

# Meon Bridge Benefice

Corhampton & Meonstoke, Droxford, Exton with Preshaw



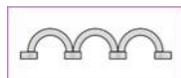
## The Eucharist at the Feast of the Epiphany

with

## Spiritual Communion

(Common Worship Order One – Eucharistic Prayer B)

## In Time of Pandemic



## **A FORM OF PERSONAL PREPARATION**

*for personal use before the service*

### **THE BEATITUDES**

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

### **ATTENDING ON THE SAVIOUR'S PRESENCE**

Here and in all you churches in the Benefice and beyond,  
we adore you, O Christ,  
and we bless you,  
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Christ was manifested in the body, vindicated in the spirit,  
seen by angels,  
proclaimed among the nations,  
believed in throughout the world,  
glorified in high heaven.  
Amen.

### **THE EUCHARIST**

Was ever another command so obeyed?

For century after century, spreading slowly to every continent and country  
and among every race on earth, this action has been done,  
in every conceivable human circumstance, or every conceivable human need  
from infancy and before it to extreme old age and after it,

from the pinnacles of earthly greatness to the refuge of fugitives in the caves and dens of the  
earth.

And the best of all, week by week and month by month,  
on a hundred thousand successive Sundays,  
faithfully, unfailingly, across all the parishes of Christendom,  
the pastors have done this just to make the holy common people of God.

Dom Gregory Dix (1945)

## VOLUNTARIES & HYMNS

### Voluntary

[Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child \(Coventry Carol\) – Strings](#)

**Opener:** 49. "O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness".

[O Worship The Lord In The Beauty Of Holiness \(Was Lebet\) – Organ](#)

**Gradual:** 48 "Earth has many a noble city".

[Earth Has Many A Noble City \(Stuttgart – 5 Verses\) – Organ/Trumpet Descant](#)

**Offertory:** 47 "Brightest and best".

[Brightest And Best \(Epithany – 4 Verses\) – Organ](#)

### PC:

[We three kings \(Kings of Orient\) – Chamber Ensemble](#)

**Finale:** 51 "As with gladness".

[As With Gladness Men Of Old \(Dix – 5 Verses\) – Organ](#)

### Voluntary

[I Saw Three Ships \(9 Verses\) – Mixed Ensemble](#)

### INTROIT HYMN O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!

- 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,  
and 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;  
for 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.

Meter: 13 10 13 10

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!**

John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811 – 1875)

WAS LEBET

Anon

Source: Rheinhardt Manuscript, Published Üttingen (1678 – 1727)

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[O Worship The Lord In The Beauty Of Holiness \(Was Lebet\) – Organ](#)

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Dear friends,

Welcome to the Festal Eucharist and Spiritual Communion from St Peter and St Paul, Exton (Hampshire). In the West, the Epiphany ('manifestation') is when we celebrate a particular part the story of Christ's birth, the visit of the far-travelled wise men, sometimes called the magi. It is when Jesus is revealed to the Gentiles as the Christ. St Matthew just says there were 'wise men from the east'; later tradition fixed their number at three, made them kings and gave them names – Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. So, Epiphany is a good time to pray for the worldwide mission of the Church.

### **Kyrie Eleison**

God our Father, you sent your Son to us full of grace and truth;  
forgive us our failure to receive him.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus our Saviour, you were born in poverty.  
You taught us to love other people as much as we love ourselves;  
forgive us our greed and our rejection of your ways.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

Holy Spirit, your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call;  
forgive us the hardness of our hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

### **COLLECT FOR THE EPIPHANY**

O God,  
who by the leading of a star  
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:  
mercifully grant that we,  
who know you now by faith,  
may at last behold your glory face to face;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

#### **FIRST READING**

A Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.



<sup>4</sup>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.  
<sup>5</sup>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.  
<sup>6</sup>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.

*Isaiah 60.1-6*

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM**

Some verses from Psalm 72

- 10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute; :  
**the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring gifts.**
- 11 All kings shall fall down before him; :  
**all nations shall do him service.**
- 12 For he shall deliver the poor that cry out, :  
**the needy and those who have no helper.**
- 13 He shall have pity on the weak and poor; :  
**he shall preserve the lives of the needy.**
- 14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, :  
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.
- 15 Long may he live;  
unto him may be given gold from Sheba; :  
**may prayer be made for him continually  
and may they bless him all the day long.**

*Psalm 72: 10-15*

### **SECOND READING**

A Reading from St Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. 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: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. 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, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; 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. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

*Ephesians 3.1-12*

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

### **GRADUAL HYMN Earth Has Many A Noble City**

1. Earth has many a noble city;  
Bethlehem, thou dost all excel;  
Out of thee the Lord from Heaven  
Came to rule His Israel.
2. Fairer than the sun at morning  
Was the star that told His birth,  
To the world its God announcing  
Seen in fleshly form on earth.
3. Eastern sages at His cradle  
Make oblations rich and rare;  
See them give, in deep devotion,  
Gold and frankincense and myrrh.
4. Sacred gifts of mystic meaning:  
Incense doth their God disclose,  
Gold the King of kings proclaimeth,  
Myrrh His sepulchre foreshows.
5. Jesu, whom the Gentiles worshipped  
At Thy glad Epiphany,  
Unto Thee, with God the Father  
And the Spirit, glory be.

