

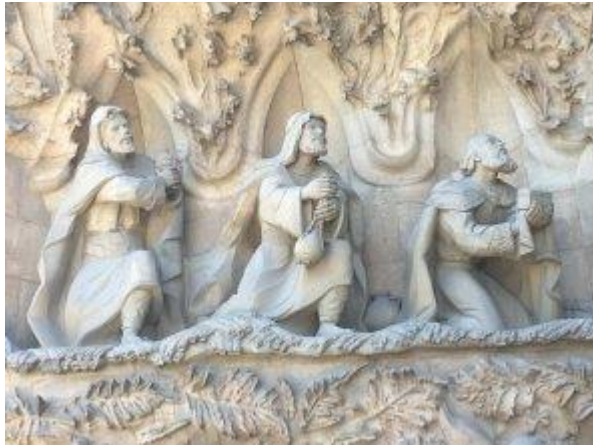


ST JAMES' CHURCH, ISLINGTON N1 8PF

3 January 2021 EPIPHANY Year B 21/1

Welcomers: Eva Kasella
 Reader: Jack Carter
 Interceder: Jane Falcioni
 Cantor: Isabel Nisbet
 AV editor: N/A
 Hymns:
 Entry: AM94 As with gladness
 Gradual: Psalm 72
 Offertory: AM105 We three kings
 P-Communion: Britten, a New Year Carol
 Final: CAHON729 What child is this

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



THE THREE WISE MEN
 Some of you may recognise these figures carved on the outside of the *Sagrada Familia* in Barcelona, Antonio Gaudi's amazing reconstruction of a medieval Cathedral which is still being built even though he died in 1926. The exterior is full of figures - scenes from the Bible as well as statues of saints and quirky representations from Creation. This giant compendium of our faith reminds us that pictures and symbols are every bit as important as words.

GUIDE TO ST JAMES' With so many visitors to the Church it is high time we had a printed guide to point out some of the best features. At some time I would like to write a little booklet but for the moment I have put together an A4 sheet with the history of the parish on one side and fourteen features to find (with the aid of a map) on the other. There are some laminated copies to keep in Church and some black and white copies for people to take away if they would like to.

WEBCAMS We are again very grateful to the Clouesley Trust who have awarded us £5,000 towards the installation of webcams in Church so that we can live stream our services. Sadly BT have let us down and can't install the outside connection until 21st January (their first offer was the 7th) but we hope the whole installation will be completed by CAVS during the following week.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS Which will be just in time for the combined Baptisms and Admissions to First Holy Communion on Sunday 31st January (Candlemass), postponed because of Covid regulations from 18th October. We will be delighted to welcome Ava, Ivy and Bella Wilson for baptism, and Amariah Greenaway, Tayah Phillips, Barnaby and Matilda Powell and Ava Wilson to Holy Communion. The webcams will mean that those among their families and friends not able to travel will still be able to join in the service!

MUSICAL VESPERS That evening, to extend the celebration of Candlemass, we will be staging our second Musical Vespers, a quiet service of prayers and biblical

St James' Islington: discovering how to live like Jesus in the 21st century

reflections which also feature some first class live music. For All Souls Day in November we enjoyed piano music played by Gisela Meyer; this time we hope to feature some of our own talented musicians. Watch this space.

MORE MUSIC It was very encouraging to be part of a zoom meeting on Wednesday to plan the *Islington Proms Festival* for 2021. The Committee of six discussed the possibilities and sensibly decided to move the event from June to September 2021 in the hope that nearly all the Covid restrictions will be gone by then. What is not in doubt is the enthusiasm of musicians to play and we can look forward to some stunning concerts as well as the *Proms Fringe* when we invite in speakers and commission major art installations for the Church walls. Even if we are still limited in the number of people that the Church can hold we are very hopeful that the new webcams will also allow us to stream the concerts and broaden our outreach.

POSSIBLY MORE MUSIC I know we are all heartily fed up with the delays on sorting out the application to refurbish the Organ but I just wanted to bring you up to date. After the new Registrar got things moving again in mid September we seemed to making good progress until we discovered that both the Chancellor and his deputy knew some of the Objectors. We then heard that the in-coming Chancellor was willing to hear the case before his start date of 1st February and we were told he was happy to work from the reams of papers already submitted. The limited hearing would be this coming week. Then just before Christmas this changed yet again as it seems that a full Consistory Court, with the opportunity for a third set of Objections to be lodged, may yet be required but that can't take place until March! That will be a full 15 months after the 28 day notice was issued. This isn't just bad luck: this is a quite unfair way to treat a parish doing its best to weigh all the evidence in order to bring us the best possible outcome.

