

~~Advent Eucharist~~ ~~of the~~
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Garden Eucharist 2013 Empowerment of the People of God

Song: Christ be Our Light (Farell)

Passing the Galilee stone round and naming ourselves

Opening words (RK)

Penitential Litany: read round the circle, response by all

O Creator God, forgive us for the way we too often fail to treat our fellow human beings, each uniquely created by You, with respect and compassion.
(All) Hear our prayer, O Loving God

O God, source of our freedom, liberate us from the temptations of power, from the urge to control rather than help others grow and take responsibility.
(All) Hear our prayer, O freeing God

O Loving God, who has given us so many gifts, help us to have the courage to challenge any distortions or abuse of authority wherever it is found
(All) Hear our prayer, O inspiring God

O God who cares for us, free us from the fears and selfishness that prevents us from doing your will
(All) Hear our prayer O caring God

O Still Small Voice, help us your people to listen to each other and for those in "authority" to understand the strength that comes from consultation
(All) Hear our prayer, O Listening God

O Creator of the Cosmos, help us to guard the resources of planet earth and to care for the non-human part of creation
(All) Hear our Prayer , O Creator God.

Pause for reflection

Readings

Mt 28 16-20 (the baptized to carry out all Jesus has commanded)

Extract from "the Sign we give" (reflecting God's love by living in the spirit of communion and collaboration) "It is in our relationships, in our communion with each other, rather than in isolation from e that we will find fulfilment. We will reflect God's life if we lie in this spirit of communion and

EPIPHANY LITURGY

Song Seek ye first the kingdom of God (round)

Poem The Journey of the Magi TS Eliot

Reading: A Listen p 52 The wise men come to Jesus

Reader: B There is some mystery about the wise men from the East. Some think that they were men learned in searching the skies for any understanding that the stars might bring, others that they were foreign rulers. It seems clear that they represent the pagan races called from afar to the infant Jesus, who was to rule not just Israel but all mankind. This is the feast which reminds us that Christ's call is to all people.

LITANY (using various readers)

Reader: The magi journeyed far to find you, Redeemer and Saviour, we too must search for you all our lives

All: Help us to find you, Lord

Reader: The Magi brought precious gifts to you. Our treasure must be the gift of building up your kingdom here and now

All: Help us to find you, Lord

Reader: The coming of the strangers from the East, marked the showing forth of Christ to the whole world. As Christians we are called to show forth Christ's love in our everyday lives.

All: Help us to find you, Lord

Reader: You were in the world but they did not know you. You came to your own and they did not receive you. There was no room for you at the inn. Is there any room for you in our hearts?

All: Help us to respond to you

Reader: The magi were prepared to leave their homes to search for the new king whose sign was a star in the east. We too must be prepared to search and become a pilgrim people

All: Give us the strength to put false security behind us and live as if we were on a journey

Reader: God has called us out of darkness into the light. May we experience his kindness and blessing and be strong in faith, hope and love.

All: Because we are followers of Christ, who came as a light shining in the darkness, may we show the light of God to the people we find around us.

Reading from "truthfulness" Hans Kung

The Church, consisting of human beings, must constantly be journeying through the desert, through the darkness of untruth and untruthfulness. Constantly she must seek afresh the new way into an unknown future. But, no matter how great the darkness may be, the Church always has a final guiding star, as the ancient people of God long ago had a guiding star through the desert; God's word that constantly brings us afresh into the truth. In these last times God's definitive word has become manifest in Jesus, the Christ.

Gospel Mt 20 25-27

READING B from to change the world Ruether p 54

NEW LIFE RESOLUTIONS (enough grapes for the participants and 2 bowls full of earth are needed)

We have called this section "New Life" Resolutions. We would like to use the secular idea of New Year's resolutions as it has something very positive to say to us as Christians. It is about New beginning, making a fresh start. We are going to use grapes - these will be passed round, take one and hold it for the moment.

We will then eat the grapes, and reject the pip which each in turn will bury in the earth of the bowls coming round)

In order to be healed, to grow towards wholeness we need to rid ourselves of the bitterness in our lives. That bitterness may be due to our own inadequacies, our own shortcomings, our own misguided desires, our own sinful wishes or it may be due to the inadequacies or desires of others.

Whatever the cause of the bitterness or pain we need to be able to let go of it and to start anew. (the grapes are eaten and the bowls of earth passed round) As we eat the grape let us savour the richness of the flesh and the richness and sweetness in our lives. As we feel the hardness of the pips, let us recognise the bitterness in our lives. Let us leave it behind us now. To show that we have left it behind let us bury our bitterness. (pass round the bowls)

GLORIA (TAIZE ROUND)

BIDDING PRAYERS

OUR FATHER (from Prayer at night, Jim Cotter)

(Spoken antiphonally by each side of the room in turn)

Side A Eternal Spirit, Life-giver, Pain-bearer, Love maker,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

Side B The hallowing of your Name echo through the universe!
The Way of your Justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your Heavenly Will be done by all created beings!
Your Commonwealth of Peace and Freedom sustain our hope and come on earth!

Side A With the bread that we need for today, feed us,
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us,
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us
From trials too great to endure, spare us
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

Side B For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever.

