
all-blessing and all-blest
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove
His Name shall stand forever
His changeless Name of Love

Based on Psalm 72, words written by James Montgomery in 1821, set
to the tune composed by Johann Crüger circa 1640.

Postlude:

Jazz Waltz

[57:32]

Composed by John Rutter in 1979. Performed by Abigail Burrows
(flute) Adrian Boynton (piano).

[1:01:12]