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The Anglican Parish of Denmark

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The Epiphany of Our Lord

Prayers of the Day

Eternal God, who by a star led Magi to the worship of your Son: guide the nations of the earth by your light, that the whole world may see your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

or

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.

or

Everlasting God, who brought the nations to your light and kings to the brightness of your rising: fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the nations; through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Epiphany of Our Lord

is celebrated on the twelfth day of Christmas (6th January). It is generally observed on the closest Sunday (today).

Lift up your eyes and look around; see the glory of God revealed.

You reveal yourself to the world, and the heaven announce your coming; open our eyes to find you today in the wonders of your creation and in all who work for the preservation of our beautiful world.

Janet Nelson, 1999

We endeavour to be an expression of God's love in the community

Sentence

They saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and worshipped him.

Matthew 2.11

First Reading Isaiah 60.1-6

¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ² For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³ Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ 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. ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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.

Psalm 148

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

¹ This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Gospel: Matthew 2.1-12

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² 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." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ '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.' "

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ 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." ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Christmas travelling into 2011

Songs, food, dance and conversation are at the heart of creating and fostering community. Striving for excellence we encourage individual contestants to reach their potential. Australian Idol, Master Chef, Hell's Kitchen, Dancing with the Stars fuel our desire to compete. The winners are duly rewarded, the losers are left further diminished by public humiliation. The life of a community devolves into an arena marked by fierce rivalry.

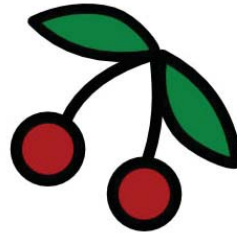
The Christmas event, the birth of God's Divine community in our midst, invites the talented, the singers, the chefs and the dancers to encourage the least and the lost to a joyous festival. It demands the "performers" to enable the rest of us to participate. There are no winners and losers in the birth of Jesus. We join the heavenly chorus that stirs the whole of creation into a rhapsody of praise: "Glory to God in the highest, heaven and peace to God's people on earth".

For a moment in time an aura of heaven touches the earth. Love is in the air and in the giving and receiving of gifts and good wishes we seek to be the best for each other. We know that we are called to be more than the selfish people we tend to be.

What if the magic of Christmas travels with us into 2011? The truth is it does, for the child born at Christmas is Emmanuel – God with us – always.

DARE TO LIVE GOD'S PROMISES.

The Most Reverend Roger Herft
Archbishop



Worship over the Holy Days

St Leonard's Denmark

every Sunday at 9:30 am

St George's Walpole

every Sunday at 10:00 am

Readings for 9th January 2010 The Baptism of our Lord

Isaiah 42.1-96

Psalm 29

Acts 10.34-43

Matthew 3.13-17

Calendar Notations

Th 06 Jan The Epiphany of Our Lord

Mo 24 Jan Parish Council

Su 27 Feb Annual Meeting of Parishioners

Shepherd of Israel
and Light of all Nations,
made known in the gifts
of those who call to other names
and walk on different ways:
may unjust powers
and the hatred within us
be dismayed by your friendship
and dethroned by your love;
through Jesus Christ,
the open arms of grace.
Amen.

Every effort is made to publish the Parish Pew Sheet on the Parish Website each Friday before the relevant Sunday. Please provide information before Friday of each week to Harold Luxton: haroldws@bigpond.com, 9840 1661.