All: Amen

Good Friday Liturgy 2013

(CD 1) Salvator Mundi – Tallis

O saviour of the world, who by thy cross and precious blood has redeemed us: save us and help us we beseech thee O Lord

Isaiah 52 13-53 followed by short silence

Reading from Jean Vanier (in the Easter Garden)

Song : Bitter was the night (Sydney Carter) on separate sheet

Silence followed by the Reproaches

Final prayer poem Can these dry bones live (Nicky Slee Easter gardenn p113)

CD 7 Crux fidelis King John of Portugal

Faithful cross, above all other, one and only noble tree, noble in foliage, none in blossom, none in fruit compares with thee. Sweetest wood and sweetest iron, sweetest weight is hung on thee

In the following passage, John the Evangelist hints at the Greek-Hellenistic search for WISDOM from the well of knowledge and spiritual experience. Samaria was a Hellenistic city with schools of spiritual learning. As we read in the Odes of Solomon: "Knowledge of the Unknowable God is a stream of fresh water. All those who are thirsty upon earth I, myself, will give to drink of it".

Reader:

Jesus left Judaea and set out once more for Galilee.

He had to pass through Samaria, and on his way came to a Samaritan town called Sychar, near the plot of ground which Jacob gave to his son Joseph and the spring called Jacob's well. It was about noon, and Jesus, tired after his journey, sat down by the well. The disciples had gone away to the town to buy food. Meanwhile a Samaritan woman came to draw water.

Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.'

The Samaritan woman said, 'What! You, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a Samaritan woman?' (Jews and Samaritans, it should be noted, do not share the same cups for drinking.)

Jesus answered her, 'If only you knew what God can give to you, and who it is that is asking you for a drink, you would have asked and would have been given living water.'

'Sir,' the woman said, 'you have no bucket and this well is deep. How can you give me "living water"? Are you greater than Jacob our ancestor, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, he and his children, and his cattle too?'

Jesus said, 'Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water that I shall give will never suffer thirst any more. The water that I shall give will be an inner spring always welling up for eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me that water, and then I shall not be thirsty, nor have to come all this way to draw water'.

John 4,3-15

Discuss what this means for our own lives today for a while.

For our intentions, choose a shell and place it on the water while saying your prayer, then gently tip the shell so that it floats to the bottom of the glass.

Sing:-

'I thank you Lord for sunshine'.

Reader: The magi were prepared to leave their homes to search for the new king whose sign was a star in the east. We too must be prepared to search and become a pilgrim people

All: Give us the strength to put false security behind us and live as if we were on a journey

Reader: God has called us out of darkness into the light. May we experience his kindness and blessing and be strong in faith, hope and love.

All: Because we are followers of Christ, who came as a light shining in the darkness, may we show the light of God to the people we find around us.

New Life Resolutions (Grapes and bowl of earth needed)

(The grapes are handed round, later to be eaten and the pip rejected which will be buried in the bowl of earth to be passed round)

All In order to be healed, to grow towards wholeness we need to rid ourselves of the bitterness and shadow in our lives, whether it springs from our own failures or that of others.

Whatever the cause of the bitterness or pain we need to be able to let go of it.

(The grapes are eaten and the pips kept)

All As we eat the grape let us savour the richness of the flesh and richness and sweetness in our lives. As we feel the hardness of the pips, let us recognise the bitterness in our lives. (the pips are buried in the bowl of earth which is passed from hand to hand)

Song Simeon's song (from Iona)

Leader: Tomorrow is the feast of the Epiphany and we are shortly going to commemorate this with gifts of wise women. In twos and threes discuss what particular gifts you believe women have to give to help transform the faith community.

Presentation of the Gifts

Each in turn puts on the cloak of wisdom, and lighting a candle presents it with a gift of some quality needed to develop the "basilea" (kingdom).

Wise Woman 1. I bring the gift of compassion

(Response All) Come, Sophia, and help us use our gifts to make paths straight and the wilderness flower

WW2 " " mutuality

Response

WW3 " " intuition

(cwn) SEASONAL LITURGY January 97

Centring Music Tria Sunt Munera (to be listened to)

Responsory: Tria sunt munera

Respond:

There were three precious gifts that
the Magi brought to the lord on that day,
bearing in themselves divine mysteries.
In gold is seen the power of a king;
in frankincense a great priesthood;
and in myrrh a Sabbath burial.

Verse:

It was the author of our salvation
whom the Magi adored in the cradle,
and from their treasures
they brought forth gifts
of mystical meaning. In gold...

16 Responsory: Tria sunt munera

Respond:

Tria sunt munera preciosa que optulerunt
magi domino in die ista; et habent in se
divina mysteria.
In auro ut ostendatur regi potentia;
in thure sacerdotem magnum considera;
et in myrra dominicam sepulturam.

Verse:

Salutis nostrae auctorem
magi venerati sunt in cunabulis,
et de thesauris suis
misticas ei munerum species obtulerunt.
In auro...