Meter: 87 87

#### **Earth Has Many A Noble City**

Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348 – c.413)

Tr: Edward Caswall (1814 – 1878)

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STUTTGART

Anonymous

Arranged by Christian Friedrich Witt (c.1660 – 1716)

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[Earth Has Many A Noble City \(Stuttgart – 5 Verses\) – Organ/Trumpet Descant](#)

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## GOSPEL READING

Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ was revealed in flesh,  
proclaimed among the nations  
and believed in throughout the world.

**Alleluia.**

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.**

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

This morning's gospel passage is unique to Matthew.

Matthew has a distinct theology, so what is he trying to say to us this morning?

Matthew describes two quite different reactions to the birth of Jesus. On the one hand, there is Herod and all Jerusalem with him. On the other hand, there are the wise men, foreigners from the East.

Herod and all Jerusalem with him are frightened by the prospect of the birth of God's Messiah. Jerusalem is supposed to be the heart of God's chosen people, for whose sake the Messiah has been sent; and yet, Herod and those around him fear this news. They fear that the old order in which they have so much power money tied up, is to be superseded. There will be found out for what they are.

The wise men, foreigners from the East, travel miles to seek out the King of the Jews. Foreigners from the East, not the self-righteous and complacent, from Jerusalem just up the road from Bethlehem, are the first to recognise God's anointed Messiah.

Herod pretends to want to go and pay homage to Jesus, but secretly wants to kill him as he is a threat to his power.

The wise men however, come and kneel before him. They bring gifts from their foreign land and lay them at the feet of him who is born King of the Jews. They offer him gold, recognising his kingship; they offer him frankincense, recognising his holiness; and, they offer him myrrh, used in incense and perfumes in funeral rites, recognising that he has been born to die for all people.

Even in the narrative of his birth, we find foreshadowed events that will take place some 30 years later; when once again all Jerusalem will set their hearts against him and laid him on the path to the cross.

But then the good news of the resurrection will be proclaimed to all Gentile nations. It is in passages like this, we find Matthew *teaching* his Jewish readers, *but also* bringing good news to the whole world. Amen

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Priest

Let us worship the Saviour with joy  
and make our prayer to our heavenly Father.

Intercessor

The response to 'Lord of glory' is 'hear our prayer'.

Lord of glory

**hear our prayer.**



## OFFERTORY HYMN **Brightest And Best**

- 1 Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid;  
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.
- 2 Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining;  
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;  
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all!
- 3 Say, shall we yield Him, in costly devotion,  
Odours of Edom and offerings divine?  
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,  
Myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?
- 4 Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
Vainly with gifts would His favour secure;  
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,  
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Meter: 11 10 11 10

### **Brightest And Best**

Reginald Heber (1783 – 1826)

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EPIPHANY

Joseph Francis Thrupp (1827 – 1867)

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Arrangement by Richard Mark Stephen Irwin (b. 1955)

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**Brightest And Best (Epiphany – 4 Verses) – Organ**

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## ACT OF SPIRITUAL RECEPTION

*The people who are unable to remain for the Eucharist may say:*

In union, dear Father, with Christian people  
throughout the world  
and across the centuries gathered  
to make Eucharist,  
hearing your holy Word and  
receiving the Precious Body and Blood,  
I offer you praise and thanksgiving.

Even though I am exiled from  
tasting the Bread of Heaven  
and drinking the Cup of Life  
I pray that you will unite me with all the baptised  
and with your Son who gave his life for us. Amen.

Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me  
and send your Holy Spirit  
that I may be filled with your presence.

Amen.

## POST-COMMUNION HYMN We Three Kings

- 1 We three kings of Orient are,  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder Star.

### Refrain

*O, star of wonder, star of might,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to the perfect light.*

- 2 Born a babe on Bethlehem's plain;  
Gold we bring to crown Him again;  
King forever, ceasing never,  
Over us all to reign. *Refrain*
- 3 Frankincense to offer have I;  
Incense owns a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, all men raising,  
Worship Him, God on High. *Refrain*
- 4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain*
- 5 Glorious now behold Him arise,  
King and God and sacrifice,  
Heaven sings, "Hallelujah!"  
Hallelujah!" Earth replies. *Refrain*

Meter: 86 86 and Refrain

**We Three Kings**  
John Henry Hopkins (1820 – 1891)  
KINGS OF ORIENT

[We three kings \(Kings of Orient\) – Chamber Ensemble](#)

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**RECESSIONAL HYMN As With Gladness Men Of Old**

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 by 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 forever may we sing  
Alleluias to our King!

