

*Kneel or sit*

O God, who by the leading of a star did'st manifest thy only-begotten Son to the Gentiles; Mercifully grant, that we, which know thee now by faith, may after this life have the fruition of thy glorious Godhead, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

As we look for the coming of the Kingdom, in faith and trust we pray:

**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.**

*Stand* HYMN 49 **O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness ...  
during which a collection is taken**

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 you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

May God the Son, who turned water into wine  
at the Wedding Feast at Cana,  
transform your lives and make glad your hearts.

*All* **Amen.**

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

*All* **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

HYMN 327 *omit verses 4 & 6* **From the Eastern Mountains ...**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

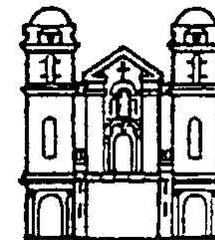
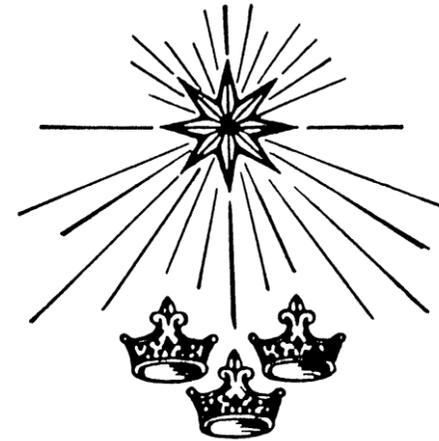
This special service was revised in 2016 and is drawn principally from these sources:

*The Promise of His Glory* (1991) and *Common Worship* (2000).

The final Collect is taken from *The Book of Common Prayer* (1662).

Welcome to  
The Church of Saint James the Greater  
Leicester

# EPIPHANY Carol Service



Stand HYMN 51 **As with gladness men of old ...**

Sit WELCOME

Three wonders mark this holy season,  
as the Church is joined to her heavenly Bridegroom.  
This day a star leads the wise men to the manger.

All **Alleluia!**

This day water is made wine at the wedding feast.

All **Alleluia!**

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

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

Grace and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All **Amen.**

O God, whose blessed Son appeared among us, shared our human condition and was revealed in our human likeness: renew his image in us, heart and soul, that sharing his divine nature, we may be acknowledged as your children, now and at the last; for he is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Sit CHOIR CAROL I wonder as I wander – Rutti

THE KING OF ALL THE WORLD IS REVEALED TO THE MAGI

*The Gifts are brought from the Lady Chapel.*

This day a star leads the wise men to the manger.

All **Alleluia!**

Arise, shine; for your light is come

All **And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.**

Nations shall come to your light

All **and Kings to the brightness of your rising.**

They shall bring gold and frankincense

All **and proclaim the praise of the Lord.**

Your gates will lie open continually

All **shut neither by day nor by night.**

No more will the sun give you daylight

All **nor moonlight shine upon you.**

But the Lord will be your everlasting light

All **your God will be your splendour.**

*from Isaiah 60*

LITANY :

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Father, for your gift of water in creation

All **we give you thanks and praise.**

For your Spirit, sweeping over the waters, bringing light and life

All **we give you thanks and praise.**

For your son Jesus Christ our Lord, baptised in the river Jordan

All **we give you thanks and praise.**

For your new creation, brought to birth by water and the Spirit

All **we give you thanks and praise.**

For your grace bestowed upon us your children,  
washing away our sins

All **we give you thanks and praise.**

So, Father, accept our sacrifice of praise.

By the power of your life-giving Spirit  
bless these waters of your new creation.

All **Lord, receive our prayer.**

May we your servants who have been washed in them  
be made one with your Son, who took the form of a servant.

All **Lord, receive our prayer.**

May your holy Spirit, who has brought us to new birth  
in the family of your Church,  
raise us in Christ, our anointed Lord,  
to full and eternal life.

All **Lord, receive our prayer.**

For all might, majesty and dominion are yours, now and for ever.