From Yoolis Night, Harmonia CD

(leader) Myths they say -
These hallowed stories never took place
but how powerful are the messages
that are contained in myth and symbol!.
Epiphanies more illuminating than facts
bringing light to our shadows.
Let us come out of the dark and welcome our inheritance

~~(Reader)~~ The journey of the Magi (TS Eliot)

LITANY (read in turn around the group)

Reader! The magi journeyed far to find you, Redeemer and Saviour, we too must search for
you all our lives

All! Help us to find you, Lord

Reader! The Magi brought precious gifts to you. Our treasure must be the gift of building
up your kingdom here and now

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Reader! The coming of the strangers from the East, marked the showing forth of Christ to
the whole world. As Christians we are called to show forth Christ's love in our everyday
lives.

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Reader! You were in the world but they did not know you. You came to your own and they
did not receive you. There was no room for you at the inn. Is there any room
for you in our hearts?

All! Help us to respond to you

Feast of the Epiphany (6 January 93) a celebration of "Women Priests – ecumenical solidarity"

*Open
CWO*

This liturgy was organised by the group of RC women in the process of founding "Catholic Women's Ordination" which took place two months later. Because the weather was bad the garden of St James, Piccadilly, could not be used and the liturgy took place in the large porch of that Anglican church.

1. As people gather white strips of crepe paper are given to those who belong to Churches that ordain women.
2. After an opening prayer all sing the Taize "Veni Sancte Spiritus", all linking hands and dancing round the garden and fountain
3. Those women gathered in solidarity and manifestation whose churches ordain or will be ordaining women light their candles.
4. "Restlessness" (see below) by Edwina Gately read by the women whose churches deny women ordination (gathering round the lights of the others)
5. An Anglican Deacon reads a version of Isaiah 60.

Arise, shine out for your light has come
The Glory of our God is rising on us
Lift up your eyes, look around
many are coming to our dawning brightness.

Peace will reign and integrity be the ruler.
Our days of mourning are near their end.
For we all are the shoots God has planted.
We are God's handiwork - a design of beauty.

(Those whose candles are lit, to whom ordination is open, now light the candles of those whose Churches still deny this to them. All say:)

ARISE, SHINE OUT, FOR YOUR LIGHT HAS COME

- 6 All sing softly the Veni Sancte Spiritus as a background to a litany of thanksgiving for ordained women, both in the early church and in those churches that ordain today.
7. Song: (see below) We sing a love that sets all people free
8. Gifts of the Wise Women.

Martha bringing the word, a copy of the bible
Mary Magdalen - the light (Lantern) of communication as the first
bearer of the Good News
The Woman who anointed Jesus - a jar of oil (signifying insight,
awareness and recognition)

(these are placed on the ground in the centre of the group)

9. Commissioning Prayer:
(all lay hands on another person)

We are all endowed with these gifts.
Let us all recognize and acclaim each other
as manifesting Christ's presence here in the Church.

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epiphcwo/y02

Feast of the Epiphany 93. Evening Liturgy in the Garden and Porch of St James Church Piccadilly, celebrating WOMEN PRIESTS - ECUMENICAL SOLIDARITY

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Reader: Though night still covers the earth and darkness so many people
 (all the candles are put on the ground near the gifts)
 All: Let us go out and bring our light to the world.

All go out into the darkness singing "We shall Overcome"

RESTLESSNESS

Our Spirit is restless
 We feel ourselves straining and grasping for
 Something which has no form
 nor can be articulated.

We only know that a power moves within us
 and disturbs us in the day and in the night,
 We only know there is a call we cannot hear,
 A vision we cannot see, and the pain we feel is
 Inadequacy - Deafness - Blindness -
 Deaf and Blind we sob, alone,
 in a pain that cannot be shared,
 A cry that cannot be heard.

Blank, colourless, formless
 Seeping - saturating.
 Strange force which defies
 our grasp and our control.
 And we cry against this half-death!
 This night there is no star!

(adapted from Psalms of a Laywoman)

Ye sing a love that sets all people free,
 That blows like wind, that burns like scorching flame,
 Enfolds like earth, springs up like water clear.
 Come, living love, live in our hearts today.

Ye sing a love that seeks another's good,
 That longs to serve and not to count the cost,
 A love that, yielding, finds itself made new.
 Come, caring love, live in our hearts today.

Ye sing a love, unflinching, unafraid
 To be itself, despite another's wrath,
 A love that stands alone and undismayed.
 Come, strengthening love, live in our hearts today.

Ye sing a love that, wand'ring, will not rest
 Until it finds its way, its home, its source,
 Through joy and sadness pressing on refreshed.
 Come, pilgrim love, live in our hearts today.

Ye sing a burning, fiery, Holy Ghost
 That seeks out shades of ancient bitterness.
 Transfig'ring these, as Christ in ev'ry heart.
 O joyful love, live in our hearts today.

Text June Boyce-Tillman (1943-)
 Tune V. Greston (1877-1919)
 with permission of Oxford University Press

TUNE - YODOLAHOS

The CCBI has brought out a very useful DIRECTORY of WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS and GROUPS in churches and ecumenical bodies in Britain and Ireland - (£4.95) This has been edited by Lavinia Byrne and contains information given by some 93 organisations ranging from very small to nationwide, traditionalist to radical. It is very heartening that so much is going on and this should be an invaluable guide for those either looking for special interests or more general information on the wide variety of work that is being undertaken up and down the country.)

