

NIEUWE KERK GRONINGEN

Epiphany
Carol Service

Sunday 20th January 2019
5.00 pm

EPIPHANY

Epiphany celebrates the appearance of God's glory in the world through the birth of Jesus, our Emmanuel ('God with us'), and the revelation of the incarnation to the Gentiles, and indeed the whole of creation. It has been marked since the 3rd century with a Feast Day on the 6th of January and celebrated in both East and West in a rich variety of ways. In the Western Church, the emphasis has been on the nativity itself and the acknowledgement of Christ's sovereignty over all through the visit of the Magi bringing their gifts of frankincense, gold and myrrh. The revelation of his true nature is echoed by the words of the prophet Simeon, the *Nunc Dimittis*, at the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (February 2nd) that marks the end of the season of Epiphany.

The Greek word epiphany (ἐπιφάνεια) means literally 'sudden appearance' and refers above all to the 'manifestation' of a god. It is the moment and the means by which we see that Jesus is so much more than a good human being, a wise teacher and a moral example but in fact God made man, the Word become flesh. It is in this sense that Simeon declares him to be 'salvation' and 'a light to lighten the Gentiles' and that later Jesus calls himself 'the Light of the World', and so the symbolism of light pervades both this season and our service. Christ calls us out of darkness and into light, so that we may recognise the imprints of his divine fashioning in all creation. We pray that our eyes may be opened to see his glory: to have reverence for the whole of creation and respect for every person, for all are made in the image and likeness of God.

The service begins with the Chapel in darkness.

FIRST LESSON

SAINT JOHN 1 verses 1–14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

EPIPHANY RESPONSORY

Behold the ruler is come, in his hands are the Kingdom, dominion and power.

Give the King thy judgements O God, and thy righteousness unto the King's Son.

All they from Saba shall come, they shall bring gold and incense,
and they shall shew forth the praises of the Lord.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

Behold the Lord, the ruler is come, in his hands are the Kingdom, dominion and power.

Words from the Vesper Respond of Epiphany

*Music adapted from a Magnificat by
G.P. da Palestrina (c.1525-94)*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

¶ *Stand*

1. Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending he
Of the things that are, that have been,
And the future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore.

2. At his word they were created
He commanded, it was done;
Heav'n and earth and depth of ocean
In their threefold order one,
All that grows beneath the shining,
Of the light of moon and sun,
Evermore and evermore.

3. O that birth for ever blessed,
When the Virgin, full of grace
By the Holy Ghost conceiving;
Bare the Saviour of our race,
And the babe, the worlds redeemer,
First revealed his sacred face,
Evermore and evermore.

4. O, ye heights of heav'n, adore him;
Angelhosts, his praises sing;
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before him,
And extol our God and King,
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev'ry voice in concertring,
Evermore and evermore.

5. Christ to thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,
And unwearied praises be,
Honour, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore.

Words *Prudentius* (348–413)
Trans. R.F. Davis (1866–1937)

Tune DIVINUM MYSTERIUM
*Melody from 'Piae Cantiones
Theoderici Petri Nylandensis' 1582*

THE BIDDING PRAYER

¶*Remain standing*

Brothers and sisters, we are gathered to celebrate with joy the appearance of God's glory in the world through the birth of Jesus, who is *Emmanuel*, God with us; to reflect upon the visit of the magi bringing homage to their King at his birth; and to hear the prophetic words of Anna and Simeon revealing the Christ child as a light to lighten all people.

As we rejoice in this, the Word made flesh, who called us out of darkness into light, so we pray that his love and faithfulness may be known in all the world.

We pray for the unity and mission of Christ's Church, and for all who minister the gospel of Christ; we pray for the world, that we may have reverence for the natural order and respect for every person, made in the image and likeness of God; and we pray for those who stand in need, for the lonely, the fearful, the sick and the bereaved, and for all who have no-one to pray for them.

May God our Father take us and use us in his service; may he open our eyes to see his glory and equip us to bless his people, now and at all times. **Amen.**

Believing the promises of God, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**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. Amen.**

I THE WORD MADE FLESH

SENTENCE

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the shadow of death, upon them has the light shined.

Priest: Arise, shine, for your light has come:

Response: **And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.**

COLLECT

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

¶*Sit*

O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM

O magnum mysterium,
et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum,
jacentem in praesepe!
Natum vidimus et choros angelorum
collaudantes Dominum.
Alleluia.

*O great mystery,
and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the new-born Lord,
lying in a manger!
We have seen Him and angelic choirs
praised the Lord.
Alleluia.*

Words *from Mattins for Christmas Day*

Music *Malcolm Archer (b.1952)*

SECOND LESSON

SAINT MATTHEW 1 verses 18–23

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him 'Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us'.'