All **Alleluia! Amen.**

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

*Holy Water is then sprinkled over the people,  
as the Procession returns to the Sanctuary.*

**Please remain standing** until the procession has passed you.

CHOIR CAROL Bethlehem Down – Warlock

## THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

In our baptism we died with Christ and were buried with him, so that we might rise with him to a new life within the family of his Church. Today we renew the promises made at our baptism, affirming our allegiance to Christ, and our rejection of all that is evil.

Therefore I ask these questions.

Do you turn to Christ?

All **I turn to Christ.**

Do you repent of your sins?

All **I repent of my sins.**

Do you renounce evil?

All **I renounce evil.**

And now I ask you to make the profession of Christian faith into which you were baptised, and in which you live and grow.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

All **I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ,  
who took our human nature  
died for us and rose again?

All **I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

All **I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

All **This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

***Please remain facing the Font for the hymn.***

HYMN 442 **Christ, when for us you were baptized ...**

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 as an evening sacrifice.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Stand HYMN :

**Hail, thou source of every blessing,  
Sovereign Father of mankind!  
Gentiles now, thy grace possessing,  
In thy courts admission find.  
Once far off, but now invited,  
We approach thy sacred throne;  
In thy covenant united,  
Reconciled, redeemed, made one.**

**Now revealed to eastern sages,  
See the star of mercy shine,  
Mystery hid in former ages,  
Mystery great of love divine.  
Hail, thou universal Saviour!  
Gentiles now their offerings bring,  
In thy temple seek thy favour,  
Jesu Christ, our Lord and King.**

*The Gifts are brought to the Crib.*

A Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

All **Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

Matthew 2.1 - 2, 8 - 11

This is the Gospel of Christ.

All **Praise to Christ our Lord.**

The adoring Magi offer their gifts

All **The gifts of men for the Son of Man.**

*The Gifts are placed before the Crib.*

Almighty God, by whose Word and Wisdom the brilliant constellations declare your glory and who led the wise men by the light of a star to your infant Son to worship in him the glory of the Word made flesh; Guide by your truth the nations of the earth that the whole world may be filled with your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sit **CHOIR CAROL – Three Kings - Cornelius**

## THE NEW CREATION IS REVEALED IN THE WATER MADE WINE

*The Wine is brought from the Lady Chapel.*

This day water is made wine at the wedding feast.

All **Alleluia!**

I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem,  
coming down out of heaven from God,

All **prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**

And I heard a great voice from the Throne, saying:

All **behold, the dwelling of God is with his people.**

He will dwell with them and they shall be his own:

All **and God himself shall be with them.**

Behold, I make all things new: I am Alpha and Omega,

All **the beginning and the end.**

To the thirsty I will give water without price:

All **from the mountain of the water of life.** *from Revelation 21*

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.**

Stand HYMN 53 **Songs of thankfulness and praise** (verses 1, 2, and 5)

*The Wine is taken to the Altar.*

A Reading from the Gospel according to Saint John.

All **Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

John 2. 1-11

This is the Gospel of Christ.

All **Praise to Christ our Lord.**

Our Lord transforms water into wine

All **Our souls are washed through wine transformed.**

*The Wine is placed on the Altar.*

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving love: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sit CHOIR CAROL New Year Carol – Britten

## THE CHRIST IS REVEALED IN THE WATERS OF BAPTISM

*The Water is brought from the Lady Chapel.*

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

All **Alleluia.**

I will take you from the nations:

All **and gather you from all countries.**

I will sprinkle clean water upon you:

All **and purify you from all defilement.**

A new heart I will give you:

All **and put a new spirit within you.**

You shall be my people:

All **and I shall be your God.**

*from Ezekiel 36*

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.**

Stand HYMN 526 **When Jesus came to Jordan ...**

**Please turn to the back of the church as the Water is taken to the Font.**

A Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Mark.

All **Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

Mark 1. 1- 11

This is the Gospel of Christ.

All **Praise to Christ our Lord.**

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.**

*The Water is poured into the Font.*

Almighty God, who anointed Jesus at his Baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son: give to us who are born of water and the Spirit, the will to surrender ourselves to your service, that we may rejoice to be called your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**