

## Readings, Hymns and Propers for 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021, the Feast of the Epiphany

### Hymn

The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as  
they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their  
sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.*

2 They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.

3 And by the light of that same star  
three Wise Men came from country  
far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went

4 This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
and there it did both stop and stay,  
right over the place where Jesus lay.

5 Then entered in those Wise Men  
three,  
full reverently upon the knee,  
and offered there, in his presence,  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

### 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. Amen

### A Reading from the prophecy of Isaiah

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.

**Gospel:**

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.

*Matthew 2.1-12*

**Post Communion Prayer:**

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. **Amen**

**Hymn:**

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|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | We three kings of Orient are;<br>bearing gifts we traverse afar<br>field and fountain, moor and mountain,<br>following yonder star:<br><i>O star of wonder, star of night,<br/>star with royal beauty bright,<br/>westward leading, still proceeding,<br/>guide us to thy perfect light.</i> | 3 | Frankincense to offer have I;<br>incense owns a deity nigh:<br>prayer and praising, all men raising,<br>worship him, God most high:                |
| 2 | Born a king on Bethlehem plain,<br>gold I bring, to crown him again-<br>King for ever, ceasing never,<br>over us all to reign:   | 4 | Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume<br>breathes a life of gathering gloom;<br>sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,<br>sealed in the stone-cold tomb: |
|   |  | 5 | Glorious now, behold him arise,<br>King and God, and sacrifice!<br>heaven sings alleluia,<br>alleluia the earth replies:                           |

*John Henry Hopkins (1820-1891)*