

# The Community of St Stephen Walbrook



**Sung Eucharist for Epiphany 4**

**Recorded on  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

## ***The season of Epiphany***

In the Western churches, the Epiphany ('manifestation') became an occasion to celebrate one element in the story of Christ's birth, the visit of the far-travelled magi, understood as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. Matthew's account speaks simply of 'wise men from the east'; later tradition fixed their number at three, made them kings and recalled their resonant names – Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. In this perspective, Epiphanytide is an apt season to pray for the worldwide mission of the Church. The feast of the Conversion of St Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, appropriately falls in the Epiphany season, as does the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

In the Eastern churches, the Epiphany is, rather, the celebration of Christ's baptism at the hands of John, when the heavens were opened and a voice from heaven declared Jesus to be God's beloved Son. The miracle of Cana in Galilee, where Jesus 'first manifested his glory', follows immediately:

*Manifest at Jordan's stream,  
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;  
and at Cana wedding-guest  
in thy Godhead manifest. (Christopher Wordsworth)*

The season of joyful celebration that begins at Christmas now continues through the successive Sundays of Epiphany, and the festal cycle ends only with the Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas). The child who has been manifested to the magi at his birth is now recognized by Simeon and Anna, when he comes to be presented in the Temple according to the Law of Israel. He is both 'a light to lighten the Gentiles' and 'the glory of God's people Israel'. But the redemption he will bring must be won through suffering; the Incarnation is directed to the Passion; and Simeon's final words move our attention away from the celebration of Christmas and towards the mysteries of Easter. *Introduction to the Season of Epiphany, The Church of England*

**Celebrant and preacher:** Revd Stephen Baxter, Priest-in-Charge

**Music recorded by:** St Stephen Voices

**Organist and Director of Music:** Dr Andrew Earis

**Mass setting:** Mass of St Cedd by Peter Nardone

*Cover image: Icon of Jesus teaching in the synagogue c.1350 by unknown artist.*

***Introit: Firmly I believe and truly***

- 1 Firmly I believe and truly  
God is Three, and God is One;  
and I next acknowledge duly  
manhood taken by the Son.
- 2 And I trust and hope most fully  
in that manhood crucified;  
and each thought and deed unruly  
do to death, as he has died.
- 3 Simply to his grace and wholly  
light and life and strength belong,  
and I love supremely, solely,  
him the holy, him the strong.
- 4 And I hold in veneration,  
for the love of him alone,  
Holy Church as his creation,  
and her teachings as his own.
- 5 Adoration ay be given,  
with and through the angelic host,  
to the God of earth and heaven,  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*John Henry Newman (1801-1890)*

***The Welcome***

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

### ***The choir sings the Kyrie***

Lord have mercy  
Christ have mercy  
Lord have mercy

### **The Ministry of the Word**

The Lord be with you  
**And with thy spirit**

Let us pray

### ***The Collect***

O God, who knowest us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: Grant to us such strength and protection, as may support us in all dangers, and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Amen**

### ***Epistle***

#### **Revelation 12:1-5a**

A great portent appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pangs, in the agony of giving birth. Then another portent appeared in heaven: a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child, so that he might devour her child as soon as it was born. And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

### ***The Gospel***

The holy Gospel is written in the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of the Gospel according to St Mark, beginning at the 21<sup>st</sup> verse.

**Glory be to thee, O Lord**

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of

Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He<sup>[m]</sup> commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

This is the gospel of the Lord

**Praise be to thee, O Christ**

***Address***

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

***Offertory hymn:***

- 1 King of glory, King of peace,  
I will love thee;  
and that love may never cease  
I will move thee.  
Thou hast granted my request,  
thou hast heard me;  
thou didst note my working breast,  
thou hast spared me.
  
- 2 Wherefore with my utmost art  
I will sing thee,  
and the cream of all my heart  
I will bring thee.  
Though my sins against me cried,  
thou didst clear me;  
and alone, when they replied,  
thou didst hear me.

3      Seven whole days, not one in seven,  
        I will praise thee;  
        in my heart, though not in heaven,  
        I can raise thee.  
        Small it is, in this poor sort  
        to enrol thee:  
        e'en eternity's too short  
        to extol thee.

*George Herbert (1593-1633)*

### ***Intercessions***

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

### ***Invitation to Confession***

Ye that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to almighty God.

### ***The Confession***

**Almighty God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
maker of all things, judge of all men:  
we acknowledge and bewail  
our manifold sins and wickedness,  
which we, from time to time,  
most grievously have committed,  
by thought, word and deed,  
against thy divine majesty,  
provoking most justly thy wrath  
and indignation against us.  
We do earnestly repent,  
and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;  
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us;  
the burden of them is intolerable.  
Have mercy upon us,  
have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;**

**for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that we may ever hereafter  
serve and please thee in newness of life,  
to the honour and glory of thy name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

### ***The Absolution***

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
who of his great mercy  
hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that  
with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him:  
have mercy upon you;  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins;  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness;  
and bring you to everlasting life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### ***The Comfortable Words***

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.

*(St. Matt. xi. 28)*

So God loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

*(St. John iii. 16)*

### ***The Prayer of Humble Access***

**We do not presume  
to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in thy manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy so much as to gather up  
the crumbs under thy table.  
But thou art the same Lord,  
whose property is always to have mercy:  
grant us therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ,  
and to drink his blood,**

**that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body,  
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,  
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

## **The Ministry of the Sacrament**

The Lord be with you

**And with thy spirit**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them up unto the Lord**

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God

**It is meet and right so to do**

It is very meet, right and our bounden duty,  
that we should at all times, and in all places,  
give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father,  
almighty, everlasting God.

Therefore, with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we laud and magnify thy glorious name,  
evermore praising thee, and singing:

### ***The choir sings the Sanctus and Benedictus***

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,  
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord  
Hosanna in the highest.

### ***The Prayer of Consecration***

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there (by his one oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death, until his coming again:

Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee; and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour

Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood:

Who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread; and, when he had given thanks, he brake 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.

Likewise after supper he took the cup; and, when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins: do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy and lively sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee, that all we, who are partakers of this holy communion, may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father almighty, world without end. **Amen**

And now as our Saviour Christ hath commanded and taught us, we are bold to say

**Our Father, which art in heaven  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done,  
in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that 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 distribution of Holy Communion***

#### ***The choir sings the Agnus Dei***

Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.  
Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.  
Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

### ***Prayer after Communion***

Almighty and ever-living God, we most heartily thank thee, for that thou dost vouchsafe to feed us, who have duly received these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious body and blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of thy everlasting kingdom, by the merits of the most precious death and passion of thy dear Son. And we most humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

### ***The Blessing***

The peace of God, which passeth 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 Ghost, be amongst you and all those whom you love, today and always. **Amen.**

### ***Hymn: O for a thousand tongues to sing***

- 1 O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my dear Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of his grace.
- 2 Jesus - the name that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life, and health, and peace.
- 3 He speaks; and, listening to his voice,  
new life the dead receive;  
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice;  
the humble poor believe.
- 4 My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim  
and spread through all the earth abroad  
the honours of thy name.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

## **Week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at St Stephen Walbrook**

### **Tuesday**

Audio file of Start:Stop reflection released

### **Wednesday**

9am - Morning Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer by conference call.

All welcome to dial in:

*Free dial-in on 0330 9981 320 - access code: 464351#*

### **Thursday**

7.30pm – 8.15pm – Time and Space - community chat by zoom closing with Compline

All welcome to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7739658327>.

### **Saturday**

Video of Sung Eucharist released on church's website

**Morning and Night are available every day through the London Internet Church section of the church's website: <https://ststephenwalbrook.net/internet-church/>**

### **Contact:**

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