

St Mary's Church, Walkley



The Church on the Road:
Inclusive, Eucharistic, a safe place to be with God

*Jesus is the Christ, the Chosen of God,
the one who will bring healing to the nations.*

Epiphany Carol Service

7th January 2024

Welcome to St Mary's Church, Walkley

**President: The Revd Canon Dr Matthew Rhodes
Churchwarden on duty: Janet**

The Introduction

We stand.

President Three wonders mark this holy day
as the Church is joined to her heavenly Bridegroom.

President This day a star leads the Magi to the Christ-child.

All **Alleluia.**

President This day water is made wine at the wedding feast.

All **Alleluia.**

President This day Jesus is revealed as the Christ in the waters of baptism.

All **Alleluia. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

President Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you,

All **and also with you.**

Words of welcome may be said.

President Grant us, Lord, who behold your glory,
to drink from the waters of the new creation
flowing from the river of life at your baptism.
Give us the wings of the Spirit,
that we may hasten to meet you at your coming,
and praise you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Opening Hymn

We remain standing and we sing:

**Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise,
manifested by the star
to the sages from afar;
branch of royal David's stem,
in thy birth at Bethlehem:
anthems be to thee addressed:
God in man made manifest.**

Tune: St George's Windsor

**Manifest at Jordan's stream,
prophet, priest, and King supreme,
and at Cana wedding-guest
in thy Godhead manifest,
manifest in pow'r divine,
changing water into wine;
anthems be to thee addressed:
God in man made manifest.**

**Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,
mirrored in thy holy word;
may we imitate thee now,
and be pure, as pure art thou;
that we like to thee may be
at thy great Epiphany;
and may praise thee, ever blest,
God in man made manifest.**

We remain standing.

The King of all the World is Revealed to the Magi

Minister This day a star leads the magi to the Christ-child.

Minister Arise, shine out, for your light has come;
All **the glory of the Lord is rising upon you.**

Minister The nations will come to your light,
All **and kings to your dawning brightness.**

Minister They shall bring gold and frankincense,
All **and proclaim the praise of the Lord.**

Minister Your gates will lie open continually,
All **shut neither by day nor by night.**

Minister No more will the sun give you daylight,
All **nor moonlight shine upon you.**

Minister But the Lord will be your everlasting light,
All **your God will be your splendour.**

We sit.

The First Reading: Matthew 2. 1, 2, 8 – 11

Reader
All

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

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.' 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 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.

Reader
All

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

We stand and sing as the gifts are brought to the Nativity:

**We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

***O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.***

**Born a King on Bethlehem plain,
gold I bring, to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.**

O star of wonder, star of night,

**Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, all are raising,
worshiping God most high.**

O star of wonder, star of night,

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.**

O star of wonder, star of night,

**Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and sacrifice:
'Alleluia, Alleluia!'
earth to heaven replies.**

O star of wonder, star of night,

John Henry Hopkins, 1822-1900

Minister Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:
you receive our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.
May our prayer be set forth in your sight as incense,
and the lifting up of our hands be an evening sacrifice.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

The gifts are placed in the Nativity.

President Let us pray.

Eternal God,
who by the shining of a star
led the magi to the worship of your Son:
guide by his light the nations of the earth,
that the whole world may behold your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

We remain standing and we sing:

Tune: Sussex Carol

**At Cana's wedding, long ago,
they knew his presence by this sign,
a virtue none but Christ could show,
to turn their water into wine:
and still on us his blessing be
as in the days of Galilee.**

**What if the way be far to go
and life at times a weary load?
Yet may our hearts within us glow
as theirs on that Emmaus road:
the risen Christ become our guest,
with him to walk, in him to rest.**

**O Lord of all our life below,
O risen Lord of realms above,
eternal joy be theirs to know,
united in the bond of love:
one in the faith, with one accord,
one with each other and the Lord.**

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The New Creation is Revealed in the Water made Wine

Minister This day water is made wine at the wedding feast.

