

# BRENTOR CHURCH

3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas

Epiphany

Holy Communion

Led by

The Reverend Tony Vigers and  
The Reverend Dr Hazel Butland



We warmly welcome everyone  
joining our service

**Deacon:** The Wisemen 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. **Matthew 2:11**

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Hymn 103: O Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness**

- 1 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!
- 2 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.
- 3 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.
- 4 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.
- 5 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!

**Deacon: Confession**

The grace of God has dawned upon the world  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.  
Let us confess our sins.

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**  
You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart:  
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**  
You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided:  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God,  
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,  
bring us his pardon and peace, now and for ever. **Amen.**

***Deacon: Collect for the Epiphany***

Creator of the heavens,  
who led the Magi by a star  
to worship the Christ-child:  
guide and sustain us,  
that we may find our journey's end  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***First Reading: Isaiah 60: v1-6***

**60** Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.  
<sup>2</sup> 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.  
<sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.  
<sup>4</sup> 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.  
<sup>5</sup> 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.  
<sup>6</sup> 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.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

**All Thanks be to God.**

***Deacon: Psalm 72***

10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute;  
the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring gifts.

**11 All kings shall fall down before him;  
all nations shall do him service.**

12 For he shall deliver the poor that cry out,  
the needy and those who have no helper.

**13 He shall have pity on the weak and poor;  
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.**

14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence,  
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

**15 Long may he live; unto him may be given gold from Sheba;  
may prayer be made for him continually  
and may they bless him all the day long.**

***Second Reading: Ephesians 3: v1-2***

**3** This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake  
of you Gentiles— <sup>2</sup> for surely you have already heard of the commission  
of God's grace that was given me for you,  
*This is the word of the Lord.*

**All Thanks be to God.**

***Hymn 88: What Child is This***

1 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.

2 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.

3 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 song on high  
while Mary sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born  
the babe, the son of Mary.

### **The Gospel**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**All** Glory to you, O Lord

### **Gospel Reading: Matthew 2: v1-12**

**2** In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> 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.” <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> ‘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.’”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> 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.” <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All** Praise to you, O Christ

## **Sermon**

### **Hymn 68: In the Bleak Midwinter**

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | In the bleak mid-winter<br>Frosty wind made moan,<br>Earth stood hard as iron,<br>Water like a stone;<br>Snow had fallen, snow on snow,<br>Snow on snow,<br>In the bleak mid-winter,<br>Long ago.                    | 3 | Angels and archangels<br>May have gathered there,<br>Cherubim and seraphim<br>Thronged the air –<br>But only his mother<br>In her maiden bliss<br>Worshipped the beloved<br>With a kiss. |
| 2 | Our God, heaven cannot hold him<br>Nor earth sustain;<br>heaven and earth shall flee away<br>When he comes to reign:<br>In the bleak mid-winter<br>A stable place sufficed<br>The Lord God Almighty<br>Jesus Christ. | 4 | What can I give him<br>Poor as I am?<br>If I were a shepherd<br>I would bring a lamb;<br>If I were a wise man<br>I would do my part;<br>Yet what I can I give him —<br>Give my heart.    |

### **Deacon: Affirmation of Faith**

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,  
he did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.  
Taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself  
and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God has raised him on high,  
and given him the name above every name:  
that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### **Intercessions & Notices**

In our prayers the response is: Lord of glory, **hear our prayer**

Let us worship the Saviour with joy  
and make our prayer to our heavenly Father.

The magi came from the east to worship your Son:

Father, grant to Christians everywhere  
the spirit of adoration especially those who live in fear of persecution ...  
Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

The infant Christ received gifts of gold, incense and myrrh:  
Father, accept the offering of our hearts and minds  
*at the beginning of this year ...*

Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**  
The kingdoms of this world have become  
the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ:

Father, grant an abundance of peace to your world ...  
Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

The Holy Family lived in exile and in the shadow of death:  
Father, look in mercy on all throughout the world who are poor and  
powerless,  
and all who suffer. Prosper the work of those seeking to bring comfort,  
healing and justice to our world ...

Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**  
Your Son shared the life of his home and family at Nazareth:  
Father, protect in your love our neighbours,  
our families and this community of which we are a part ...  
Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

Father, we rejoice in our fellowship  
with the shepherds, the angels, the magi,  
the Mary the mother of Jesus, Joseph  
and all the faithful departed.  
In your unfailing love for us and for all people,  
hear and answer our prayers through your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **Peace**

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts,  
since as members of one body we are called to peace.  
The Peace of the Lord be with you:  
**And also with you.**

### **Hymn 96: Brightest and Best are the Sons of the Morning**

1 Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;  
star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

2 Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining;  
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
angels adore him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all  
3 Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,  
odours of Edom, and offerings divine,  
gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,  
myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?  
4 Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
vainly with gifts would his favour secure:  
richer by far is the heart's adoration,  
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.  
5 Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;  
star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Gracious God,  
accept the offering of your Church,  
the hearts and lives of your people  
joined in praise and thanksgiving,  
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, ever-living God,  
through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:  
for at this time we celebrate your glory  
made present in our midst.

In the coming of the magi the King of all the world  
was revealed to the nations.

In the waters of baptism

Jesus was revealed as the Christ,  
the Saviour sent to redeem us.

In the water made wine the new creation

was revealed at the wedding feast.  
Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.  
Therefore with all the angels of heaven  
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name  
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**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 name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine may be to us  
the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples,  
saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection  
you have set us free.**

**You are the Saviour of the world.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours,  
almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Believing the promises of God,  
Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

We break the bread of life  
and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us,  
light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven

**Lord give us this bread always.**

Lord God,  
the bright splendour whom the nations seek:  
as we continue our earthly journey  
may we who with the wise men have been drawn to your light  
recognise your presence with us in your Son,  
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Father of all,  
we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Blessing**

May God the Father,  
who led the wise men by the shining of a star  
to find the Christ, the Light from light,  
lead us in our pilgrimage to with the Lord. **Amen.**  
May God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness,  
give us a place with the saints in light  
in the kingdom of his beloved Son. **Amen.**  
May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ  
shine in our hearts and fill our lives  
with his joy and peace. **Amen.**  
And the blessing of God almighty ... **Amen.**

**Hymn 94: As with Gladness Men of Old**

1	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 evermore be led to thee.	3	As they offered gifts most rare at that manger 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 heavenly King.
2	As with joyful steps they sped, to that lowly manger-bed, there to bend the knee before him whom heaven and earth adore; so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy-seat.	4	Holy Jesu, 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.

5 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 for ever may we sing  
alleluias to our King.

**Deacon:**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
In the name of Christ. Amen



**Please pray for all who are ill or anxious at home or in hospital, and those who have asked for our prayers:** Mick, Chris Vigers, Nick & Julie, Dave & Wendy, Heather, Sally and Jimmy Hubbard, Edward Walter, Lydia, Margaret, Bill Tucker, Lin Bristow, Tom, Helen Hardy and family and Margaret.

**Please pray** for the souls of the recently departed, especially their families and friends.

**Your prayers this week are asked for:**

**Mon-** Those coping with tighter COVID restrictions.  
**Tues-** The people continuing to suffer flooding and the clear up.  
**Wed-** Hope for the success of the COVID vaccine.  
**Thurs-** Those caring for and looking after others  
**Fri-** The continued work and dedication of the Medical profession.  
**Sat-** Hopes and dreams for the ability to have a safer and more sociable 2021.

Please also continue enjoying our Services online and reflections see the  
[brentorchurch.org.uk](http://brentorchurch.org.uk)

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***Online donations can be made at <https://www.give.net/20188530>***