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# Bread for the World

## *An Informal Eucharist*

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Introit The three Kings Peter Cornelius

Welcome and Opening Prayers Revd Catherine Duce

Creator God,  
Come to us, in the difference of every life gathered  
Come to us in song  
Come to us in word  
Come to us in stillness and silence  
Come to us in our care for one another  
Come to us in bread and wine  
Come to us in flesh and blood  
Reach out across time  
Be present in all time.

*All* **Amen.**

*All* **Come Jesus, be our guest,  
Stay with us for day is ending.  
With friend, with stranger,  
With young and old,  
With the lost and found  
Be among us tonight  
Our guest our host  
The one who says all – all are welcome here.**

Opening Hymn

**1 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.***

**2 Born a king on Bethlehem plain,  
gold I bring, to crown him again-  
King for ever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign:  
*Chorus***

**3 Frankincense to offer have I;  
incense owns a deity nigh:  
prayer and praising, all men raising,  
worship him, God most high:  
*Chorus***

**4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb:  
*Chorus***

**5 Glorious now, behold him arise,  
King and God, and sacrifice!  
heaven sings alleluia,  
alleluia the earth replies:  
*Chorus***

*John Henry Hopkins (1820-1891)*

### Prayers of Forgiveness

God longs to be with us. But we often live in alienation from God, ourselves, one another and God's creation. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

*Silence is kept.*

Because the world is beautiful but beauty is easily destroyed, we need you.

Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Because we often abandon you and turn away and walk past and are afraid and countless times betray you but you love us to the end and win a victory over all hatred, we need you.

Christ, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

Because we have your message to proclaim, because we have your kingdom to build, because there are so many in need of your love, because we have your life to live.

Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy**

And Jesus said 'Your sins are forgiven'

In the name of the Father who created you and waits to welcome you home, in the name of the Son who searches for you, in the name of the Spirit who brings the healing of forgiveness and calls you to do the same, you have been set free.

*All* **Amen.**

## Words on the Edge Matthew 2:1-12

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.

**Reflection** The magicians who found the Christ-child  
Revd Angela Sheard

**Anthem** Song of the Wise Men trad. Puerto Rican  
arr. Alan Bullard

## Prayers

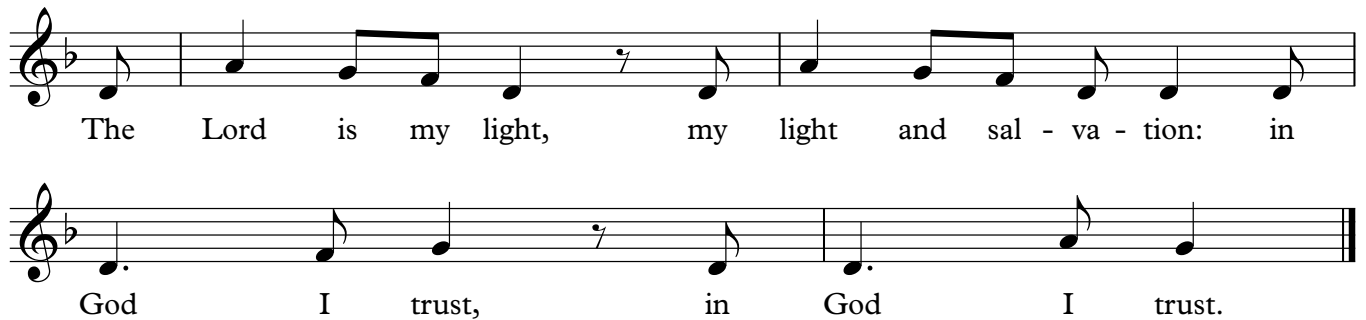
Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayer of Concern

Prayer of Hope

*Each prayer ends with 'We pray to you'.*

## Prayer Chant



The Lord is my light, my light and sal - va - tion: in  
God I trust, in God I trust.

## Sharing of the Peace

God of eternal peace, who offers the gift of peace and whose children are the peacemakers; pour your peace into our hearts, that conflict and anger may cease. Peace is the gift of the Risen Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

Let us offer each other a sign of that peace.

*As the congregation sings, all are invited to gather around the altar*

## Gathering Hymn

- 1** Angels, from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
*Come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the new-born King.*
  
- 2** Shepherds in the field abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing,  
Yonder shines the infant Light:  
*Refrain*
  
- 3** Sages, leave your contemplations;  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations;  
Ye have seen his natal star:  
*Refrain*
  
- 4** Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In his temple shall appear:  
*Refrain*
  
- 5** Though an infant now we view him,  
He shall fill his Father's throne,  
Gather all the nations to him;  
Every knee shall then bow down:  
*Refrain*

*James Montgomery (1771-1854)*

## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

Together we pray

*All* **Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free, and fill each one of us with your love from on high. Gather your people from the ends of the earth to feast at your table with all your saints.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray each in our own preferred language the prayer our Saviour taught us:

*All* **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.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

Look, Jesus Christ, the Bread of Heaven, is broken for the life of the world. The gifts of God for the people of God.

*All* **Jesus Bread of Life, Bread which is broken, Bread for the world.**

Communion Anthem   Star candles   Michael Head

## Prayer after Communion

*All* **Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Word for us to speak, You are the Truth for us to tell; You are the Light for us to light in the darkness, You are the Bread of Life for us to share.**

## Notices

## Thanksgiving Hymn

- 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,  
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!**

*John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811-1875)*

## Blessing

Go simply, lightly, gently

Go with obedience

Go with love

And the blessing of Almighty God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and forever.

*All* **Amen.**

Blessing Anthem O faithful star Gwyn Arch

**President:** Revd Catherine Duce  
**Preacher:** Revd Angela Sheard  
**Soloist:** Isabelle Palmer  
**Pianist:** Polina Sosnina

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