

Church of Christ the Cornerstone
JOURNEYING WITH THE MAGI



Epiphany Carol Service

Sunday 11th January 2026

Introit **Three Kings from Persian Lands Afar** **Peter Cornelius**

Three Kings from Persian lands afar to Jordan follow the pointing star:
And this the quest of the travellers three, where the new-born King of the Jews may
be. Full royal gifts they bear for the King; Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.
*How brightly shines the morning star! With grace and truth from heaven afar
Our Jesse tree now bloweth.*

The star shines out with a steadfast ray; the kings to Bethlehem make their way,
and there in worship they bend the knee, as Mary's child in her lap they see; their
royal gifts they show to the King; gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.
*Of Jacob's stem and David's line, for thee, my Bridegroom, King divine,
My soul with love o'erfloweth.*

Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem the Kings are travelling, travel with them!
The star of mercy, the star of grace, shall lead thy heart to its resting place.
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring; offer thy heart to the infant King.
*Thy word, Jesu, Inly feeds us, rightly leads us, Life bestowing.
Praise, O praise such love o'erflowing.*

Opening responses:

On that day a star led the wise men to the manger.
Arise, shine; for your light has come
And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Nations shall come to your light.
And kings to the brightness of your rising.

They shall bring gold and frankincense
And proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Your gates will lie open continually
Shut neither by day nor by night.

No more will the sun give you daylight
Nor moonlight shine upon you.

But the Lord will be your everlasting light
Your God will be your splendour.

Hymn: As with gladness men of old
 did the guiding star behold;
 As with joy they hailed its light,
 Leading onward, beaming bright,
 So, most gracious Lord, may we
 Ever more be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
Thee whom Heav'n and Earth adore,
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
At thy cradle rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heav'nly King.

Holy Jesus, every day
Keep us in the narrow way,
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright,
need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,
thou its sun, which goes not down;
there forever may we sing
alleluias to our King.

Journeying in anticipation

Readings: **Isaiah 11: 1-9**
 Advent good wishes

David Grieve

Choir: **No small wonder**

Paul Edwards

Small wonder the star, small wonder the light;
The angels in the shepherds in fright
but stable and manger for God - No small wonder!

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 on his face;
But all to redeem my poor heart - no small wonder!

Journeying in faith

Reading: Matthew 2. 1-11

Choir: **Here is the little door**

Herbert Howells

Here is the little door, lift up the latch, oh lift!
We need not wander more, but enter with our gift;
Our gift of finest gold. Gold that was never bought or sold;
Myrrh to be strewn about his bed; Incense in clouds about His head;
All for the child that stirs not in His sleep,
But holy slumber hold with ass and sheep.

Bend low about His bed, for each He has a gift;
See how His eyes awake, lift up your hands, O lift!
For gold, He gives a keen-edged sword. (Defend with it thy little Lord!)
For incense, smoke of battle red, Myrrh for the honoured happy dead;
Gifts for His children, terrible and sweet; touched by such tiny hands,
and Oh such tiny feet.

Choir: **Los Reyes Magos**

Ariel Ramirez

Llegaron ya, los reyes y eran tres: Melchor, Gaspar y el negro Baltasar,
arrope y miel le llevarán y un poncho blanco de alpaca real.

Changos y chinitas duérmanse que ya Melchor, Gaspar y Baltasar
todos los regalos dejarán para jugar mañana al despertar.

El Niño Dios muy bien lo agradeció comió la miel y el poncho lo abrigó

y fue después que sonrió a media noche el sol relumbró.

The three Kings They had arrived, the kings, and there were three:
Melchior, Caspar and the black Balthasar. Fruit syrup and honey they brought him,
and a white poncho of royal alpaca. Boys and girls should be asleep
when Melchior, Caspar and Balthasar will leave all the presents to play
with tomorrow on awakening. The baby Jesus was very grateful,
ate the honey and wrapped himself in the poncho.

And it was after that he smiled, and in the middle of the night, the sun shone.

Reflection: **Revd Tim Norwood**

Choir: **Bethlehem Down**

Peter Warlock

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.

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.