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:

"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

"For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee;
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk through-out the world will ever say:
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Words *Basque Carol*

Music *Edgar Pettman (1866-1943)*

THIRD LESSON

SAINT LUKE 2 verses 8–20

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

QUELLE EST CETTE ODEUR AGRÉABLE

Quelle est cette odeur agréable,
Bergers, qui ravit tous nos sens ?
S'exhale-t-il rien de semblable
Au milieu des fleurs du printemps ?
Quelle est cette odeur agréable
Bergers, qui ravit tous nos sens ?

Mais quelle éclatante lumière
Dans la nuit vient frapper nos yeux
L'astre de jour, dans sa carrière,
Fut-il jamais si radieux!
Mais quelle éclatante lumière
Dans la nuit vient frapper nos yeux.

A Bethléem, dans une crèche
Il vient de vous naître un Sauveur
Allons, que rien ne vous empêche
D'adorer votre rédempteur
A Bethléem, dans une crèche,
Il vient de vous naître un Sauveur.

Dieu tout puissant, gloire éternelle
Vous soit rendue jusqu'aux cieux.
Que la paix soit universelle
Que la grâce a bonde en tous lieux.

Dieu tout puissant, gloire éternelle
Vous soit rendue jusqu'aux cieux

Words *Anonymous*

Music *David Willcocks*
(1919-2015)

CANDLELIGHT CAROL

How do you capture the wind
On the water?
How do you count all the stars
In the sky?
How can you measure the love
Of a mother?
Or how can you write down
A baby's first cry?

*Candlelight, angel light
Firelight and starglow
Shine on his cradle 'til breaking of dawn
Gloria, gloria, in excelsis deo
Angels are singing, the Christ child is born*

Shepherds and wise men will kneel
And adore him
Seraphim round him their vigil will keep
Nations proclaim him their Lord
And their savior
But Mary will hold him, and sing him to sleep

Find him at Bethlehem laid
In a manger
Christ our Redeemer asleep
In the hay
Godhead incarnate and hope
Of salvation
A child with his mother
That first Christmas Day

Words *John Rutter*

Music *John Rutter*
(*1945)

HYMN

¶*Stand*

1. Bethlehem, of noblest cities
None can once with thee compare;
Thou alone the Lord from heaven
Didst for us incarnate bear.

2. Fairer than the sun at morning
Was the star that told his birth;
To the lands their God announcing,
Seen in fleshly form on earth.

3. By its lambent beauty guided
See the eastern kings appear;
See them bend, their gifts to offer,
Gifts of incense, gold and myrrh.

4. Solemn things of mystic meaning:
Incense doth the God disclose,
Gold a royal child proclaimeth,
Myrrh a future tomb foreshows.

5. Holy Jesus, in thy brightness
To the Gentile world displayed,
With the Father and the Spirit
Endless praise to thee be paid.

Words *Prudentius* (348–413)
Trans. *Edward Caswell*
(1814–1878)

Tune STUTTGART
Adapted from a melody in C.F. Witt's
'Harmonia Sacra' Gotha 1715

II THE KING OF THE NATIONS

¶*Remain standing*

SENTENCE

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow; in heaven, on earth and under the earth: and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Priest: Nations shall come to your light:
Response: **And kings to your dawning brightness.**

COLLECT

Almighty Father, by the leading of a star you revealed your only-begotten Son to the peoples of the earth: in your mercy grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FOURTH LESSON

¶*Sit*

SAINT MATTHEW 2 verses 1–12

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

“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”.’

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

UYT OOSTENLANDEN

Uyt Oosten landen
quamen met offerhanden
dry coningen gereyst naer Bethlehem,
wél vyf-hondert mylen verre,
door 't verlichten van een sterre,
die zy verloren te Jerusalem.

Met dapper schreden
syn dêes Wyse getreden,
de sterr' leyde haer weer tot in den stal;
siet, daer hebben zy gevonden,
in slechte doeckxkens gewonden,
een kintjen coningh, heer en Godt van al.

Als zy den zegen
van 't kint hadden gekregen,
sy naemen oorlof weer naer hun ryck te gaen,
doch Herodes, den snoonen,
meynt dit soete kint te dooden;
dus wees den engel hun een ander baen.

Words Elizabeth van Wouwe (1708)

Music: Jan Zwart (1877-1937)

THE LAMB

Little Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life & bid thee feed
By the stream & o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing, wooly, bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice?
Little Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?

Little Lamb, I'll tell thee,
Little Lamb, I'll tell thee:
He is callèd by thy name,
For he calls himself a Lamb.
He is meek, & he is mild;
He became a little child.
I a child, & thou a lamb,
We are callèd by his name.
Little Lamb, God bless thee!
Little Lamb, God bless thee!

Words William Blake (1757-1827)

Music John Tavener (1944-2013)

FIFTH LESSON

SAINT MATTHEW 2 verses 13–18

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my son.’

