



THE Anglican Parish of Woodend-Trentham  
St George's, Trentham 9.00am | St Mary's, Woodend 11.00am



## 6<sup>th</sup> January – The Epiphany of our Lord

We acknowledge the Jaara Jaara people,  
of the Woi wurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung language groups,  
the custodians of this land where we gather.  
We pay our respects to their elders past and present and pray for  
reconciliation.

# GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

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

*Isaiah 60.1*

## Gathering Hymn – 454 Worship the Lord

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you**

*The Prayer of preparation (page 119 of the prayer book)*

**Almighty God...**

*The Shema (page 120 of the prayer book)*

Hear, O Israel....

*The Confession and absolution (page 120 of the prayer book)*

Christ the Son of God has been revealed as a light to the nations.  
Let us bring our darkness to his light, confessing our sins in penitence  
and faith,

**Merciful God...**

*The Gloria (page 121 of the prayer book)*

**Glory to God in the highest...**

*Let us pray*

Lord God of the nations,  
we have seen the star of your glory rising in splendour:  
may the brightness of your incarnate Word

pierce the night that covers the earth,  
signal the dawn of justice and peace,  
and beckon all nations to walk as one in your light.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
in the splendour of eternal light,  
God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

*A reading from the book of Isaiah chapter 60 verses 1-6*

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.

For the word of the Lord **thanks be to God**

## Psalm 72.1-7, 10-14

Give the king your judgement, O God:  
and your righteousness to the son of a king,

**That he may judge your people rightly:  
and the poor of the land with equity.**

Let the mountains be laden with peace because of his righteousness:  
and the hills also with prosperity for his people.

**May he give justice to the poor among the people:  
and rescue the children of the needy,  
and crush the oppressor.**

May he live while the sun endures: and while the moon gives light,  
throughout all generations.

**May he come down like rain upon the new-mown fields:  
and as showers that water the earth.**

In his time shall righteousness flourish:  
and abundance of peace, till the moon shall be no more.

**The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring tribute:  
the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.**

All kings shall fall down before him:  
and all nations do him service.

**He will deliver the needy when they cry:  
and the poor that have no helper.**

He will pity the helpless and the needy:  
and save the lives of the poor.

**He will redeem them from oppression and violence:  
and their blood shall be precious in his sight.**

*A reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians chapter 3 verses 1 – 12*

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 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 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.

For the word of the Lord **thanks be to God**

**Gradual Hymn – 283 Long ago**

***Alleluia Alleluia***

We have seen his star at its rising,  
and have come to pay him homage.

**Alleluia**

*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew chapter 2  
beginning at the 1<sup>st</sup> verse*

## **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

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 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.

For the Gospel of the Lord **praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

*The Sermon*

*The affirmation of faith (page 123 of the prayer book)*

*The Prayers of the People*

*The Greeting of Peace*

We are the body of Christ  
**His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

**Offertory Hymn – 293 Unto us**

God our sustainer,  
receive the gifts we bring before you,  
and feed us continually with that bread which satisfies all hunger,  
and the wine that quenches all thirst,  
your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*The preface to the Thanksgiving Prayer for Epiphany is on page 150*

....for ever praising you and saying

**Holy, holy, holy Lord  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the Highest  
Blessed is he who comes in the Lord's name  
Hosanna in the Highest**

With our hearts set on the kingdom and our hands open to serve,  
we pray as Jesus taught us....

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## **The Sending out of God's people**

Lord God,  
The bright splendour whom the nations seek:  
may we who with the wise Magi have been drawn by your light  
discern the glory of your presence in your Son,  
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Most loving God...

**you send us into the world you love. Give us grace to go thankfully and  
with courage in the power of your Spirit.**



## ***Blessing of the chalk for Epiphany and New Year***

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**Who made heaven and earth.**

Let us pray.

O Lord God, bless this chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name all those who with it write the names of your saints, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in the homes where this chalk is used. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Final Hymn - 314 As with gladness**

### *The Blessing and Dismissal*

Christ our Lord,  
to whom kings bowed down in worship and offered gifts,  
reveal to you his glory,  
and pour upon you the riches of his grace;  
and the blessing of God almighty, the Creator, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ.**

*\*\*\*some thoughts from Rev. Mel*

Today we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord. The day when Christ was revealed to the gentiles, the Magi in the Gospel of Matthew, for the very first time.

When the Magi came to visit the infant Jesus they came because they observed a light; an unusual light in the form of a star. It was unlike any light that they had seen but they recognised it as a light belonging to a king.

And just like so many others who are mentioned in the Christmas story, they left behind the things they knew and got up and went to see this amazing thing that had happened. These people came from lands far away, and travelled maybe thousands of miles, such was the specialness of this light.

They headed towards Bethlehem to seek the king of the Jews - they did all of this and they weren't even Jewish! When they noticed that the light had settled and they were at their destination they were overwhelmed with joy; they were joyful because their journey was over and they were about to meet the king whom they had travelled so far to see.

They bought gifts fit for a king: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They presented their gifts and then knelt down before him.

This little child, whose light had bought them through all sorts of lands, continues to call us to walk in his light, and be reflectors of that light into the world.

The Epiphany of the Lord, the day that Jesus is revealed to the Gentiles, reminds us to 'Arise, shine; for our light has come'. We walk in light in order to do the work that Jesus tells us that we need to do; Love God and love each other.

Peace, Mel

*When the carols  
have been stilled,  
when the star topped tree  
is taken down.  
When family and friends  
are gone home,  
when we are back to our schedules  
THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS BEGINS  
To welcome the refugee,  
to heal a broken planet,  
to feed the hungry,  
to build bridges of trust,  
not walls of fear,  
to share our gifts,  
to seek justice and peace  
for all people,  
to bring Christ's light  
to the world.*

*Michael Dougherty*

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### **Pew Bulletin**

#### **Birthdays**

Happy birthday today to Greg Donaldson

#### **Years Mind and those who have died recently**

We give thanks for Frank Trist and Audrey Barker this week.

## Readings for next week – The Baptism of our Lord

Isaiah 43.1-7

Psalms 29

Acts 8.14-17

Luke 3.15-22

The liturgical colour for the Christmas season is white.

White signifies light, purity, innocence, triumph, joy, and glory.

We will continue to use white next week when we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord.

### Intercessions – our prayers are asked for:

Sam, Andrea, Alison, Ethan, Kirsten, Carole, Wendy, Jeanette, Trevor, Rudi, Trish, Hugh, Joshua and family, Alan, Faye, Lynne, Kay, Don, Kristina and John, Carmela, Heath, Jim, Lindy, Judy and John, Hayden, Jason, Sandra, Emma, Maggie, Sheryl, Rachael, + Matt and their children.

We pray for Lilliana and Mark who will be married at St Mary's on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

*\*\*\*If you have asked Reverend Mel to put a loved one on the prayer list please confirm in the next week if they continue to need prayer. The list will be cleared tomorrow so you will need to get in touch to have them back on.*



THE Anglican Parish of Woodend-Trentham

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