Journeying with the sorrowful

Hymn: **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 guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!*

Why lies He in such 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 your songs on high
while Mary sings a lullaby,
joy, joy for Christ is born
the babe, the Son of Mary!*

Readings: Matthew 2. 16-18

Refugee

Malcolm Guite

Choir: Coventry Carol

Kenneth Leighton

Lullay, Thou little tiny child, By, by, Lully, lullay.

O, sisters too, how may we do, for to preserve this day;
This poor youngling for whom we do sing, By, by, lully lullay?

Herod the King, in his raging, charged he hath this day;
His men of might, in his own sight, all young children to slay.

That woe is me, poor Child, for Thee, And every mourn and say;
For thy parting, neither say nor sing, By by, lully lullay!

Journeying in hope

Hymn: The God of all eternity,
Unbound by space yet always near,
Is present where his people meet
To celebrate the coming year.

**What shall we offer God today -
our dreams of what we cannot see,
or, with eyes fastened to the past,
our dread of what we cannot see?**

**God does not share our doubts or fears,
nor shrinks from the unknown or strange:
the one who fashioned heaven and earth
makes all things new and ushers change.**

**Let faith or fortune rise or fall,
let apprehension have its day;
those whom God loves walk unafraid
with Christ their guide and Christ their way.**

**God grant that we, in this new year,
may know and show the Kingdom's face,
and may our work and worship thrive
as signs of hope and means of grace.**

Reading: Unto us a son is given

Alice Meynell

Choir: I am changed

Will Todd

I have found an earthly throne, in this bare place, this humble home.
The greatest love the world has known, Heaven's child resting here below.

I have found where I belong I have heard the perfect song;
Angel voices from above Heaven's child given by God's love.

All my tears are wiped away I awake in God's new day,
I am born again today. I will make a promise true

In my life Your work to do. I will give my all for You;
Heaven's child I am changed in You; Heaven's child I am made anew;
Heaven's child born again with You.

Prayers: Revd Tim Norwood

Journeying into the future

Choir: Alleluia a new work is come on hand William Mathias

A new work is come on hand. Through might and grace of God's son
To save the lost of every land, for now is free that erst was bound.
We may well sing Alleluya.

By Gabriel begun it was: right as the sun shone through the glass
Jesus Christ conceived was of Mary mother, full of grace;
Now sing we here Alleluya.

Now is fulfilled the prophecy of David and of Jeremy,
And also of Ysaye; sing we therefore both loud and high: Alleluya.

Blessing: Revd Tim Norwood

Hymn: A new song God has given

**A new song God has given, a new thing God has done,
when from the courts of heaven he sent to us his Son.
Rejoice in song and story to tell of Jesus' birth,
who laid aside his glory and came, a child, to earth.**

**A new found star is shining upon the Eastern skies,
that Kings may come, defining the way of all the wise.
O child of our salvation, receive the gifts we bring,
the songs of adoration that love alone can sing.**

**A new world now is waking, the old must pass away;
a new-made morning breaking on God's eternal day.
A new song God has given to tell his praise abroad,
who came, a child, from heaven, a Saviour, Christ the Lord.**

Sunday 25th January 7pm. Milton Keynes City Church, MK9 2ES

Hope for the World..... MOZART CELEBRATION:

EXSULTATE JUBILATE ~ SOLEMN VESPERS

GREAT MASS IN C MINOR ~ PIANO CONCERTO No 25 in C

**The Cornerstone Chamber Choir, orchestra & Soloists, directed by Adrian
Boynton. Craig Greene (piano)**

This programme showcases some of Mozart 's finest music. The thrilling soprano solo cantata Exsultate Jubilate, with it's iconic 'Alleluia', gives way to the beautiful Solemn Vespers, featuring the the much loved Laudate Dominum. Then comes the

resplendent Piano Concerto No 25 in C, with inspirational Craig Greene as soloist. To conclude we offer Mozart's masterful Mass in C minor for double choir and four soloists. It promises to be a truly great evening and we hope you can share it with us. The concert is a fund-raiser for two well established local charities - Camphill MK and Bridgebuilder Trust. Tickets are £22.50, £15.50 (under 18s £5). You can reserve tickets by emailing boyntonmusic@btinternet.com, texting 07961 348697, or scanning the QR code on local flyers and posters. Please spread the word about this special event.