

Epiphany Short Service

You will need a Bible of your choice for the readings.

Opening Prayer

God of hope, your star led the magi on their long journey to find Jesus.
Guide us as we try to follow Jesus in our lives.
Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

Gospel Reflection

As you read this, try to answer the questions honestly to yourself, and use the answers to reflect on the scripture we have just read.

What do you remember from the reading? What stood out?

The magi travelled a long way following the star to see Jesus. The star guides them and shows them the way to Bethlehem.

How do you think the magi felt during their journey? How do you think they felt when they finally arrived and saw Jesus?

What's the longest journey you have ever been on? Where did you go? How did you get there? How long did it take? How did you feel when you were travelling? How did you feel when you arrived?

Many people who are poor have to go on long and difficult journeys. They may be walking to find water for themselves and for their animals. They may be travelling long distances to go to the doctor or the hospital. Sometimes people have to travel to safety because of violence and fighting where they live. They may be travelling because their home has been damaged due to natural disaster or another problem.

For some of these journeys people have to leave very quickly. They do not know when they might return. And they cannot take many things with them – they can only take what they can carry. How do you think this makes them feel?

What can we do to help these people? Even in time of global pandemic? Or *especially* in time of global pandemic?

For many of us, we are looking at not being allowed to travel far (if at all) from our homes at the moment. How does this make us feel? What can we do to help people who don't have the same resources that we do?

Although we don't physically have to travel to find Jesus in our lives, we often feel as though we have to look for him in every day happenings, or in the midst of tragedy. Where is Jesus in your life right now? Where would you like to find him? Who would you like to find Jesus?

We Pray

You might like to do your own prayer activity (with stars, or teaspoons – TSP – Thank You, Sorry, Please prayers), or use these words below:

From the rising of the sun to its setting, let us pray to the Lord.

That the people of God in all the world
May worship in spirit and truth,
Let us pray to the Lord.

That the Church may discover again that unity
Which is the Father's will,
Let us pray to the Lord.

That the nations of the earth may seek
After the ways that make for peace,
Let us pray to the Lord.

That the whole of creation, groaning in travail,
May be set free to enjoy the glorious liberty of the children of God,
Let us pray to the Lord.

That all who with Christ have entered the shadow of death
May rest in peace and rise in glory,
Let us pray to the Lord.

Let us commend the world, to which Christ showed the way,
To the mercy and protection of God.

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.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Closing Prayer

May the light of Christ our Lord shine in all our hearts.
Amen.

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You may wish to listen to, or sing some hymns and songs. You can find good versions of all these on youtube or Spotify, or you may have them on record. They can also all be found in our hymn books, if you have a copy!

We recommend:

We Three Kings
We Are Marching In The Light
This Little Light of Mine
Joy to the world
Go tell it on the mountain

Words for this service have been taken from *Common Worship, Daily Prayer*, and cafod.org.uk