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

‘A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’

COVENTRY CAROL

*Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child,
By, by, lully, lullay,
Lully, thou little tiny child,
Lully, lulla, lullay.*

O sisters too, how may we do,
For to preserve this day?
This poor youngling, for whom we sing,
By, by, lully, lullay?

Refrain

Herod the king, in his raging,
Charged he hath this day
His men of might, in his own sight,
All young children to slay.

Refrain

That woe is me, poor child for thee!
And ever mourn and day,
For thy parting we shall not sing,
By, by, lully, lullay!

Refrain

Words *The pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors*
(15th Century)

Music *Traditional tune of 1591*
arr. Daniel Rouwkema

HYMN

¶*Stand*

1. Why, impious Herod, shouldst thou fear
Because the Christ is come so near?
He who doth heavenly kingdoms grant
Thine earthly realm can never want.

2. Lo, sages from the East are gone
To where the star hath newly shone:
Led on by light to Light they press,
And by their gifts their God confess.

3. The Lamb of God is manifest
Again in Jordan's water blest,
And He who sin had never known
By washing hath our sins undone.

4. Yet He that ruleth everything
Can change the nature of the spring,
And gives at Cana this for sign—
The water reddens into wine.

5. Then glory, Lord, to Thee we pay
For thine Epiphany today;
All glory through eternity
To Father, Son, and Spirit be.

Words *Caelius Sedulius (c.450)*
Trans. *P. Dreamer (1867–1936)*

Tune SAINT VENANTIUS
Rouen Church Melody from
1728

III LIGHT TO THE WORLD

¶*Remain standing*

SENTENCE

But the hour is coming, and now is, when true worshippers will worship in spirit and truth.

Priest: And the Lord, whom you seek:

Response: **Shall suddenly come to his temple.**

COLLECT

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was presented in the Temple in substance of our flesh, and was acclaimed the glory of Israel and the light of the

nations: grant that in him we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, and in the world may reflect his glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

¶*Sit*

BENEDICAMUS DOMINO

Procedenti puero,
Eya, nobis annus est:
Virginis ex utero—Gloria, laudes!
Deus homo factus est—et immortalis.
Sine viri semine
Natus est de virgine;
Sine viri copia
Natus est ex Maria.
In hoc festo determino
Benedicamus Domino.

*For the advent of a child,
Hurrah! the season is upon us.
From a virgin's womb—Glory, praises!
God has been made man—and immortal.
Without a husband's seed
He has been born of a virgin;
Without recourse to a husband
He has been born of Mary.
Upon this festal tide.
Let us bless the Lord.*

Words from *Sloane MS 2593*

Music *Peter Warlock*
(1894–1930)

TOMORROW SHALL BE MY DANCING DAY

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day:
I would my true love did so chance
to see the legend of my play,
to call my true love to my dance:

*Sing, O my love, O my love, my love, my love;
this have I done for my true love.*

Then was I born of a virgin pure,
of her I took fleshly substance;
thus was I knit to man's nature,
to call my true love to my dance:

*Sing, O my love, O my love, my love, my love;
this have I done for my true love.*

In a manger laid and wrapped I was,
so very poor this was my chance,
betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,
to call my true love to my dance:

*Sing, O my love, O my love, my love, my love;
this have I done for my true love.*

Then afterwards baptized I was;
the Holy Ghost on me did glance,
my Father's voice heard from above,
to call my true love to my dance:

*Sing, O my love, O my love, my love, my love;
this have I done for my true love.*

Words *Traditional English Carol*

Music *John Gardner
(1917-2011)*

SIXTH LESSON

SAINT LUKE 2 verses 21–32

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons'.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

NUNC DIMITTIS

Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine,
Secundum verbum tuum in pace:
Quia viderunt oculi mei salutare tuum
Quod parasti ante faciem omnium populorum:
Lumen ad revelationem gentium, et gloriam plebis tuae Israel.
Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto,
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,
Et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace
according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation;
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now,
And ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

Words *Luke 2 vv. 29–32*

Music *Charles Wood
(1866–1924)*

HYMN

¶*Stand*

1. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
With gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
Kneel and adore him: the Lord is his Name!
2. Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,
High on his heart he will bear it for thee,
And comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
Guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.
3. Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
Of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:
Truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
These are the offerings to lay on his shrine.
4. These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
He will accept for the name that is dear;
Mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
Trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.
5. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;

With gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
Kneel and adore him: the Lord is his Name!

Words *J.S.B. Monsell*
(1811–1875)

Tune WAS LEBET
Melody from the 'Rheinhardt' MS 1754

THE PRAYER

¶*Remain standing*

O God, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only begotten Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know thee now by faith, to thy presence, where we may Behold thy glory face to face; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING