



Welcome to St Alban's

Feast of the Epiphany

OPENING HYMN *John Henry Hopkins (1822-1900)*

1. We three Kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

*O Star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

2. Born a King on Bethlehem plain
gold I bring, to crown him again.
King for ever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.

O Star of wonder...

3. Frankincense to offer have I,
incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising, all are raising,
worship him, God most high.

O Star of wonder...

4. Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
breaths a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

O Star of wonder...

5. Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and sacrifice.
'Alleluia, alleluia!'
earth to heaven replies.

O Star of wonder...

We are gathered together as one body...

† In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**
The Lord be with you. **And also with you**

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 therefore confess our sins.

Christ came in humility to share our lives: forgive our pride.
Lord have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

Christ came with good news for all people: forgive our silence.
Christ have mercy.
Christ have mercy.

Christ came in love to a world of suffering: forgive our self-centredness. Lord have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

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. **Amen.**

GLORIA

**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 (The special prayer of the day)

Grateful for the glory revealed today through God made flesh,
let us pray:

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.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 60.1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
² 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.
³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
⁴ 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.
⁵ 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.
⁶ 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.

THE GOSPEL – Matthew 2.1-12
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² 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.' ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ "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."

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ 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.' ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

THE APOSTLES CREED (*Please stand if you are able*)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Today the wise men knelt before our Saviour. Let us also come to worship him with great joy, and make our prayer to his heavenly Father.

RESPONSE: Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

At the end of the prayers we say together:

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

THE PEACE

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
since as members of one body you are called to peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Lord, accept your people's gifts, not gold, frankincense or myrrh,
but hearts and voices raised in praise of Jesus Christ, our light and
our salvation. **Amen.**

THE EUCHARIST

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God,
through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:
for at this time we celebrate your glory made present in our midst.
In the coming of the magi the King of all the world
was revealed to the nations.
In the waters of baptism Jesus was revealed as the Christ,
the Saviour sent to redeem us.
In the water made wine the new creation was revealed
at the wedding feast.
Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices
to proclaim the glory of your name
and say our joyful hymn of praise:

**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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
Do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith
Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Alban and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

As our Saviour taught us so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name;
Your kingdom come,
your will be done;
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

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

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Church of which we are members is not defined by the walls of a building but by the Body of Christ of which we are members.

In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, 'I am the Bread of Life'.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar.
I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul
so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and for ever. Amen.**

Prayers after Communion

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**

**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**

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ shine in your hearts
and fill your lives with his joy and peace. And the blessing....
Amen.

We have seen his glory, the glory revealed to all the nations.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)*

**1. As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright,
so, most gracious God, may we
evermore be led by Thee.**

**2. As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before
thee whom heaven and earth adore,
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy-seat.**

**3. As they offered gifts most rare
at thy cradle rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure, and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.**

**4. Holy Jesus, every day
keep us in the narrow way;
and, when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last**

where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds thy glory hide.

5. In the heavenly country bright
need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown,
thou its sun, which goes not down.
There forever may we sing
alleluias to our King.

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Vicar: Rev'd Ann Alexander 01293 277078
vicar@stalbangossopsgreen.co.uk

Curate: Rev'd Lizzi Green 01293 421155
curate@stalbangossopsgreen.co.uk

Parish Office: Jo Browse 01293 344860
office@stalbangossopsgreen.co.uk

Website: www.stalbangossopsgreen.co.uk

Facebook: St Alban's Gossops Green & Bewbush