



MERTON COLLEGE

The Chapel of St Mary and St John

EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE  
5.45pm Sunday 16 January

**Welcome** to Merton College Chapel for this evening's Epiphany Carol Service. A particular welcome to John Rutter, the composer of *Was I the lamb?*. This evening's service will be sung by the College Choir and Girl Choristers.

In the western church, the Epiphany ('manifestation') became an occasion to celebrate one element in the story of Christ's birth, the visit of the far-travelled Magi, understood as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. St Matthew's account, which we shall hear this evening, speaks simply of 'wise men from the east'; later tradition fixed their number at three, made them kings and recalled their resonant names—Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. In the eastern churches, the Epiphany is, rather, the celebration of Christ's baptism at the hands of John, when the heavens were opened and a voice from heaven declared Jesus to be God's beloved Son. The miracle at Cana in Galilee, where Jesus 'first manifested his glory', follows immediately:

Manifest at Jordan's stream,  
Prophet, priest and King supreme;  
and at Cana wedding-guest  
in thy Godhead manifest.

*(Christopher Wordsworth)*

This carol service begins by recalling that the Christ who was born at Christmas is the 'word made flesh' and goes on to celebrate the three manifestations of his glory associated with the visit of the Magi, his baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast at Cana.

The Epiphany season concludes at Candlemas, the commemoration of Christ's presentation in the Temple, which we shall celebrate on Sunday 30 January.



Visitors are welcome to take photos before and after the service. Filming and photography are not permitted during the service.

**Please be aware that this service is being livestreamed.**

The recording will be published, transmitted or broadcast on YouTube and may be published in official University or College publications and in University or College publicity materials, including University-or College-affiliated websites and may be circulated to the press and other broadcast media and websites for publication, transmission or broadcast. If you do not wish to appear in the Livestream, please speak to the Verger.

**PRELUDES** Helft mir Gottes Güte preisen BWV 613 *JS Bach (1685-1750)*  
Das alte Jahr vergangen ist BWV 614 *JS Bach (1685-1750)*  
In dir ist Freude BWV 615 *JS Bach (1685-1750)*  
Les Mages *Olivier Messiaen (1908-92)*

## THE INCARNATION

*The bell rings, the Chapel lights are dimmed and the congregation remains seated as the College Choir sings the Introit from the Ante-Chapel.*

Choir      *In the bleak mid-winter*

Harold Darke (1888-1976)

In the bleak mid-winter  
Frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron,  
Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
Snow on snow,  
In the bleak mid-winter  
Long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him  
Nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away  
When He comes to reign:  
In the bleak mid-winter  
A stable-place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty,  
Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim  
Worship night and day,  
A breastful of milk,  
And a mangerful of hay;  
Enough for Him, whom angels  
Fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel  
Which adore.

What can I give Him,  
Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man  
I would do my part;  
Yet what I can, I give Him -  
Give my heart.

*Christina Rossetti (1830-94)*

*The priest praises God for the light of the incarnation.*

*The prayer concludes*

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
both now and for evermore.

All

**Amen.**

*All stand to sing the processional hymn as the choirs and clergy enter the Chapel.*

Tr. F. Oakeley, W. T. Brooke  
and others

Composer unknown (probably 18th c.)  
arranged by David Willcocks



O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him  
born the King of Angels:

*O come, let us adore him,*

*O come, let us adore him,*

*O come, let us adore him,*

*Christ the Lord.*

Lo! star-led chieftains,  
Magi, Christ adoring,  
offer him incense, gold and myrrh;  
we to the Christ Child  
bring our hearts' oblations:

*O come, let us adore him . . .*

Child, for us sinners  
poor and in a manger,  
fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;  
who would not love thee,  
loving us so dearly?

*O come, let us adore him . . .*

Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
glory to God  
in the highest:

*O come, let us adore him . . .*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born that happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing:

*O come, let us adore him . . .*

*Latin, 18th century  
tr. Frederick Oakley (1802-80) and others*

*The priest reads the Bidding Prayer  
and all say together the Lord's Prayer.*

All      Our Father, who art in heaven,  
          hallowed by 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.

*All sit.*

Choir

*Was I the lamb?*

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Was I the lamb who woke that night  
When angels sang and all was bright,  
And slowly raised my sleepy head  
Out of my warm and sheltered bed?

Was I the lamb who was astray  
Till holy star did light my way,  
And gently then the shepherds bore  
Safe in their arms to the stable door?

Was I the lamb who saw the kings  
Bear the first gifts that Christmas brings  
To set before a baby born  
That first and precious Christmas morn?

Was I the lamb who kept  
His vigil as God's holy mother slept,  
And as her single tear did fall  
She dreamed that he would redeem us all.

Was I the lamb amid the hay  
Beside the manger where he lay,  
Who curled where Mary's feet had trod  
And bowed my head before the Lamb of God?

*Marc Bratcher (b. 1972)*

*Was I the lamb?* has been written to celebrate the Chaplain's 20 years of service as Chaplain of Merton, and will be conducted by John Rutter this evening.