The entries are arranged in chronological order of the date of being set up, St Joan's coming the 19th, the earliest being the YWCA in 1855, the newest being the Women's Aid organisation of the Celestial Church in the East End. CWO (see p 3 of this bulletin) has been set up too late for it to be included - p94 is waiting for it in the next edition.

St Joan's AGM 9th September 2006

WISDOM

As we light the candle say altogether:

The stars shine, radiating with life-light, all creation is gifted with the ecstasy of God's light!

There is no creation that does not have a radiance be it greenness or seed, blossom or beauty. It could not be creation without it!

Hildegard of Bingen

Reader:

I am Wisdom, I am better than jewels;
nothing you want can compare with me.
I am Wisdom and I have insight;
I have knowledge and sound judgement.
I was made at the very beginning, at the first,
before the world began.
I was born before the oceans,
when there were no springs of water.
I was there when God laid the earth's foundations.
I was there like an architect,
I was God's daily source of joy, and happy being present there,
happy with the world and pleased with the human race!

Prov.8

Song: Peruvian Gloria

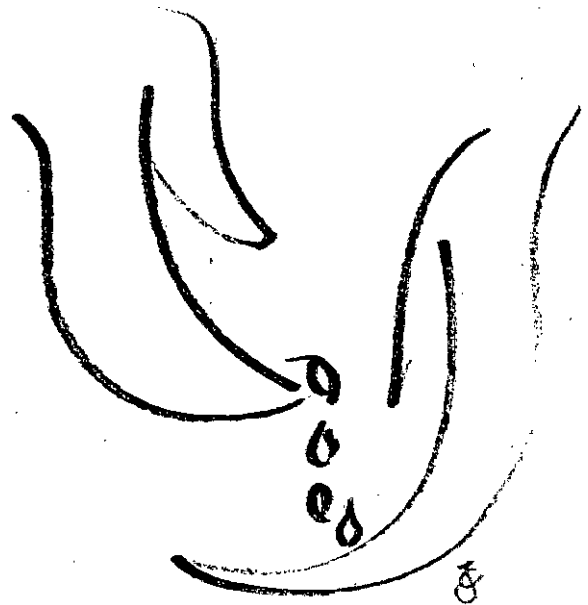
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Creator,
To God be glory forever, Alleluia, Amen (x3)

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Redeemer,
To God be glory forever, Alleluia, Amen (x3)

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit,
To God be glory forever, Alleluia, Amen (x3)

***Listen, I am the earth
I cover the whole world over,
Above me is air and ocean
River and lake,
I spread beneath your feet.
You walk on me.
Tread softly.
Seeds planted in me grow
Nourished by the richness of your soil
Their roots burrowing down
Holding firmly to me
As they sway in the breeze
Or the waters flow.
Plants in the air,
Weeds in the water,
I make everything grow.***

Anon



In the following passage, John the Evangelist hints at the Greek-Hellenistic search for WISDOM from the well of knowledge and spiritual experience. Samaria was a Hellenistic city with schools of spiritual learning. As we read in the Odes of Solomon: "Knowledge of the Unknowable God is a stream of fresh water. All those who are thirsty upon earth I, myself, will give to drink of it".

Reader:

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'Sir,' the woman said, 'you have no bucket and this well is deep. How can you give me "living water"? Are you greater than Jacob our ancestor, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, he and his children, and his cattle too?'

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John 4,3-15

Discuss what this means for our own lives today for a while.

For our intentions, choose a shell and place it on the water while saying your prayer, then gently tip the shell so that it floats to the bottom of the glass.

Sing:-

'I thank you Lord for sunshine'.

Oh, Baby Jesus!
God's most Beloved Son!
Redeemer of all –
You are my chosen One.

Susan Hardwick

The Star

O God, may the star we follow be the steady radiance of
your mystery which we discern only in part but can
for ever trust.

*W. L. Wallace
Aotearoa New Zealand*

Offering Our Gifts

Epiphany

Epiphany is a jewel
multi-faceted,
flashing colour and light.
Epiphany embraces
the nations of the world,
kneeling on a bare floor
before a child.
Epiphany shows
a man
kneeling in the waters of baptism.
Epiphany reveals
the best is kept for last
as water becomes wine
at the wedding feast.

O Holy One
to whom was given
the gifts of power and prayer,
the gift of suffering,
help us to use
these same gifts
in your way
and in your name.

Kate McIlhagga

Litany

Reader: The magi journeyed far to find you, Redeemer and Saviour, we too must search for you all our lives

All: Help us to find you, Lord

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Reader: God has called us out of darkness into the light. May we experience his kindness and blessing and be strong in faith, hope and love.