THIS WEEK

Sun *EPIPHANY* 8am Mass. 10am PARISH MASS and SUNDAY SCHOOL
 Tues 8.30am Morning Prayer. 9am Mass.
 Wed 10am Mass. 6pm *Grace Church, Alvin, Texas Zoom prayers.*
 Thurs 6pm Evening Prayer and Office session.
 Sun 10 *BAPTISM OF CHRIST* 8am Mass. 10am PARISH MASS and SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Calendar and Daily Prayer themes

Sun 3 <i>EPIPHANY</i>	Lisa, Darren, Max and Oscar Ahmet-Baker
Mon 4 <i>DEL Epiphany</i>	Louise Ahmet, Vinney and Benjy Payne
Tues 5 <i>Feria</i>	Martin, Kerri, Rebecca and Joseph Allen; Beatrice Awoonor-Renner
Wed 6 <i>Feria</i>	Vicky Bellamy, Holly and Josh Campbell
Thurs 7 <i>Feria</i>	Albert and Annie Bryan; Fr John, Maria and Sinead Burniston
Fri 8 <i>Feria</i>	Vivienne Carlton; Chris, Katja, Arnold and Egon Carter
Sat 9 <i>Feria</i>	Dionne, Aly, Sophie, Emma, Jack Carter; Thiago Chang
Sun 10 <i>BAPTISM OF CHRIST</i>	Shirley Chinery; Carly, James, Michael, Francis

PRAYER BOARD/NOTICES Requests for prayer welcome

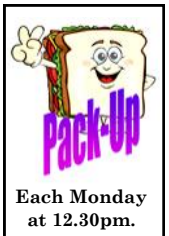
BIRTHDAYS Many Happy Returns on Wednesday to Annie Bryan and to our guitar playing PhD student Sergio Villicana.

SICK Christopher Browne, Mariolina and Peter Freeth, Emily Grainger, Kris Hyde, Hayley Jenkins, John, Kingsley Lewis, John Scott, Charlie Sharpe, Vera Taggart, Geoff Turner and Melanie Toogood.

ANNIVERSARIES Today: Mary Marshall (1994), Sarah Evans (1970) and Sally Jones; 6th: Margaret Davies (1998); 7th: Leila Hoon.

INTERNATIONAL CHURCH LINKS In the US: Suzanne Smith, Rector of Grace Church, Alvin, Texas. Suzanne's husband Travis is Rector of Holy Comforter, Angleton, 14 miles away. In Japan: Fr Sebastian and Yuki Naniwa serving in Ehime near Hiroshima.

PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE Our prayers continue for **Nazanin Zaghari Radcliffe** in the hope that some kind of formula can allow her to return to the UK as soon as possible.



Each Monday at 12.30pm.



Parish Priest: Fr John Burniston 1a Arlington Square, N1 7DS 020 7226 4108 | 07989 281123
 email: vicar@stjamesislington.org | www.stjamesislington.org | Administrator: admin@stjamesislington.org
 Churchwardens: Hilary Roden and Isabel Nisbet | Hall Bookings: hallatstjames@gmail.com



PARISH MASS
for the Feast of the
Epiphany
Sunday January 3rd 2021.

PARISH MASS
FOR THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY 2021

Entry Hymn: **AM94 As with gladness men of old**

[t Dix]

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

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

*As they offered gifts most rare
at that manger, 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.*

(Words: William Chatterton Dix)

The Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Words of welcome or introduction may be said.

Words of Preparation

**Loving Lord, fill us with your life-giving,
joy-giving, peace-giving presence,
that we may praise you now with our lips
and all the day long with our lives,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Confession

**All seeing God, you have searched our hearts and minds
and have discovered our blindness and our weakness,
our fears and our selfishness.
In sorrow we confess that we have sinned against you
and disobeyed your command to love others
as we love ourselves.**

**Forgive us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ
who became like us
so that we might become like him. Amen,**

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins, heal
and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in 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 sins 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.**

Collect

**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 jour-
ney's end in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Sit

The Word of God

1st Reading: (Isaiah 60: 1-6) Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of
the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick dark-
ness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear
over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your
dawn.