## THE VISIT OF THE MAGI

Reading Matthew 2.1-11

*The Magi are led by the star to Jesus*

Choir *The Three Kings*

Peter Cornelius (1824–74)  
arr. Ivor Atkins (b. 1869–1953)

Three kings from Persian lands afar  
To Jordan follow the pointing star:  
And this the quest of the travellers three,  
Where the new-born King of the Jews may be.  
Full royal gifts they bear for the King;  
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

The star shines out with a steadfast ray;  
The kings to Bethlehem make their way,  
And there in worship they bend the knee  
As Mary's child in her lap they see.  
Their royal gifts they show to the King;  
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.

Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem  
The kings are trav'ling; travel with them!  
The star of mercy, the star of grace,  
Shall lead thy heart to its resting place.  
Gold, incense, myrrh thou canst not bring;  
Offer thy heart to the infant King.

How brightly shines the morning star!  
With grace and truth from heav'n afar  
Our Jesse tree now bloweth.  
Of Jacob's stem and David's line,  
For thee, my Bridegroom, King divine,  
My soul with love o'erfloweth.  
Thy word, Jesu,  
Inly feeds us,  
Rightly leads us,  
Life bestowing.  
Praise, O praise such love o'erflowing.

*chorale text by Philipp Nicolai (1556–1608)*



All stand for the hymn, during which incense is brought into the Chapel, symbolising the offering of the Magi. The altar and people are censed.

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT 88 446 and refrain

J. H. Hopkins 1820-1891



*Caspar, Melchior & Balthazar*

We three kings of Orient are,  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star:

*All*      ***O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.***

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

*All*      ***O star of wonder, star of night . . .***

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

*All*      ***O star of wonder, star of night . . .***

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

*All*      ***O star of wonder, star of night . . .***

*Caspar, Melchior & Balthazar*

Glorious now, behold him arise,  
King and God and sacrifice!  
Heaven sings 'Alleluia',  
'Alleluia' the earth replies.

All *O star of wonder, star of night...*

*JH Hopkins (1820-91)*

All sit.

Reading *Journey of the Magi*

TS Eliot (1888-1965)

Choir *Videntes stellam*

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

When the wise men saw the star,  
they were filled with joy:  
They went into the house  
and offered the Lord gold,  
frankincense and myrrh.

*Responsory at Matins of Epiphany*

Homily

Naomi Gardom  
*Ordinand, Ripon College, Cuddesdon*  
*Merton (2014)*

## THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

*All stand. The congregation lights their hand-held candles and follows the servers into the Ante-Chapel to gather round the font.*

### HYMN

MOSCOW 664 66 64

Adapted from a tune by F. Giardini 1716-96  
in Madan's *Collection* 1769



Thou whose almighty word  
chaos and darkness heard,  
and took their flight;  
hear us, we humbly pray,  
and where the gospel day  
sheds not its glorious ray,  
let there be light.

Thou, who didst come to bring  
on thy redeeming wing  
healing and sight,  
health to the sick in mind,  
sight to the inly blind,  
O now to all mankind  
let there be light.

Spirit of truth and love,  
life-giving, holy Dove,  
speed forth thy flight;  
move o'er the water's face,  
bearing the lamp of grace,  
and in earth's darkest place  
let there be light.

Blessed and holy Three,  
glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, Love, Might;  
boundless as ocean's tide  
rolling in fullest pride,  
through the earth far and wide  
let there be light!

*John Marriott (1780-1825)*

## HYMN

Samuel Sebastian Wesley 1810-76

HEREFORD LM



The sinless one to Jordan came  
to share our fallen nature's blame;  
God's righteousness he thus fulfilled  
and chose the path his Father willed.

Uprising from the waters there,  
the voice from heaven did witness bear  
that he, the Son of God, had come  
to lead his scattered people home.

Above him, see the heavenly Dove,  
the sign of God the Father's love,  
now by the Holy Spirit shed  
upon the Son's anointed head.

How blest that mission then begun  
to heal and save a race undone;  
straight to the wilderness he goes  
to wrestle with his people's foes.

Dear Lord, let those baptized from sin  
go forth from you, a world to win,  
and send the Holy Spirit's power  
to shield them in temptation's hour.

On you shall all your people feed,  
and know you are the Bread indeed,  
who gives eternal life to those  
that with you died, and with you rose.

*GB Timms (1910-97)*

Reading     Matthew 3.13-end  
*St Matthew tells of the baptism of Jesus.*

*The priest pours water into the font.*

*All*             Praise God who made heaven and earth,  
**who keeps his promise for ever.**

*All*             Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*The priest praises God for the water of baptism, concluding*

*All*             For all might, majesty, dominion and power are yours,  
now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

Choir

*Vidi aquam*

*Mode VIII*

I saw water flowing from the right side of the temple,  
Alleluia.  
It brought God's life, and his salvation,  
and the people sang in joyful praise:  
Alleluia, alleluia.