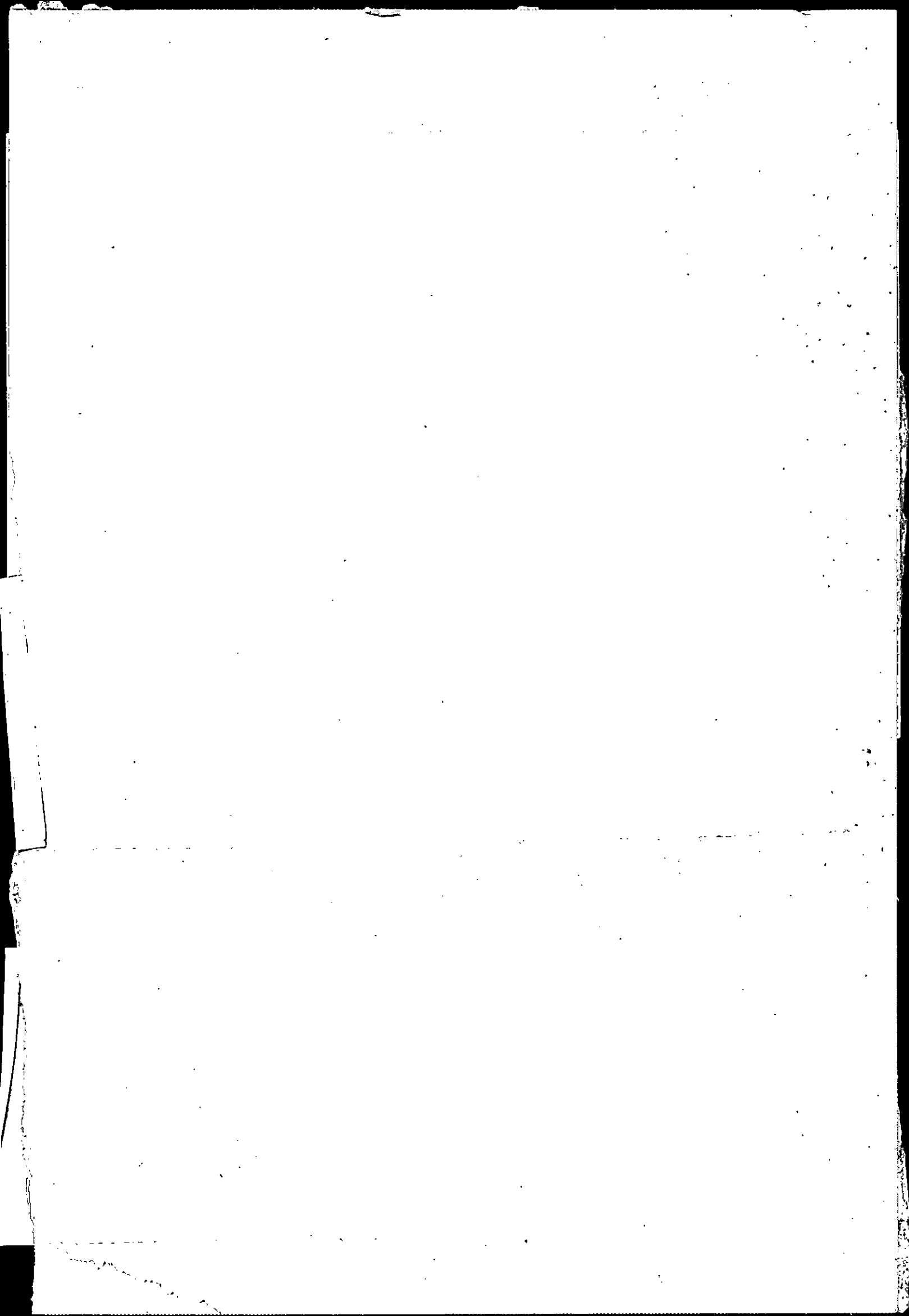
All: Because we are followers of Christ, who came as a light shining in the darkness, may we show the light of God to the people we find around us.

Pause for Reflection

Final Prayer

O God, source of all insight,
whose coming was revealed to the nations
not among men of power
but on a woman's lap:
give us grace to seek you
where you may be found,
that the wisdom of this world may be humbled
and discover your unexpected joy,
through Jesus Christ, Amen

(From All Desires Known Janet Morley)



Epiphany Liturgy. CWN Jan 01

The Candle is lit

Centring Music: Three Precious Gifts

Responsory: **Tria sunt munera**

Respond:

There were three precious gifts that
the Magi brought to the lord on that day,
bearing in themselves divine mysteries.
In gold is seen the power of a king;
in frankincense a great priesthood;
and in myrrh a Sabbath burial.

Verse:

It was the author of our salvation
whom the Magi adored in the cradle,
and from their treasures
they brought forth gifts
of mystical meaning. In gold...

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Respond:

Tria sunt munera preciosa que optulerunt
magi domino in die ista; et habent in se
divina mysteria.
In auro ut ostendatur regi potentia;
in thure sacerdotem magnum considera;
et in myrra dominicam sepulturam.

Verse:

Salutis nostrae auctorem
magi venerati sunt in cunabulis,
et de thesauris suis
misticas ei munerum species obtulerunt.
In auro...

Reading

The Journey of the Magi - TS Eliot

Silence

Carol of the Epiphany (taped - join in as you can)
(Gold)

I sought him dressed in finest clothes,
Where money talks and status grows;
but power and wealth he never chose;
it seemed he lived in poverty.

