The Epiphany of our Lord

5th January 2025 9.00am



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Locum Tenens: The Rev'd Michael Hillier

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St Andrew's is a Christ-centred, sacramental, inclusive, thinking, praying and prayerful, missionoriented faith community

Today's Service

9.00am Holy Communion (said, with hymns)

Celebrant: The Rev'd Michael Hillier

Processional Hymn (please stand)

- 1. Christ is our light! the bright and morning star covering with radiance all from near and far. Christ be our light, shine on, shine on we pray into our hearts, into our world today.
- 2. Christ is our love! baptized that we may know the love of God among us, swooping low. Christ be our love, bring us to turn our face and see you in the light of heaven's embrace.
- 3. Christ is our joy! transforming wedding guest!
 Through water turned to wine the feast was blessed.
 Christ be our joy; your glory let us see,
 as your disciples did in Galilee.

Leith Fisher (1941-2009)

Greeting

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

May Christ, the true, the only light banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

Visit us with your salvation and sustain us with your gracious Spirit.

Sentence of the Day

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Isaiah 60:1

Prayer of Preparation

Let us pray

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy, **Lord have mercy**, Christ, have mercy, **Christ have mercy**, Lord, have mercy, **Lord have mercy**.

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's 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.

Prayer of the Day
Let us pray

Lord God of the nations, we have seen the star of your glory rising in splendour: may the brightness of your incarnate Word pierce the night that covers the earth, signal the dawn of justice and peace, and beckon all nations to walk as one in your light. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, in the splendour of eternal light, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6
After the reading
Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

- ¹ Give the king your judgement, O God: and your righteousness to the son of a king,
- ² That he may judge your people rightly: and the poor of the land with equity.
- ³ Let the mountains be laden with peace because of his righteousness: and the hills also with prosperity for his people.
- ⁴ May he give justice to the poor among the people: and rescue the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor.
- ⁵ May he live while the sun endures: and while the moon gives light, throughout all generations.
- ⁶ May he come down like rain upon the new-mown fields: and as showers that water the earth.
- ⁷ In his time shall righteousness flourish: and abundance of peace, till the moon shall be no more.
- ¹⁰ The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring tribute:

the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.

- ¹¹ All kings shall fall down before him: and all nations do him service.
- ¹² He will deliver the needy when they cry: and the poor that have no helper.
- ¹³ He will pity the helpless and the needy: and save the lives of the poor.
- ¹⁴ He will redeem them from oppression and violence: and their blood shall be precious in his sight.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3: 1-12

After the reading

Hear the word of the Lord, thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn (please stand)

- 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 Lord, may we evermore be led to 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 for ever may we sing alleluias to our King.

William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2: 1-12

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew, chapter two, beginning at the first verse.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After the Gospel the reader says

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Affirmation of Faith (please stand)

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church.

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Intercessions (please sit or kneel) – <u>refer to Cycle of Prayer on page 18</u> Let us pray for the world and for the church.

The response to each petition is:

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Prayer for our new incumbent:

Almighty Father, lover of us all and giver of all that is good: hear our prayer for your servant, Tracey whom you have called to the charge of this parish. Strengthen her, Lord, by your Holy Spirit and fill her with love for your people; that as a faithful priest and true servant of your Son she may preach your word, minister your sacraments, and shepherd your flock, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Parish prayer:

God our Father, you have made us members of Christ and of his church in this parish. May our worship be the offering of our hearts and lives to you. Help us to reach out in welcome to newcomers and visitors, to encourage and care for each other in friendship and fellowship, and to grow in grace, love and unity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

After the intercessions:

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers. Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your grace receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Prayer of Approach

Let us pray

We do not presume to come to your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies.

We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.

But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Confession

Christ the Son of God has been revealed as a light to the nations.

A pause for reflection.

Let us bring our darkness to his light, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Merciful God, our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith: pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**

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

Offertory Hymn – during this hymn the bread and wine for Holy Communion will be presented, and the Collection taken

- 1. Jesus, come! for we invite you,
 Guest and Master, Friend and Lord;
 now, as once at Cana's wedding,
 speak, and let us hear your word:
 lead us through our need or doubting,
 hope be born and joy restored.
- 2. Jesus, come! transform our pleasures, guide us into paths unknown; bring your gifts, command your servants, let us trust in you alone: though your hand may work in secret, all shall see what you have done.
- 3. Jesus, come in new creation, heaven brought near in power divine; give your unexpected glory changing water into wine: rouse the faith of your disciples come, our first and greatest Sign!

