



Worship at Home: Epiphany with Embrace the Middle East

The officiant says

The grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you
All and also with you.

On behalf of Embrace the Middle East we welcome you to our Epiphany service which brings together voices from the UK and the Middle East. At Epiphany we celebrate the revelation of the incarnation in Jesus Christ, expressed both to the Magi and in his Baptism. I'm the Reverend Debbie Collins, vicar of Holy Cross Billesley Common in Birmingham and a Clergy Embrace ambassador and it is my joy to welcome you this morning. We are grateful to students from King's College London for the music, to Father Boulos Khano who will sing our gospel reading and the Lord's Prayer, to Nadine and Hussein Ismail our readers, Carlos from Bethlehem who will lead our prayers and the Right Reverend Hossam Naoum Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem who will be our preacher and will pronounce the blessing.

Our first hymn is O Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness.

HYMN

O Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

The officiant says

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.

God be gracious to us and bless us,
and make your face shine upon us:
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

May your ways be known on the earth,
your saving power among the nations:
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

You, Lord, have made known your salvation,
and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations:
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

A reader says

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah. (60.1-6)

Read by Nadine and Hussein Ismail

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 of 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit, and always green,
The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green.
The trees of nature fruitless be,
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel,
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell,
His beauty doth all things excel,
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell.
The glory which I now can see,
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought,
For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought .
I missed of all; but now I see,
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile,
I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile.
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive,
This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive.
Which makes my soul in haste to be,
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

*Words from 'Divine Hymns or Spiritual Songs', 1784
Music: Elizabeth Poston*

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2.1-12

Cantor: Fr Boulos Khano (Chanted in Aramaic)

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew. (2.1-12)

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.

SERMON

Rt Rev Hosam Naoum, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

Let us declare our faith in God.

All We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.

We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

PRAYERS

Led by Carlos

We pray for the coming of God's kingdom.
You sent your Son to bring Good News to the poor,
sight to the blind,
freedom to the captives
and salvation to your people:
anoint us with your spirit;
rouse us to work in his name.

All Father, by your Spirit
bring in your kingdom.

Send us to bring help to the poor
and freedom to the oppressed.

All Father, by your Spirit
bring in your kingdom.

Send us to tell the world
the Good News of your healing love.
Father, by your Spirit

All bring in your kingdom.

Send us to those who mourn,
to bring joy and gladness instead of grief.
Father, by your Spirit
All bring in your kingdom.

Send us to proclaim that the time is here
for you to save your people.
Father, by your Spirit
All bring in your kingdom.

Father, use us, unworthy as we are,
to bring in your kingdom of mercy, justice, love and peace.
Empower us by your Spirit and unite us in your Son,
that all our joy and delight may be to serve you,
now and for ever.
All Amen.

Silence is kept.

The officiant prays

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.
All Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Cantor: Fr Boulos Khano (Chanted in Aramaic)

**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.**

THE BLESSING

Rt Rev Hosam Naoum

And the peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge
and love of God and of the Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son
and the Holy Spirit be among
you and remain with you always.

HYMN

Brightest and best are the sons of the morning

Brightest and best are 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.

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.

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?

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.

Brightest and best are 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.

Acknowledgements

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Readers: Nadine and Hussein Ismail.

Cantor: Fr Boulos Khano, from St Mark's Syriac Monastery in Jerusalem.

Preacher: Rt Rev Hosam Naoum, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

Intercessor: Carlos, Bethlehem.

British Sign Language Interpretation provided by Gill Behenna.

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