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.

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. 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: [Ps 72]

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
**that he may rule the people righteously
and the poor with justice.**

He shall defend the needy among the people;
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
**He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

In his time shall the godly flourish;
there shall be an abundance of peace
till the moon shall be no more.

**All kings shall bow down before him,
and all the nations shall do him service.**

He shall have pity on the lowly and poor;
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

**Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel,
who alone does such wondrous deeds!**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
**as it was in the beginning, is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

A short time of silence follows as we reflect on all we have heard.

Gospel Acclamation

We say together:

**Alleluia, alleluia We saw the rising of his star and we have come to
worship him. Alleluia**

Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

(Note: The whole congregation reads the passages which are underlined)

(St Matthew 2: 1-11) Jesus was born in Bethlehem when Herod was king of Judea. About that time, wise men came to Herod's palace in Jerusalem asking 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For many months we have seen his star as it travelled west and we have come with gifts to pay him homage.'

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened for no child had been born in the palace. So he called all the chief priests and scribes of the people, and asked them where the Messiah was to be born. The chief priests said to him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea. This was told to us many years ago by the prophets.'

After Herod had sent the chief priests away he secretly called in the wise men and told them to look for the child in Bethlehem: 'Go and search carefully for the child; and when you have found him, come back and tell me so that I too may go and pay him homage.' When the wise men heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had followed from the east. Some time later it stopped over a house and they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering, 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.

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

SERMON FOR FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY | 03.01.2021

Isaiah 60: 1-6; Ephesians 3: 1-12; St Matthew 2- 1-12

One of my New Year resolutions – well a post-Christmas one really – has been to try and tackle things that I have putting off for ages. So at long last I got round to putting together a brief guide for the increasing number of people who visit the Church when it is open on weekdays. And that drew me to sort through some books on the history of the parish, and in particular two books by Harry Walters who lived in one of the old Cottages on Popham Road from the 1930s to their demolition in 1978.

There, in the middle of the stories of how that generation coped with squalid living conditions, little education and no money, was an insight into how St James' was regarded by our nearest neighbours at the time. He wrote: *On Sundays the bells from our local church would peal out. The church, St James', was very fine church inside, beautifully built like a miniature cathedral. Over the years the congregation became smaller and smaller, not only from the street (his own Popham Street) but from the rest of the parish. When I was young and used to attend myself, the congregation was quite large and an enthusiastic young priest kept congregations. Then an older and, so we thought, more pious priest came on the scene.*

The Church had a club in Britannia Row and this was where quite a few of us youngsters went. The building was very old yet most of us would spend quite a few evenings a week there.

Some of the happiest times I have had in my life were with the crowd of fellows and girls who used to attend there. It was a place to look forward to. Subscription were small and facilities not so many but the crowd of members always seemed to get a lot of fun out of the place. The younger priest, as was his right, would do his utmost to get the youngsters to attend Church each Sunday and although he didn't succeed, most would go at least once or twice a month. The new and older priest made it compulsory: 'either you go each week or the club closes down'. Now everyone knows that compulsory church is not good for anyone least of all the church. That was the end of that little community of about a hundred or so teenagers. It all broke up and everyone went their separate ways...

As I read Harry Walters' account I had a strong feeling that that is how many of us feel as 2020 finally passes into 2021. We might not have had that much but whatever it was has been taken away.

So at first I warmed to the tweet of Miranda Threlfall-Holmes, whose day job is Team Rector of St Luke's in Liverpool: *Someone asked me what my word for 2021 was, and the one that came to mind was perseverance. I'm not planning flashy new stuff for 2021, or making amazing resolutions – just to keep on keeping on, focusing not on the journey but on the next step.*

And that took me to the image of the Three Wise Men! Those of you who were able to be present at the wonderful carol service Epiphoni sang for us before Christmas, or who have watched it on line as well over 100 people have done – may remember Alison Rice reading the story of Baboushka, the Russian tale of the old woman visited by the kings as they go in search for the Christ child. You may remember that after she has fed them, they offer to take her with them on their journey.

But at that moment she is not ready for the big quest, the search for the big thing in her life: just then she doesn't feel able to do more than take one step at a time, working out how to get the next meal on the table. In the hard conditions of life, just doing the basics, persevering, may not be very glamorous. But it is sometimes essential: we may not have much but we will not be beaten.

The response of so many during this pandemic has been redolent of that extraordinary stoicism: ambulances queuing round the block because wards are just too full to admit new patients, with crews still caring for their patients; so many making decisions not to hold weddings, not to travel at Christmas and the New Year, not to put other people's lives at risk in 1001 different ways; the dogged work of Food Bank volunteers and neighbours to the isolated and lonely.

Yet Baboushka begins to realise that just doing the necessary, attending to the basics, is, ultimately, not enough for human flourishing. In this hugely unpredictable world, there has to be something more. So although she never catches up with the kings, it doesn't stop her showering gifts on all the children that she meets along the way.

What the Three Kings, carved on the outside of the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona or in that great Rubens picture in King's College Chapel Cambridge are reminding us is that the greatest driving force is not actually coping with 'need' but an optimistic vision of the future: it is optimism that is the spur for inspiration and growth.

Time and time again we discover that it is often in times of crisis that the greatest and most positive achievements occur. The author Matt Haigh reminds us that *just as volcanic ash turns into the most fertile of soils, so the most intense times often lead to the most exciting growth.*

Mary Portas *the economist, reflecting on Covid, sees today the emergence of a much kinder society, suggesting that – with the help of David Attenborough and Greta Thunberg - people are now realising that we simply can't go on consuming in the same way as before.*

Allison Pearson writes in her column that as a result of this pandemic *we have developed a renewed appreciation for all those little things we took for granted – having a cup of tea with a friend she says, will seem more exotic than a trip to New York, a hug better than any gift. And when it finally comes, the reopening of theatres and concert venues will restore to us our soul food of which we have all been so starved. And the intense human desire for simple, live, companionship will stop us from settling for the pandemic shaped normal. We will all feel the need for something so much better, greater, bigger.*

And Archbishop Justin Welby points us to a new report coming out in February about the Church in the Community. And he asks us, as we come out of lockdown, to see in what ways Christians can develop their churches as 'centres of creative support', places that reflect the kinds of expansive creativity that God seeks for his people.

I am afraid that wasn't the message that came out of Harry Walters' account of the Britannia Row Centre 60 years ago. For whatever reason the priest of the day closed activities down because the local young people wouldn't come to his services. Is that love-in-action? Does that speak of the generosity and life-giving activity of God that led the Wise Men to trust that something much greater was ready to be discovered?

On Wednesday we are expecting to be called to a zoom meeting with the new Diocesan Chancellor to discuss the Organ Project Consistory Court.

And you know how we have persevered with this, taking on every delay, every piece of maladministration, every objection.

But it has not deflected us. We will not settle for that as normal. We will go on retaining our inner optimism that if we rise above the ordinary, if we follow the star like those Magi, we will find what we need to make St James' 'a centre of creative support' for all. That, surely, is the message of this Epiphany.

Stand

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe that in the beginning was the Word,
and that the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
Through him all things were made;
without him nothing was made that has been made.
In him is life and that life is the light for us all.
The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us;
we have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son
who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

Sit

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, what kind of journey are you taking us on; what is the direction and what is the final destination? In these uncertain times we can only trust that you have our best interests at heart and will see us through safely. Keep your vision before our eyes. Unite our Church in faith and in love so that we do not lose hope and do not lose heart. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray today for all those who are fearful for the future - of their families, their studies, their health or their jobs. Bless we pray all those in government who have major decisions to make about the welfare of the nation; for those controlling budgets and rolling out policy. We pray for Rishi Sunak and for all who work with him; for Richard Watts and those serving in Islington Town Hall; for all employers and for those coping with rising challenges in the NHS. Lord, in your mercy...

As we think of the wise men from the east, so we pray for the countries of the Middle East: for Israel/Palestine, for the Lebanon and Iraq; for Nazanin and all detained in Iran and for those suffering in the civil war the Yemen. May this year be a chance for renewed diplomacy, freedom and peace. Lord, in your mercy...

Into your hands, Lord, we entrust all those whom we love but rarely see: we remember those who are isolating, the lonely and the mentally unwell as well as for those awaiting operations delayed by the pandemic and for all suffering from Covid. In a moment of quiet we pray for all who need our prayers today... Lord, in your mercy...