4. Jesus, come! surprise our dullness, make us willing to receive more than we can yet imagine, all the best you have to give: let us find your hidden riches, taste your love, believe, and live!

Christopher Idle (b. 1938) based on John 2.1-4

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.
Blessed be God for ever.

Great Thanksgiving Prayer

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 our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

You anointed him as Messiah, the light of the nations, and revealed him as the hope of all who thirst for righteousness and peace. By his death on the cross and rising to new life, he offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

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.

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine, and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit, we who eat and drink them may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread; and when he had given you thanks he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded: proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,

and looking for his coming again, we celebrate, with this bread and this cup, his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son, and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

Blessing and honour, glory and power, are yours for ever and ever, Amen.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to 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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of Bread and Communion

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body:

for we all share in the one bread.

The congregation joins in the Agnus Dei

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us. Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

Invitation to Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts, by faith, with thanksgiving.

Administration of Communion

Baptised and communicant Christians of all denominations are welcome to come forward and receive Holy Communion. Gluten free bread is available on request. If you do not wish to receive Holy Communion, you may like to come forward to receive a blessing (simply bow your head as a signal to the priest).

Please do not intinct your Communion wafer into the wine, but receive them separately.

Communion Hymn

- 1. Jesus, humble was your birth when you came from heaven to earth; every day in all we do, make us humble, Lord, like you.
- 2. Jesus, strong to help and heal, showing that your love is real; every day in all we do, make us strong and kind like you.

- 3. Jesus, when you were betrayed, still you trusted God and prayed; every day in all we do, help us trust and pray like you.
- 4. Jesus, risen from the dead, with us always, as you said; every day in all we do, help us live and love like you.

Patrick Appleford (1925-2018)

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray

God of the nations, we thank you for nourishing us with this holy sacrament. Guide us by your presence, that we may bring your light to those who dwell in darkness, and establish your justice in the earth.

Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

Notices

Final Hymn

- 1. The first Nowell the angel did say was to Bethlehem's shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep on a cold winter's night that was so deep:

 Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, born is the King of Israel!
- 2. Then wise men from a country far looked up and saw a guiding star; they travelled on by night and day to reach the place where Jesus lay:
- 3. At Bethlehem they entered in, on bended knee they worshipped him; they offered there in his presence their gold and myrrh and frankincense:
- 4. Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord; for Christ has our salvation wrought and with his blood our life has bought:

West-country carol, possibly 18th century adapted by Michael Arnold Perry (1942-1996)

Blessing & Dismissal

May Christ the Son of God be manifest to you, that your lives may be a light to the world;

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

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ.

Organ Postlude - we sit in reflection

Text from *A Prayer Book for Australia* (Sydney: Broughton Books, 1995) © 1995, The Anglican Church of Australia Trusts Corporation.

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Please make your way to the Parish Centre for a cup of tea/coffee, and a presentation on the life of Jesus viewed through the lens of the geography of the Holy Land.

If you are new today, welcome! Please join us for refreshments and conversation at Morning Tea following the service, in the Parish Centre next door.

Contact forms are available for you to complete today: we would love to have your contact details so that we can keep you up to date with the life of the parish. Please ask one of our friendly welcomers for a form, and return it to them (or place it in the offertory bowl) when you have completed it. Many thanks.

Diary Dates

Sunday 5 January Epiphany	9.00am	Holy Communion (said, w hymns)
Wednesday 8 January Friday 10 January		Office closed Office closed
Sunday 12 January Baptism of our Lord	9.00am	Holy Communion (said, w hymns)
Wednesday 15 January Friday 17 January	9.30am 10.00am	Office reopens, until 5pm Office open until 5pm Staff meeting (Office) Tai Chi class (Parish Centre)
Sunday 19 January Epiphany 2	9.00am	Holy Communion (said, w hymns)
Wednesday 22 January Friday 24 January	9.30am 9.30am 10.00am 10.00am	Office open until 5pm Office open until 5pm Staff meeting (Office) Tai Chi class (Parish Centre)
Sunday 26 January Epiphany 3	9.00am	Holy Communion (said, w hymns)

For your Prayers this week

The Nations and People of the Earth:

- As we begin the new year, we give thanks for the past year.
- Pray for peace in our world and for diplomats' work in bringing about just and lasting peace in various parts of our world.
- Pray for peacekeeping forces.
- Pray for those denied life's basic necessities. Give thanks for the work of aid agencies and intergovernmental aid and pray for their work.
- For those who have experienced a natural disaster and lost much or everything.

The Church and its Mission:

As we keep the Feast of Epiphany, we give thanks that the gospel's good news is being taken to all people, for Christ is a 'Light to the Gentiles'. We pray for the work of the Bible Society and all mission agencies.

Anglican Communion: The Church in Wales: Primate ++Andrew John *Adelaide:* Fullarton: vacant

Willochra: Balaklava, Bungaree and Clare: Andrew Lang (Louise), Roy Todd (Georgina)

The Murray: Director of Formation: Rodney Fopp National Church: Bathurst: +Mark Calder (Susan)

At St Andrew's we pray:

- Give thanks for the appointment of our new priest, Tracey Gracey, and pray for her as she prepares to begin her ministry among us.
- For Maggie Crewes and her ministry, particularly as she begins ministry in Alice Springs and builds relationships. Pray for CMS.
- For the life of our parish.
- For those holding positions of responsibility in the life of the parish.
- For our parish groups.
- For all among us doing the necessary chores to enable the parish to function smoothly.

Ourselves and our Community:

 Pray for all who are physically or mentally ill. Those awaiting, undergoing, or recovering from surgery.

- All who are in pain, disabled or incurably ill.
- Those known to us who are sick.
- For the dying, the families of the sick and dying and all who are bereaved.
- Give thanks for and pray for those working in our Health Services.
- Give thanks for all medical discoveries and medical breakthroughs in technology.
- Pray for all who are on holiday at this time.

Those asking for our prayers:

Maggie Crewes; Lyall von Einem; Wayne Butcher; Jill Berry; Rhonda Gilmour; Allan Edgar; Kathy Edgar; Donna Coombe; Dale Van Heer

The Departed

We give thanks to God for all who have gone before us and who have helped to shape our lives. As we remember them, we give thanks and pray for all the faithful departed:

William Laud (d. 1645), archbishop of Canterbury, martyr 10 January

Quotation: God is looking for us

'The question is not "How am I to find God?" but "How am I to let myself be found by him?" The question is not "How am I to know God?" but "How am I to let myself be known by God?" And, finally, the question is not "How am I to love God?" but "How am I to let myself be loved by God?" God is looking into the distance for me, trying to find me, and longing to bring me home.'

Henri Nouwen: The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming, page 106

Rosters for today, Sunday 5th January (Epiphany)

Celebrant & Preacher: 9.00am The Rev'd Michael Hillier

Reader: 9.00am Brian Zwar

Prayer Leader: 9.00am Brian Wheatley Lay Assistant: 9.00am Donna Coombe Server: 9.00am Michael Thomas

Welcomers: 9.00am Brian & Heather Wheatley; Brian Zwar

Morning Tea: 9.00am Needra Silva; Sally Zimmerman;

Helen Hancock

Rosters for next Sunday, 12th January (Baptism of our Lord)

Celebrant & Preacher: 9.00am The Rev'd Michael Hillier

Readers: 9.00am Janet Martin Prayer Leader: 9.00am Lyn Dow

Lay Assistant: 9.00am Malcolm Allen Server: 9.00am Jennifer Harris

Welcomers: 9.00am Jan de Wit; Sally Zimmerman; Roy Ingram

Morning Tea 9.00am Val Ingram; Suzanne Sexton

Rosters for Sunday 19th January (Epiphany 2)

Celebrant & Preacher: 9.00am The Rev'd Stuart Langshaw

Readers: 9.00am Christine Thomas Prayer Leader: 9.00am Michael Thomas Lay Assistants: 9.00am Biffy Ormsby

Server: 9.00am John Beer

Welcomers: 9.00am Brian Zwar; Michael Thomas; Rob Dow

Morning Tea 9.00am Frances Wilson; Molly Radakovitch;

Joan Beer

Readings for next Sunday (The Baptism of our Lord)

1st Reading: Isaiah 43: 1-7 Psalm 29

2nd Reading: Acts 8: 14-17 Gospel: Luke 3: 15-22