Meter: 77 77 77

**As With Gladness Men Of Old Lyrics**

William Chatterton Dix (1837 – 1898)  
Public Domain

DIX

Conrad Kocher (1786 – 1872)

Adapted William Henry Monk (1823 – 1889)  
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[As With Gladness Men Of Old \(Dix – 5 Verses\) – Organ](#)

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## PERSONAL PRAYERS AFTER THE SERVICE

Now go out into the highways and hedges  
where not even the Bishops will try to hinder you.  
Go out and look for Jesus in the ragged, in the naked,  
in the oppressed and sweated, in those who have lost hope,  
in those who are struggling to make good.  
Look for Jesus. And when you see him,  
gird yourselves with his towel of fellowship,  
and wash his feet in the person of his brothers and sisters.  
Amen.

After Frank Weston,  
Bishop of Zanzibar (1908-1924)

Strengthen for service, Lord,  
the hands that have taken holy things;  
may the ears which have heard your word  
be deaf to clamour and dispute;  
may the tongues which have sung your praise  
be free from deceit;  
may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love  
shine with the light of hope;  
and may the bodies which have been fed with your body  
be refreshed with the fullness of your life;  
glory to you for ever.  
Amen.

Syrian  
CW

We thank You, heavenly Father, for Your holy name which You caused to dwell in our hearts. We thank you for the knowledge and faith and immortality, which You have made known to us through Jesus Your Servant; to You be the glory now and forever.  
Amen.

The Didache (1<sup>st</sup> Century)  
Chapter 10

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**Music****Mass Setting**

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**Opening Voluntary:**

COVENTRY CAROL (Mediaeval)

Anon.

Arranger Richard Irwin based upon arrangement Martin Shaw (1875 – 1958)

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[Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child \(Coventry Carol\) – Strings](#)

**Hymns****O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!**

John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811 – 1875)

WAS LEBET

Anon

Source: Rheinhardt Manuscript, Published Üttingen (1678 – 1727)

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[O Worship The Lord In The Beauty Of Holiness \(Was Lebet\) – Organ](#)

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**Earth Has Many A Noble City**

Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348 – c.413)

Tr: Edward Caswall (1814 – 1878)

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Anonymous

Arranged by Christian Friedrich Witt (c.1660 – 1716)

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[Brightest And Best \(Epiphany – 4 Verses\) – Organ](#)

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John Henry Hopkins (1820 – 1891)

KINGS OF ORIENT

John Henry Hopkins (1820 – 1891)

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**As With Gladness Men Of Old (Dix – 5 Verses) – Organ**

**Closing Voluntary:**

**I Saw Three Ships**

William Chatterton Dix (1837 – 1898)

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I SAW THREE SHIPS

Traditional English melody by an anonymous composer.

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**I Saw Three Ships (9 Verses) – Mixed Ensemble**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1. I saw three ships come sailing in,<br/>On Christmas day, on Christmas day,<br/>I saw three ships come sailing in,<br/>On Christmas day in the morning.</p> <p>2. And what was in those ships all three?<br/>On Christmas day, on Christmas day,<br/>And what was in those ships all three?<br/>On Christmas day in the morning.</p> <p>3. Our Saviour Christ and his lady<br/>On Christmas day, on Christmas day,<br/>Our Saviour Christ and his lady,<br/>On Christmas day in the morning.</p> <p>4. Pray whither sailed those ships all three?<br/>On Christmas day, on Christmas day,<br/>Pray whither sailed those ships all three?<br/>On Christmas day in the morning.</p> <p>5. Oh, they sailed into Bethlehem,<br/>On Christmas day, on Christmas day,<br/>Oh, they sailed into Bethlehem,<br/>On Christmas day in the morning.</p> <p>6. And all the bells on earth shall ring,<br/>On Christmas day, on Christmas day,<br/>And all the bells on earth shall ring,<br/>On Christmas day in the morning.</p> | <p>7. And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing,<br/>On Christmas day, on Christmas day,<br/>And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing,<br/>On Christmas day in the morning.</p> <p>8. And all the souls on earth shall sing,<br/>On Christmas day, on Christmas day,<br/>And all the souls on earth shall sing,<br/>On Christmas day in the morning.</p> <p>9. Then let us all rejoice, amen,<br/>On Christmas day, on Christmas day,<br/>Then let us all rejoice, amen,<br/>On Christmas day in the morning.</p> <p>Meter: LM</p> <p><b>I saw three ships</b><br/>William Chatterton Dix (1837 – 1898).<br/>Public Domain.<br/>I SAW THREE SHIPS<br/>Traditional English melody<br/>Adapted and arranged © 2013 Richard M S<br/>Irwin (b. 1955).<br/>Performance Copyright © 2013 Richard M S<br/>Irwin. All rights reserved.</p> |
|--|---|