You, Lord, are our hope and our inspiration. As we believe in the Resurrection of the dead, so we pray that you will fill us with confidence that all our loved ones are safe in your care. This week we pray for the souls of Mary Marshall, Sarah Evans, Sally Jones, Margaret Davies and Leila Hoon. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of Mary the Mother of God, St James and all the saints, we commend ourselves and all those for whom we have prayed, to your unfailing love.

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

Stand

The Peace

Christ was revealed in a human body, was proclaimed to the nations and is believed in throughout the world. His name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

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

Offertory Hymn: **AM105 We three kings of Orient are**

*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.*

*Frankincense to offer have I,
incense owns a deity nigh:
prayer and praising, all are raising,
worship him, God most high.*

*Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom:
sorrowing, sighing, blessing, dying,
sealed in a stone cold tomb.*

*Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and sacrifice!
Heav'n sings: 'Alleluia!'
'Alleluia!' the earth replies.*

(Words: Edward Hopkins)

At the Offertory

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.
Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of creation.
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
Fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become our spiritual drink.
Blessed be God for ever.

Pray, my friends, that our thanksgiving may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.
**May the Lord accept this sacrifice from our hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

Lord, accept the offerings of your Church, not gold, frankincense and myrrh, but the sacrifice and food they symbolise: Jesus Christ, who is Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer H2

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.

Father, it is our joy and delight, our reason for being,
to offer you thanks and praise.

All your actions show wisdom and love.
Through your Word
you spoke creation into existence
and made us in your image and likeness.

**When we disobeyed you and drew away from you,
you did not leave us in darkness
but sent your Son, the Word made flesh,
to be the light of the world.**

Emptying himself of all but love, he was born of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
shared our human nature and died on the Cross.

Yet you raised him from death to eternal life;
and through him you have sent your holy and life-giving Spirit.

You have made us your people, a people of light,

to reflect your glory in all the world.

On the night he was betrayed
at supper with his friends
he took bread, and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

[Pause]

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
His body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.

[Pause]

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
His blood is shed for all.**

Send your Holy Spirit
that this bread and this wine may be to us
the Body and Blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**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.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Fraction

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in the one bread.**

Agnus Dei

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

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

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world.
Grant us peace.**

Invitation

Draw near with faith, receive the Body of our Lord Jesus Christ which
was broken for you, and his blood which was shed for you.
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you and feed on him in
your hearts with thanksgiving; for this is the Lamb of God who takes
away the sin of the world. Happy are those who are called to his Sup-
per.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word
and I shall be healed.**

After Commun-

Lord's Prayer

Sit

ion

Communion Anthem: A New Year Carol Benjamin Britten

*Here we bring new water from the well so clear,
For to worship God with this Happy New Year.
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.*

*Sing reign of Fair maid, with gold upon her toe,
Open you the West Door, and turn the Old Year go. Sing...*

*Sing reign of Fair maid, with gold upon her chin,
Open you the East door, and let the New Year in. Sing...*

Sit

Post Communion

Father, guide us with your light. Help us to recognise Christ in this eucharist and welcome him with love, for he is Lord for ever and ever.
Amen.

**Father of all, we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Community Notices

Stand

Blessing and Dismissal

May Christ, who in coming to live among us gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill our lives with his light and joy and peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Final Hymn: **CAHON280 Here on the threshold**
Air]

[t Londonderry

**Here on the threshold of a new beginning,
by grace forgiven, now we leave behind
our long repented selfishness and sinning,
and all our blessings call again to mind:
Christ to redeem us, ransom and restore us,
The love that holds us in a Saviour's care,
faith strong to welcome all that lies before us,
our unknown future, knowing God is there.**

**May we, your children, feel with Christ's compassion
An earth disordered, hungry and in pain;
then, at your calling, find the will to fashion
new ways where freedom, truth and justice reign;
where wars are ended, ancient wrongs are righted,
and nations value human life and worth;
where in the darkness lamps of hope are lighted
and Christ is honoured over all the earth.**

(Words: Timothy Dudley Smith)

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, materials from which is included in this service is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000. Confession and Preface from the Methodist Worship Book © The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes 1999. Hymn License: CCL 142967



May God bless every £1 we give so that St James' will be here, not just for today and for tomorrow, but for the future he wants to create.