(Myrrh)

I sought him in the safest place,
remote from crime or cheap disgrace;
but safety never knew his face;
it seemed he lived in jeopardy.

(Frankincense)

I sought him where the spotlights flare,
where crowds collect and critics stare;
but no one knew his presence there:
it seemed he lived in obscurity.

Then, in the streets, we heard the word
which seemed, for all the world, absurd:
that those who could no gifts afford
were entertaining Christ the Lord.

**And so, distinct from all we'd planned,
among the poorest of the land,
we did what few might understand:
we touched God in a baby's hand**
(Iona Abbey, Wild Goose Group)

Litany (participants take it in turn to act as reader)

Reader A. The Magi journeyed far to find you, Redeemer and Saviour, we too must
search for you all our lives.

All Help us to find you, Lord.

Reader B The Magi brought precious gifts to you. Our treasure must be the gift of
building up your kingdom here and now.

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Reader C The coming of the strangers from the East marked the showing forth of Christ
to the whole world. As followers of Christ we are called upon to show his love in our
everyday lives.

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Reader D. You were in the world but they did not know you. You came into your own
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you in our hearts?

All Help us to respond to you

Reader E. The magi were prepared to leave their homes to search for the new king whose
sign was a star in the East. We too must be prepared to search and become a pilgrim
people.

All Give us strength to put false security behind us and live as if we were on a journey

Reader F God has called us out of darkness into the light. May we experience his
kindness and blessing and be strong in faith, hope and love.

All Because we are followers of Christ, who came as a light shining in the darkness, may we show the light of God to the people we find around us.

Silence

The Making of the Gift Tree

Talk in groups of two or three on the gifts we, as Christ's followers, need to give to both the faith and secular community.

Then take a leaf shape and write the name of the gift you have chosen, and stick this on the twigs in the middle, so that we make a tree of gifts. As you put your leaf on the tree, say something about your choice, in the form of a bidding prayer, or if you prefer, do it silently.

Agape Prayer

Bless O Loving Creator, this fruit of the vine we drink in celebration of the passing of the old year and the coming of the new, and of the revelation of incarnation to all peoples. We remember the new wine of Cana, given as a sign of the renewal of creation. Let us go forth rejoicing to love and serve the Lord in renewed hope

(the cup is passed with words such as the cup of hope)

Bless this christmastide bread, that the good you give us may sustain us in the journey we take throughout the coming year. Help our pilgrimage to be fruitful, and may we grow in love for one another and for You, Source of all Love

(the bread is passed with words such as food (or sustenance) for your journey)

Final Prayer

O God, source of all insight,
whose coming was revealed to the nations
not among men of power
but on a woman's lap:
give us grace to seek you
where you may be found,
that the wisdom of this world may be humbled
and discover your unexpected joy,
through Jesus Christ, Amen

(From All Desires Known Janet Morley)

Song or dance.

St John's Womens Sprinkly Group, Jan 2017

(leader) Myths they say -

These hallowed stories never took place
but how powerful are the messages
that are contained in myth and symbol!
Epiphanies more illuminating than facts
bringing light to our shadows.

Let us come out of the dark and welcome our inheritance

Journey of the Magi

A

'A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter.'

And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory,
Lying down in the melting snow.

B There were times we regretted

The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling
And running away, and wanting their liquor and women,
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:
A hard time we had of it.

A

At the end we preferred to travel all night,
Sleeping in snatches,
With the voices singing in our ears, saying
That this was all folly.

B

Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation,
With a running stream and a water-mill beating the
darkness,
And three trees on the low sky.

A

And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins.

B

But there was no information, so we continued
And arrived at evening, not a moment too soon
Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory.

A

All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.

All

We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.

EPIPHANY LITURGY

Song Seek ye first the kingdom of God (round)

Poem The Journey of the Magi TS Eliot

Reading: A Listen p 52 The wise men come to Jesus

Reader: B There is some mystery about the wise men from the East. Some think that they were men learned in searching the skies for any understanding that the stars might bring, others that they were foreign rulers. It seems clear that they represent the pagan races called from afar to the infant Jesus, who was to rule not just Israel but all mankind. This is the feast which reminds us that Christ's call is to all people.

LITANY (using various readers)

Reader: The magi journeyed far to find you, Redeemer and Saviour, we too must search for you all our lives

All: Help us to find you, Lord

Reader: The Magi brought precious gifts to you. Our treasure must be the gift of building up your kingdom here and now

All: Help us to find you, Lord

Reader: The coming of the strangers from the East, marked the showing forth of Christ to the whole world. As Christians we are called to show forth Christ's love in our everyday lives.

All: Help us to find you, Lord

Reader: You were in the world but they did not know you. You came to your own and they did not receive you. There was no room for you at the inn. Is there any room for you in our hearts?

All: Help us to respond to you

Reader: The magi were prepared to leave their homes to search for the new king whose sign was a star in the east. We too must be prepared to search and become a pilgrim people

All: Give us the strength to put false security behind us and live as if we were on a journey

Reader: God has called us out of darkness into the light. May we experience his kindness and blessing and be strong in faith, hope and love.

All: Because we are followers of Christ, who came as a light shining in the darkness, may we show the light of God to the people we find around us.