Minister I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
All **prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**

Minister And I heard a great voice from the throne, saying,
All **'Behold, the dwelling of God is among mortals.**

Minister He will dwell with them and they shall be his peoples,
All **and God himself will be with them.**

Minister Behold, I make all things new:
All **I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.**

Minister To the thirsty I will give water as a gift
All **from the spring of the water of life.'**

Revelation 21

We sit.

The Second Reading: John 2. 1 - 11

Reader Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Reader This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

We stand and sing as a flagon of wine is brought:

Tune: Rhuddlan – Judge Eternal throned in splendour

**Jesus, come! for we invite you,
Guest and Master, Friend and Lord;
now, as once at Cana's wedding,
speak, and let us hear your word:
lead us through our need or doubting,
hope be born and joy restored.**

**Jesus, come! transform our pleasures,
guide us into paths unknown;
bring your gifts, command your servants,
let us trust in you alone:
though your hand may work in secret,
all shall see what you have done.**

**Jesus, come in new creation,
heaven brought near in power divine;
give your unexpected glory
changing water into wine:
rouse the faith of your disciples —
come, our first and greatest Sign!**

**Jesus, come! surprise our dullness,
make us willing to receive
more than we can yet imagine,
all the best you have to give:
let us find your hidden riches,
taste your love, believe, and live!**

Christopher M. Idle, b.1979
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Minister Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:
for the marriage of the Lamb has come.
Make your Church ready,
and clothe her with the righteous deeds of the saints,
to join the praises of your new creation.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

A flagon of wine is placed on the altar.

President Let us pray.

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

All **Amen.**

We remain standing and we sing:

**Spirit of God, come dwell within me.
Open my heart, O come set me free,
fill me with love for Jesus, my Lord,
O fill me with living water.**

Tune: Leaving of Lismore

***Jesus is living, Jesus is here.
Jesus my Lord, come closer to me.
Jesus our Saviour dying for me,
and rising to save his people.***

**Lord, how I thirst, O Lord, I am weak.
Lord, come to me, you alone do I seek.
Lord, you are life, and love and hope,
O fill me with living water.
*Jesus is living, Jesus is here...***

**Lord, I am blind. O Lord, I can't see.
Stretch out your hand, O Lord, comfort me.
Lead me your way in light and in truth,
O fill me with living water.
*Jesus is living, Jesus is here...***

Helen Kennedy
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The Christ is Revealed in the Waters of Baptism

Minister This day Jesus is revealed as the Christ in the waters of baptism.

Minister I will take you from the nations,
All **and gather you from all the countries.**

Minister I will sprinkle clean water upon you,
All **and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness.**

Minister A new heart I will give you,
All **and put a new spirit within you.**

Minister You shall be my people,
All **and I will be your God.**

Ezekiel 36

We sit.

The Third Reading: Mark 1. 1 – 11

Reader Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight” ’,

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’

Reader This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

We stand and we sing as a flagon of water is brought:

Tune: Aurelia – The Church’s one foundation

**When Jesus came to Jordan
to be baptized by John,
he did not come for pardon,
but as the sinless One.
He came to share repentance
with all who mourn their sins,
to speak the vital sentence
with which good news begins.**

**He came to share temptation,
our utmost woe and loss,
for us and our salvation
to die upon the cross.
So when the Dove descended
on him, the Son of Man,
the hidden years had ended,
the age of grace began.**

**Come, Holy Spirit, aid us
to keep the vows we make;
this very day invade us,
and ev'ry bondage break.
Come, give our lives direction,
the gift we covet most:
to share the resurrection
that leads to Pentecost.**

Fred Pratt Green, 1973 ©1980 by Hope Publishing Company
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Minister Blessed are you,
Lord our God, King of the universe:
you bring waters out of the stony rock.
For with you is the well of life,
and in your light shall we see light.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

President Let us pray.

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;
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 water is poured into the font.

President God in Christ gives us the water welling up for eternal life.
With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

All **Lord, give us this water, and we shall thirst no more.**

President The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

President Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

President Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

President It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,
at all times to give you thanks and praise,
for today the grace of the Holy Spirit
in the form of a dove descended upon the waters.

