

of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.
Matthew 2.1-12

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord
ALL Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Bible Readings next week **The Baptism of Our Lord**
Isaiah 42.1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10.34-43 Matthew 3.13-17

Prayer for the Week

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles: mercifully grant, that we, who know you now by faith, may after this life be led to the vision of your glorious Godhead; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for the Faithful Departed

We remember before God: Alexandra McLaughlan, Geoffrey Mogg, John Richard Sylva, Joyce Whitaker, Gwenneth Cunningham, Colin Cave, John Gregory, *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

Commemorations of the Week. **January 2** Basil of Caesarea (330-379). Bishop of Caesarea, often called Basil the Great. A theologian of distinction, founder of monasteries (nearly all the monks and nuns of the Greek Orthodox church follow his Rule) and a bishop of great administrative ability. A close friend of Gregory of Nazianzus. **January 2** Gregory of Nazianzus. (329-389). Monk and Bishop of Constantinople and also a theologian. He preferred the solitary life of a monk rather than Episcopal honours. **January 2** Eliza Hassall. CMS missionary in the Middle East. (d. 1917) **January 6** – The Epiphany of our Lord.

January arrangements

Parish groups are in recess in January.

During the week the Holy Eucharist is celebrated each Thursday at 10.15am. The Parish Office reopens 9 January with limited hours.



St George's Anglican Church | Malvern

Epiphany transferred

1 January 2017

Sentence

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
Isaiah 60.1

Collect

Shepherd of Israel and Light of all nations,
made known in the gifts of those who call to other names
and walk on different ways:
may unjust powers and the hatred with in us
be dismayed by your friendship and dethroned by your love; through
Jesus Christ, the open arms of grace. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of Isaiah

This passage is from the third section of Isaiah's three part collection of writings. The original context looks forward to the restoration of Jerusalem when not only will the former residents return but Gentiles will come, not in war as the Assyrians and others did, but in peace and proclaiming the praise of the Lord. This reading foreshadows the visit of foreigners to the infant Jesus and the inclusion of Gentiles in God's covenant love.

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;

all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Isaiah 60.1-6

Reader Hear the word of the Lord
ALL Thanks be to God

Psalm 72.1-7, 10-14 (APBA page 294)

Probably a coronation psalm, this prayer for the God's blessing on the king asks that even kings acknowledge the sovereignty of God.

A reading from the letter to the Christians in Ephesus.

This letter is most likely written by someone close to Paul, rather than Paul himself; this was not uncommon or considered fraudulent in the ancient world. Paul's conversion resulted from a personal revelation to him, and another to the apostles, that the Gentiles are 'fellow heirs and sharers' in life in Christ. This was a most extraordinary change for Saul the rabbi and persecutor of Jesus' followers. Becoming Paul to signify his new life, he discovered that the redemption of all creation from sin and decay was God's purpose from the foundation of the world when he reread the Hebrew scriptures through his 'new' eyes which had seen God at work in Jesus Christ.

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in

whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Ephesians 3.1-12

Reader May your word live in us
ALL and bear much fruit to your glory.

Gospel Acclamation

ALL Alleluia! Alleluia!
Tell it our among the nations that the Lord is King;
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to his name.

ALL Alleluia!
Reader The Lord be with you

ALL And also with you
Reader A reading from the holy gospel according to St Matthew
ALL Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The story of the foreign visitors is told only by Matthew whose primary purpose is to demonstrate that this child is born for those of every nation. Further, this child is born to be 'a king' to whom even the rulers of the world pay homage. The gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh are also symbolic; of royalty, divinity and mortality. Notice that Matthew does not call the wise men kings, nor say there are three of them!

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel." "

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead