

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

LOWESTOFT



Service of Holy Communion



For the Season of Epiphany

Sunday 18th January
Week of prayer for Christian Unity

Deacon Gill

Presiding Rev Pauline

Preaching Canon Simon

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

(Please remain seated)

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Faith seekers go out during this
hymn**



HYMN 678 - In Christ alone

**1 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.**

**2 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 that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.**

**3 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.**

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

Stuart Townend (b. 1963) and Keith Getty (b. 1974)

Arise, shine, for the Light of the World has come!
Praise to Christ our light

INTRODUCTION TO CONFESSION

The grace of God
has dawned upon the world with healing for all.
Though we have grieved him,
yet he will heal us if we confess our sins
in penitence and faith.

Confession (please sit or kneel)

A moment of Silence

When we fail to see Christ
In friend and stranger
Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

When we fail to see Christ
In the miracle of your good earth
Christ have mercy
Christ have mercy

When we fail to see Christ
In the secrets of our own hearts
Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

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

Amen

THE GLORIA

(If you are able, please stand to sing the Gloria)

***Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.
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.
Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.***

***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.***

***Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.
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.
Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.***

THE COLLECT (Prayer of the week – found on the pew sheet)

Eternal Lord,
our beginning and our end:
bring us with the whole creation
to your glory,
hidden through past ages
and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD (please sit)

BIBLE READING

New Testament: 1 Corinthians 1.1-9 Read by: Amelia

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind - just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you - so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 603 - Bright the vision

*1 Bright the vision that delighted
once the sight of Judah's seer;
sweet the countless tongues united
to entrance the prophet's ear.*

*2 Round the Lord in glory seated,
cherubim and seraphim
filled his temple and repeated
each to each the alternate hymn:*

*3 'Lord, thy glory fills the heaven,
earth is with its fulness stored;
unto thee be glory given:
Holy, holy, holy Lord!'*

*4 Heaven is still with glory ringing,
earth takes up the angels' cry:
'Holy, holy, holy' singing,
'Lord of hosts, the Lord most high!'*

*5 With his seraph train before him,
with his holy church below,
thus unite, we to adore him,
bid we thus our anthem flow:*

*6 'Lord, thy glory fills the heaven,
earth is with its fulness stored;
unto thee be glory given:
Holy, holy, holy Lord!'*

RICHARD MANT (1776-1848)
based on Isaiah 6: 1-6

GOSPEL READING John 1.29-42 (Please remain standing)

Alleluia, alleluia. Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations and believed in throughout the world.

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." I myself did not know him; but I came baptising with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptise with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptises with the Holy Spirit." And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.' The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Canon Simon

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (please stand)

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

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

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

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

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

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION – Led by Charles (Please sit or kneel)

These responses may be used:

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

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

NOTICES AND TIME OF SHARING

THE PEACE

(If you would like to, please stand)

Jesus is the Christ, the son of God, and Prince of Peace. Let him rule our hearts now, as one day he will rule the world.

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

Deacon: Let us offer one another a sign of peace

OFFERTORY HYMN 621 - Dear Lord and Father.

(During the offertory hymn the bread and wine and collection are brought to the Altar)

*1 Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways!*

*Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise;
in deeper reverence, praise.*

*2 In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word,
rise up and follow thee;
rise up and follow thee.*

*3 O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity
interpreted by love!
interpreted by love!*

*4 Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace;
the beauty of thy peace.*

*5 Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm;
O still, small voice of calm.*

JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER (1807-1892)

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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER (please sit or kneel)

The Choir may remain standing

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 ever-living God, for your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, who was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit and lived as one of us.

We give thanks for 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 sing our joyful hymn of praise:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna, in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, 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 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.**



THE LORD'S PRAYER

Believing the promises of God, 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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break the bread of life
And that life is the light of the world
**God here among us
Light in the midst of us
Bring us to light and life**

The Agnus Dei

**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.**

This is the table of our Lord, where hurts are healed, and all is made new in the love of God. Come not because it is I who invite you, it is our Lord; It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

All are welcome to come forward to receive the bread and the wine or a blessing. It is helpful for us if you say your name when you come to the front. The choir will receive Holy Communion first at the High Altar, followed by the rest of the congregation who will receive Holy Communion at the Chancel step.

An anthem is usually sung by the Choir and then a Hymn is also sung during communion (please remain seated).

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.

Anthem: Star of Wonder (Bullard)

HYMN 448 - I come with joy.

***1 I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me.***

***2 I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread.***

***3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends.***

***4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here.***

***5 Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one.***

Brian Wren (b. 1936)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Said by a minister and found on the weekly pew sheet.

God of glory,
you nourish us with your Word
who is the bread of life:
fill us with your Holy Spirit
that through us the light of your glory
may shine in all the world.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

**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.**

HYMN 593 - At the name of Jesus.

**1 At the name of Jesus
every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him
King of glory now;
'tis the Father's pleasure
we should call him Lord,
who, from the beginning,
was the mighty Word.**

**2 At his voice creation
sprang at once to sight,
all the angel faces,
all the hosts of light,
thrones and dominations,
stars upon their way,
all the heavenly orders
in their great array.**

**3 Humbled for a season,
to receive a name
from the lips of sinners
unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it,
spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious
when from death he passed.**

**4 Bore it up triumphant
with its human light,
through all ranks of creatures
to the central height,
to the throne of Godhead,
to the Father's breast,
filled it with the glory
of that perfect rest.**

*5 Name Him, Christians, name him,
with love as strong as death;
but with awe and wonder,
and with bated breath.*

*He is God the Saviour,
he is Christ the Lord,
ever to be worshipped,
trusted and adored.*

**6 In your hearts enthrone him;
there let him subdue
all that is not holy,
all that is not true;
crown him as your captain
in temptation's hour;
let his will enfold you
in its light and power.*

*7 Surely, this Lord Jesus
shall return again,
with his Father's glory,
with his angel train;
for all wreaths of empire
meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him
King of glory now.*

CAROLINE MARIA NOEL (1817-1877)

THE 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 us also in our journey to find the Lord. **Amen.**

May God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness, give us a place with the saints in light in the kingdom of his beloved Son. **Amen.**

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ shine in our hearts and fill our lives with his joy and peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of Christ, to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Or

By the power of the Spirit, we take into our community the peace and love of God.

In the name of Christ. Amen.