



WORTHING CHRIST CHURCH

Grafton Road

7th January 2024

The Epiphany



ORDER OF SERVICE

10.30am Holy Communion

led by The Revd Maurice Slattery

Epistle: Ephesians 3: 1 – 12 read by John H

Gospel: Matthew 2: 1 - 12 read by Chris C

Intercessions led by Tony S

**PLEASE NOTE ALL THE CAROLS ARE FOUND IN THE
CAROL SHEET YOU WILL HAVE BEEN GIVEN**

*There is prayer in the organ vestry every Sunday at
10am for 15 minutes before the service, which you are
welcome to join at any time*

The Organ Voluntary after our Service today is:
*Variations on the Epiphany Hymn Wie schon leuchtet uns
der Morgenstern by Samuel Scheidt, 1587-1654, Halle*

*Registered Charity no: 1152846
Parochial Church Council of Worthing Christ Church
Website: www.christchurchworthing.org.uk*

A Service of Holy Communion

The Greeting *[Stand]*

The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

OPENING CAROL [4] *[Please stand to sing]*

As with gladness men of old

Prayer of Preparation

All 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.

Prayers of Penitence *[Sit or kneel]*

Summary of the Law

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:
Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord;
and you shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, and with all your mind,
and with all your soul, and with all your strength.
This is the first and greatest commandment.
And the second is like, namely this:

You shall love your neighbour as yourself.
There is no other commandment greater than these. On
these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Invitation to confession

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus
Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in
heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with all.

**All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us, forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of
life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your
sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep
you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **All Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis [Stand]

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; 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.

Prayers for peace

O God, it is your will to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. Let the design of your great love shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows, and give peace among nations, and peace in our hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **All Amen.**

God of mercy and compassion, of grace and reconciliation, pour your power upon all your children in the Middle East: Jews, Muslims and Christians, Palestinians and Israelis. Let hatred be turned into love, fear to trust, despair to hope, oppression to freedom, occupation to liberation, that violent encounters may be replaced by loving embraces, and peace and justice could be experienced by all. Spirit of the living God, Come afresh on your holy land. Help your people to restore broken relationships. Give them patience to break down barriers of suspicion and mistrust; ability to discern personal prejudices and the courage to overcome fear. Teach them to respect each other's integrity and rights so that your kingdom may be established on earth. For Jesus' sake. **All Amen**

The Liturgy of the Word

Epistle [Sit] Ephesians 3: 1 - 12



For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles –

Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Here ends the Epistle. ***All Thanks be to God.***

Worship Song *Please stand to sing*

In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on the cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied
for ev'ry sin on him was laid:
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
then bursting forth in glorious day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine –
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the pow'r of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

CCLI 2765 Stuart Townend & Keith Getty © 2001 Thankyou Music

Gospel Reading [Remain standing]

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew [Matthew 2: 1 - 12]

All sing **Glory to you, O Lord.**



After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.'

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them

where the Christ was to be born. 'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they replied, 'for this is what the prophet has written:

“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.”

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, 'Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.'

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All sing Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon [Sit]

A short period of silence is kept.

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Creed *[Stand]*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession [Sit]

And at the end, after a short period of silence

Merciful Father,

**All accept these prayers for the sake of
your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**



The Liturgy of the Sacrament [Please stand]

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you
All and also with you.

We acknowledge each other with a sign of peace

**OFFERTORY CAROL [2] [Please stand to sing]
In the bleak mid-winter**



The Liturgy of the Sacrament [*Please stand*]

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

All All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Please remain standing

The Lord is here.

All His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing;

All sing **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.
*[Sit or Kneel]***

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; 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.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross;

we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;

we look for the coming of your kingdom,

and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All sing **Christ has died:**

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of
your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with
your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we
worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

All sing **Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**



The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

All **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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.



All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

The words of invitation to communion

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

During the distribution hymns and anthems may be sung.

Agnus Dei *is sung*

*Jesus, Lamb of God, Have mercy on us
Jesus, bearer of our sins, Have mercy on us
Jesus, redeemer of the world, Give us your peace.*

***All are welcome to come forward to receive the bread
and wine at the Communion rail.***

If you do not wish to take the wine, please walk back to your pew after you have taken the bread.

If you would just like to receive a blessing, please carry your order of service with you to help the priest know your intention.

If you prefer to receive communion in your pew, the priest will come to you, please let the churchwarden know you wish to receive communion as he approaches down the aisle.

Post Communion Prayer [Sit or Kneel]

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

All Amen

All Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

Final Carol [21] [Please stand to sing]

We three kings of Orient are

The Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit rest within you, and remain with you always. **All Amen.**

The Minister says

Go in the peace of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

Our thanks to The Revd Maurice Slattery for leading our service of Holy Communion today

Please stay for coffee or tea and a chat after the service in Waters' Hall

Church Wardens:

Kenneth Hobbs

email: christchurchfinance@btinternet.com

Parish Administrator: *Janine Hobbs*

email: christchurchadmin@btinternet.com

Worship for January in Christ Church

- 7th TONIGHT 6pm Evensong**
- 11th 10.30am BCP Holy Communion**
- 14th 10.30am Morning Prayer**
- 21st 10.30am Holy Communion**
- 6pm Evensong**
- 25th 10.30am BCP Holy Communion**
- 28th 10.30am Holy Communion**

CHRIST CHURCH EVENTS 2024

Tuesday 13th February 2024 from 12.30pm to 1.30pm
Worthing U3E Recorder Consort

Tuesday 12th March 2024 from 12.30pm to 1.30pm
Yoko Ono and Clelia Iruzun on one piano!

Tuesday 9th April 2024 from 12.30pm to 1.30pm
South Downs Folk Singers

Tuesday 14th May 2024 - from 12.30pm to 1.30pm
Richard Bowen - guitarist

Tuesday 11th June 2024 – from 12.30pm to 1.30pm
Brighton Guitar Quartet

Tuesday 9th July 2024 from 12.30pm to 1.30pm
Zhanna (*pianist*) and Evelyn (*clarinet or alto saxophone*)

Saturday 7th September 2024 from 10.30am to 2.30pm
Christ Church Autumn Fair

Tuesday 10th September 2024 from 12.30pm to 1.30pm
Paul Gregory – Guitarist

Tuesday 24th September 2024 from 12.30pm to 1.30pm
John Collins - Organist

**In October 2024, we welcome back Rob Campkin (Violin)
and James Buckham (Piano), date to be confirmed**

Tuesday 19th November 2024 from 12.30pm to 1.30pm
The Inspired Instrumentalists

BCP Evensong – Service Order

Conducted by The Revd Nancy Ford

Hymn 85 Earth has many a noble city

Confession etc. (*see booklet*)

Responses

Psalm 98 (*see next page*)

1st Reading: Isaiah 60: 1 - 9 *Reader: Nancy F*

Canticle – Magnificat (*see separate sheet*)

2nd Reading: John 2: 1 - 11 *Reader: Nancy F*

Canticle – Nunc Dimittis (*see separate sheet*)

Creed, Responses, Collects (*see booklet*)

Hymn 87 Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Prayers *led by Dorothy F*

Hymn 89 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

Sermon

Offertory Hymn 74 What child is this, who, laid to rest

Blessing

Organ Voluntary

*Chorale Prelude on Wie schon leuchtet uns der Morgenstern
by Johann Pachelbel, 1653-1706, Buremberg*

***Our thanks to The Revd Nancy Ford
for leading our service this evening***