Reading from "truthfulness" Hans Kung

The Church, consisting of human beings, must constantly be journeying through the desert, through the darkness of untruth and untruthfulness. Constantly she must seek afresh the new way into an unknown future. But, no matter how great the darkness may be, the Church always has a final guiding star, as the ancient people of God long ago had a guiding star through the desert; God's word that constantly brings us afresh into the truth. In these last times God's definitive word has become manifest in Jesus, the Christ.

Gospel Mt 20 25-27

READING B from to change the world Ruether p 54

NEW LIFE RESOLUTIONS (enough grapes for the participants and 2 bowls full of earth are needed)

We have called this section "New Life" Resolutions. We would like to use the secular idea of New Year's resolutions as it has something very positive to say to us as Christians. It is about New beginning, making a fresh start. We are going to use grapes - these will be passed round, take one and hold it for the moment.

We will then eat the grapes, and reject the pip which each in turn will bury in the earth of the bowls coming round)

In order to be healed, to grow towards wholeness we need to rid ourselves of the bitterness in our lives. That bitterness may be due to our own inadequacies, our own shortcomings, our own misguided desires, our own sinful wishes or it may be due to the inadequacies or desires of others.

Whatever the cause of the bitterness or pain we need to be able to let go of it and to start anew. (the grapes are eaten and the bowls of earth passed round) As we eat the grape let us savour the richness of the flesh and the richness and sweetness in our lives. As we feel the hardness of the pips, let us recognise the bitterness in our lives. Let us leave it behind us now. To show that we have left it behind let us bury our bitterness. (pass round the bowls)

GLORIA (TAIZE ROUND)

BIDDING PRAYERS

OUR FATHER (from Prayer at night, Jim Cotter)

(Spoken antiphonally by each side of the room in turn)

Side A Eternal Spirit, Life-giver, Pain-bearer, Love maker,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven!

Side B The hallowing of your Name echo through the universe!
The Way of your Justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your Heavenly Will be done by all created beings!
Your Commonwealth of Peace and Freedom sustain our hope and come on earth!

Side A With the bread that we need for today, feed us,
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us
From trials too great to endure, spare us
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

Side B For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever.

All: Amen

SHALOM (Hold hands to sing this then greet each other)

Shalom my friends, God's peace my friends, shalom, shalom
The peace of Christ I give you today, shalom, shalom.(x3)

BIDDING PRAYERS

AGAPE - blessing of food and drink (taken from the prayers of the Didache)

Leader Blessed are you, O Lord our God, creator of this food and drink that we share together as a sign of your kingdom, which is to come in glory, and yet is already here now in so far as you live among us in the love we have for one another.
(wine is poured out)

All: We give thanks to you, our creator, for this wine, remembering Israel your people, brought like a vine out of Egypt, and planted in the promised land (wine is passed round)

(the bread is broken and passed round and all say)

All: As we break the bread we thank you O creator for the life and knowledge of yourself which you gave us through Jesus Christ. To you be glory for ever.

As this broken bread was scattered upon the mountains, but was brought together and became one, so let your children, Lord, be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory and the power through Jesus Christ for ever.
(all eat)

(all eat)

final song Rejoice alleluia (round)

(I & OP, P & VS. Jan 86.)
Mixed CPW gathering

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DRAFT OUTLINE CPW MASS JAN 8 2000 ON A THEME OF
EPIPHANY/PRESENTATION

Opening Song Jesus Christ is waiting (tune Greensleeves)

Opening words/prayer Celebrant

Penitential litany

Tria sunt munera (1 taped verse of medieval carol)

Readings Mt.2 1-12 in children's version from "listen". (Sarah Dixon)

lead in to Journey of the Magi Eliot (IP)

Discussion on what the epiphany means to us (15 min)
Children to kitchen with AD to work out a presentation

Offertory - children dress altar
new life resolutions (grapes and bowl of earth needed)

Simeon's song Iona

Eucharistic Prayer of the future

Sung shalom

Alternative Our Father (from the Conference of Religious)

Millenium final prayer

Final Song Jubilee sets us free (AD to lead if JBT not there)

Epiphany Meditation

The Candle is lit

Centring Music: Three Precious Gifts

Responsory: *Tria sunt munera*

Respond:

There were three precious gifts that
the Magi brought to the lord on that day,
bearing in themselves divine mysteries.
In gold is seen the power of a king;
in frankincense a great priesthood;
and in myrrh a Sabbath burial.

Verse:

It was the author of our salvation
whom the Magi adored in the cradle,
and from their treasures
they brought forth gifts
of mystical meaning. In gold...

16 Responsory: *Tria sunt munera*

Respond:

*Tria sunt munera preciosa que optulerunt
magi domino in die ista; et habent in se
divina mysteria.
In auro ut ostendatur regi potentia;
in thure sacerdotem magnum considera;
et in myrra dominicam sepulturam.*

Verse:

*Salutis nostrae auctorem
magi venerati sunt in cunabulis,
et de thesauris suis
misticas ei munerum species obtulerunt.
In auro...*

Reading

The word Epiphany comes from the Greek epiphanes, meaning "to make manifest", so we celebrate this week the revealing of the Christ-child to the whole world..in certain countries it is the day of present-giving, in memory of the wise men who visted the Child and his mother and brought him prophetic gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

It is also a time for planning the year ahead, for plotting our course over the coming months, as the wise men plotted a course across the desert, guided by the new star. Today we often overplan our lives, so that we miss out on the opportunities and joys of the present moment and leave very little to God who loves to surprise us with sudden and unexpected manifestations of the divine presence.