*from Ezekiel 47*

*All join in an act of penitence and dedication.  
This response is made after each petition:*

*All*                      From all our sins, O Lord;  
**wash us, and we shall be clean.**

*After the last petition, the congregation is sprinkled with water as a  
symbol of the baptism which unites all Christian people.*

Choir

*A New Year Carol*

Benjamin Britten (1913–76)

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 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 chin,  
Open you the East Door, and let the New Year in.  
*Sing levy-dew, sing levy-dew,  
the water and the wine,  
The seven bright gold wires  
and the bugles that do shine.*

*Walter de la Mare (1873-1956)*

*The act of thanksgiving concludes with a final prayer to which  
all respond*

*All*            **Amen.**

## THE WEDDING FEAST

*The congregation follows the choirs back into the Chapel and returns to their places.*

## HYMN

ST EDMUND 77 77 D

Charles Steggall 1826-1905



Songs of thankfulness and praise,  
Jesu, Lord, to thee we raise,  
manifested by the star  
to the sages from afar;  
branch of royal David's stem  
in thy birth at Bethlehem:  
anthems be to thee address,  
God in man made manifest.

Manifest at Jordan's stream,  
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;  
and at Cana wedding-guest  
in thy Godhead manifest;  
manifest in power divine,  
changing water into wine:  
anthems be to thee address,  
God in man made manifest.

Manifest in making whole  
palsied limbs and fainting soul;  
manifest in valiant fight,  
quelling all the devil's might;  
manifest in gracious will,  
ever bringing good from ill:  
anthems be to thee address,  
God in man made manifest.



Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,  
mirrored in thy holy word;  
may we imitate thee now,  
and be pure, as pure art thou;  
that we like to thee may be  
at thy great Epiphany;  
and may praise thee, ever blest,  
God in man made manifest.

*Christopher Wordsworth (1807-85)*

*All sit.*

Reading

John 2.1-11

*Jesus reveals his glory at the wedding feast.*

Choir

*Benedicamus Domino!*

Peter Warlock (1894-1930)

A boy comes forth,  
Come then, this is our time,  
from the womb of a virgin,  
Glory! Praise! God is made man and immortal.

Without the seed of man  
Come then, this is our time,  
he is born of a virgin.

Without the means of a man  
Come then, this is our time,  
he is born of Mary.

On this appointed feast,  
Come then, this is our time,  
let us bless the Lord!

*Anon.*

**DISMISSAL**

*All stand and face the altar as the priest prays the Collect of the Epiphany, to which all respond*

*All*            **Amen.**

*All*            The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

*All*            *The priest gives the blessing to which all respond*  
**Amen.**

*All*            Go in the light and peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God!**

*The procession leaves the Chapel as all sing the final hymn*

WAS LEBET 13 10 13 10

Melody from the *Rheinhardt MS 1754*



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!

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.

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.

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.

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!

*JSB Monsell (1811-75)*

VOLUNTARY *Dieu parmi nous*

Olivier Messiaen (1908-92)

*The organ voluntary is part of the service.  
Please feel free to stay in the Chapel to listen to it, if you would like to.*

*Our retiring collections this term will be given to support  
the UN Refugee Agency, an organization dedicated to helping refugees  
by advocating for their protection and raising funds that help deliver  
humanitarian relief to displaced families across the globe.*

*The collection plate is in the Ante Chapel.*

## SERVICES THIS WEEK

### Monday

- 8.15 Morning Prayer
- 6.30 Evening Prayer

### Tuesday

- 8.15 Morning Prayer
- 6.15 Choral Evensong  
*music by Ešenvalds and Gardner*

### Wednesday

- 8.15 Morning Prayer
- 6.15 Choral Evensong  
*music by Wood and Elgar*

### Thursday

- 8.15 Morning Prayer
- 6.15 Choral Evensong  
*music by Tomkins and Bull*

### Friday

- 8.15 Morning Prayer

## CHAPEL NOTES

- If you haven't already received a **Chapel Card** or this term's **Chapel Services and Music booklet**, please pick one up from the table in the Ante-Chapel.
- If you would like to receive the weekly **Chapel email**, please email [leah.collins@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:leah.collins@merton.ox.ac.uk) to be added to the email list.
- **Books with Cake:** Our popular book group (with free cakes!) begins again on **Friday 21 January at 3.30pm in the Chestnut Hall**. This term we will be reading and discussing Susanna Clarke's **Piranesi**, winner of the 2021 Women's Prize for Fiction. Copies will be made available for free! Let Olly know if you're interested ([oliver.wright@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:oliver.wright@merton.ox.ac.uk)).
- If you are interested in **reading** or **servicing** in Chapel on Sundays or during the week, or assisting in chapel in any other way, please have a word with Pax Butchart (readers) or one of the Chaplains.
- If you are interested in being **baptized** and / or **confirmed** in the Chapel, please speak to one of the Chaplains.
- The Chapel can be found on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram where we post updates about everything that is happening in Chapel. Please like and follow us! **Our social media hub** can be accessed by scanning the QR code.



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