

Barthol Chapel, Tarves and Udney and Pitmedden Kirks

Order of Service 8th January 2023

Joint Worship 10.00am Tarves

Epiphany

Call to Worship

O come, let us worship the Lord and consider the wondrous things He has done.

The Magi, who study the heavens, follow a guiding star!

O come, let us worship the Lord and consider the wondrous things He has done.

The peoples who live in the shadows see a glorious light!

O come, let us worship the Lord and consider the wondrous plan, unveiled through the birth of Christ Jesus.

O come, let us worship the Lord, for God has done wondrous things!



Praise 324 Angels from the realms of glory

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.

Wise men, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen His natal star. *Come...*

*Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

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: *Come...*

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
Yonder shines the infant light: *Come...*

All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To th'eternal Three in One. *Come...*

Prayers of Approach Lord's Prayer

Praise 318 Lord you were rich beyond all splendour

Lord, you were rich beyond all splendour,
yet, for love's sake, became so poor;
leaving your throne in glad surrender,
sapphire-paved courts for stable floor:
Lord, you were rich beyond all splendour,
yet, for love's sake, became so poor.

You are our God beyond all praising,
yet, for love's sake, became a man
stooping so low, but sinners raising
heavenwards, by your eternal plan:
you are our God beyond all praising,
yet, for love's sake, became a man.

Lord, you are love beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship you;
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,

make us and keep us pure and true:
Lord, you are love beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship you.

The Word of God: Matthew 2:1-12 (The Message)

Scholars from the East

2 ¹⁻² After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory—this was during Herod's kingship—a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, "Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. We're on pilgrimage to worship him."

3-4 When word of their inquiry got to Herod, he was terrified—and not Herod alone, but most of Jerusalem as well. Herod lost no time. He gathered all the high priests and religion scholars in the city together and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"

5-6 They told him, "Bethlehem, Judah territory. The prophet Micah wrote it plainly:

It's you, Bethlehem, in Judah's land,
no longer bringing up the rear.
From you will come the leader
who will shepherd-rule my people, my Israel."

7-8 Herod then arranged a secret meeting with the scholars from the East. Pretending to be as devout as they were, he got them to tell him exactly when the birth-announcement star appeared. Then he told them the prophecy about Bethlehem, and said, "Go find this child. Leave no stone unturned. As soon as you find him, send word and I'll join you at once in your worship."

9-10 Instructed by the king, they set off. Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time!

11 They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh.

12 In a dream, they were warned not to report back to Herod. So they worked out another route, left the territory without being seen, and returned to their own country.

Hebrews 1:1-3 **God's final word: his Son**

1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Praise 326 As with gladness, men of old

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 to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped
Saviour, to your lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before
you, whom heaven and earth adore:
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy-seat.

As they offered gifts most rare
at your cradle plain and bare,
so may we with holy joy

pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to you, our heavenly king.

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.

In the heavenly city bright
need they no created light
thou its light, its joy, its crown,
thou its sun which goes not down;
there for ever may we sing
alleluias to our King.

Reflection

Praise 325 Bethlehem a Noble City

Bethlehem, a noble city,
has been blessed beyond compare,
for the gracious God of heaven
once became incarnate there.

Fairer than the sun at morning
was the star that told his birth,
to the world its God announcing,
seen in human form on earth.

From the east came men of wisdom
bringing treasures prized of old,

tributes to a greater wisdom,
gifts of incense, myrrh, and gold.

Sacred gifts of mystic meaning:
incense shows that God has come,
gold proclaims him king of nations,
myrrh foretells his saving tomb.

Holy Jesus, in your brightness
to the gentile world displayed,
with the Father and the Spirit
endless praise to you be paid.

**Prayers for Others – response; Holy God, gracious God, grant us the heart of the Magi;
that we may follow your star and journey for Jesus.**

Praise 323 The First Nowell

The first nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as
they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their
sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

They lookèd up and saw a star

shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Nowell..

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.
Nowell..

This star drew nigh to the north-west:
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay.
Nowell..

Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there, in his presence,

their gold and myrrh and frankincense.
Nowell..

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord
who hath made heaven and earth of
nought,
and with his blood mankind hath bought.
Nowell...

Blessing

Take Home Suggestion

What are your gifts for Jesus? How can we best honour Him as Prophet, Priest and King in our lives?

Notices

Worship Arrangements for Autumn/Winter

The Kirk Sessions have agreed that for the next few months Barthol Chapel and Tarves will have united morning worship services at Tarves at 10.00am. This service will normally be accessible on Zoom. Anyone with symptoms of Covid should remain at home and join us on Zoom. In Church please respect in so far as possible the wishes of anyone who wants to maintain physical distancing.

January Services

Sunday 15 January Tarves 10.00am Alison

Formartine Youth Project

FYP has been chosen by Coop as one of their local causes for the next 12 months. Please support the young people of our community and choose FYP as your cause when you swipe your membership card and we will receive 1p from every £1 spent in store by Coop members. <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/73372>. This link can be shared with friends and family across the country – please get them on board too. Not a Coop member? Find out more at <https://www.coop.co.uk/membership>.

Pastoral Care Please contact Alison