No matter how well we plan things we still live with uncertainty, in a time of waiting-waiting for the inevitable end to our lives on earth and waiting as a human family for the coming of the Son of Man in great glory.. Times of uncertainty and waiting can become opportunities for creative and active engagement in the business of making the world a better place by the extent to which we are able to manifest the love of the living God from our own hearts"

Taken from the Epiphany section in the "Really Useful Meditation Book" Lorraine Cavanagh

Silence

Carol of the Epiphany (taped - join in as you can)

(Gold)

I sought him dressed in finest clothes,
Where money talks and status grows;
but power and wealth he never chose;
it seemed he lived in poverty.

(Myrrhh)

I sought him in the safest place,
remote from crime or cheap disgrace;
but safety never knew his face;
it seemed he lived in jeopardy.

(Frankincense)

I sought him where the spotlights flare,
where crowds collect and critics stare;
but no one knew his presence there:
it seemed he lived in obscurity.

Then, in the streets, we heard the word
which seemed, for all the world, absurd:
that those who could no gifts afford
were entertaining Christ the Lord.

**And so, distinct from all we'd planned,
among the poorest of the land,
we did what few might understand:
we touched God in a baby's hand**

(Iona Abbey, Wild Goose Group)

Litany (participants take it in turn to act as reader)

Reader A. The Magi journeyed far to find you, Redeemer and Saviour, we too must
search for you all our lives.

All Help us to find you, Lord.

Reader B The Magi brought precious gifts to you. Our treasure must be the gift of
building up your kingdom here and now.

All Help us to find you, Lord

Reader C The coming of the strangers from the East marked the showing forth of Christ
to the whole world. As followers of Christ we are called upon to show his love in our
everyday lives.

All Help us to find you, Lord

Reader D. You were in the world but they did not know you. You came into your own and they did not receive you. There was no room for you at the inn. Is there any room for you in our hearts?

All Help us to respond to you

Reader E The magi were prepared to leave their homes to search for the new king whose sign was a star in the East. We too must be prepared to search and become a pilgrim people.

All Give us strength to put false security behind us and live as if we were on a journey

Reader F God has called us out of darkness into the light. May we experience his kindness and blessing and be strong in faith, hope and love.

All Because we are followers of Christ, who came as a light shining in the darkness, may we show the light of God to the people we find around us.

Silence

The Making of the Gift Tree

Talk in groups of two or three on the gifts we as Christ's followers need to give to both the faith and secular community.

Then take a leaf shape and write the name of the gift you have chosen, and stick this on the twigs in the middle, so that we make a tree of gifts. As you put your leaf on the tree, say something about your choice, in the form of a bidding prayer, or if you prefer, do it silently.

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whose coming was revealed to the nations
not among men of power
but on a woman's lap:
give us grace to seek you
where you may be found,
that the wisdom of this world may be humbled
and discover your unexpected joy,
through Jesus Christ, Amen

(From All Desires Known Janet Morley)

53 *Basil E. Bridge*

1. O God of hope, your prophets
spoke
of days when war would cease:
when, taught to see each person's
worth,
and faithful stewards of the earth,
we all would live in peace.
2. We pray that our divided world
may hear their words anew:
then lift for good the curse of war,
let bread with justice bless the poor,
and turn in hope to you.
3. Earth's fragile web of life demands
our reverence and our care,
lest in our folly, sloth and greed,
deaf both to you and others' need,
we lay our plant bare.
4. Earth's rich resources give us power
to build or to destroy:
your Spirit urges us to turn
from selfish, fear-bound ways, and
learn
his selfless trust and joy.
5. The Prince of Peace is calling us
to shun the way of strife:
he brings us healing through his pain;
our shattered hope is born again
through his victorious life.

Reader: The magi were prepared to leave their homes to search for the new king whose sign was a star in the east. We too must be prepared to search and become a pilgrim people.

All: Give us the strength to put false security behind us and live as if we were on a journey.

Reader: God has called us out of darkness into the light. May we experience his kindness and blessing and be strong in faith, hope and love.

All: Because we are followers of Christ, who came as a light shining in the darkness, may we show the light of God to the people we find around us.

Pause for reflection

all the grace of

Winter gathering eucharist 04 – theme reflection on the meaning of epiphany and the presentation

Centring Music (Taped, from “Yoolis Night”)

Responsory: *Tria sunt munera*

Respond:

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the Magi brought to the lord on that day,
bearing in themselves divine mysteries.
In gold is seen the power of a king;
in frankincense a great priesthood;
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Opening words from the celebrant

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Reading 2 (IP)

Myths the scholars say-
These hallowed stories never took place
But how powerful are the messages
That are contained in myth and symbol!
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We Three Kings Song

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