Today the sun that never sets has risen
and the world is filled with splendour
by the light of the Lord.

Today the clouds drop down upon all people
the dew of righteousness from on high.

Today the Uncreated of his own will
accepts the laying on of hands from his own creature.

Today the waters of the Jordan
are transformed for healing by the coming of the Lord.

Today the blinding mist of the world is dispersed by the Epiphany of
our God.

Today things above keep feast with things below,
and things below commune with things above.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
accept our sacrifice of praise,
and by the power of your life-giving Spirit
sanctify these waters of your new creation,
that we, with all who have been born anew
by water and the Spirit,
may be renewed in your image,
walk by the light of faith,
and serve you in newness of life.

Through your anointed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
we lift our voices of praise:

All **blessed be God, our strength and our salvation,
now and for ever. Amen.**

We remain standing and we sing:

**Take this moment, sign and space;
take my friends around;
here among us make the place
where your love is found.**

**Take the time to call my name,
take the time to mend
who I am and what I've been,
all I've failed to tend.**

**Take the tiredness of my days,
take my past regret,
letting your forgiveness touch
all I can't forget.**

**Take the little child in me,
scared of growing old;
help them here to find their worth
made in Christ's own mould.**

**Take my talents, take my skills,
take what's yet to be;
let me life be yours, and yet,
let it still be me.**

John L. Bell
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We sit or kneel.

The Prayers

Intercessor We pray that Christ may be seen in the life of the Church.

You have called us into the family
of those who are the children of God.
May our love for our brothers and sisters in Christ
be strengthened by your grace.
Jesus, Lord of the Church,
in your mercy hear us.

All

Intercessor You have called us to be a temple
where the Holy Spirit can dwell.
Give us clean hands and pure hearts
so that our lives will reflect your holiness.
Jesus, Lord of the Church,

All **in your mercy hear us.**

Intercessor You have called us to be a light to the world,
so that those in darkness come to you.
May our lives shine as a witness
to the saving grace you have given for all.
Jesus, Lord of the Church,

All **in your mercy hear us.**

Intercessor You have called us to be members of your body,
so that when one suffers, all suffer together.
We ask for your comfort and healing power
to bring hope to those in distress.
Jesus, Lord of the Church,

All **in your mercy hear us.**

Intercessor You have called us to be the Bride,
where you, Lord, are the Bridegroom.
Prepare us for the wedding feast,
where we will be united with you for ever.
Jesus, Lord of the Church,

All **in your mercy hear us.**

Intercessor Jesus, Lord of the Church,
you have called us into fellowship with all your saints.
We unite our prayers with theirs
and ask for grace to serve you with joy
where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for all eternity.

All **Amen.**

President May God the creator, the rock of our salvation,
who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit
and forgiven all our sins
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
keep us faithful to our calling, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The people may be sprinkled with water.

President We remember our baptism into Christ Jesus.

All **Thanks be to God.**

We stand and we sing:

**O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou for ever near me,
my Master and my friend:
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
not wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.**

**O let me feel thee near me:
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.**

**O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
O speak and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.**

**O Jesus, thou hast promised,
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end:
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my friend.**

**O let me see thy foot-marks,
and in them plant mine own;
my hope to follow duly
is in thy strength alone:
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then in heav'n receive me,
my Savior and my friend.**

The Blessing

President May God the Father,
who led the Magi by the shining of a star
to find the Christ, the Light from light,
lead us also in our pilgrimage to find the Lord.

All **Amen.**

President May God the Son,
who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana,
transform our lives and make glad our hearts.

All **Amen.**

President May God the Holy Spirit,
who came upon the beloved Son
at his baptism in the river Jordan,
pour out his gifts on us
who have come to the waters of new birth.

All **Amen.**

President And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always.

All **Amen.**

Minister We have come to Christ, the living water.
Go in the peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

For more information: stmaryswalkley.co.uk

For Next evening service is a Candlemas Carol service at
4pm on the 28th January.

