

Epiphany - Season of Light

5th Jan 2025

Led by Carol Joyner & Fiona Bennett

Welcome & Gathering

Call

One: The Holy One

ALL: Source of Light

One: Guiding Light

ALL: Creating Light

One: Is here among us,

ALL: calling us and our world into the light of love and hope.

Let us lift our voices in worship the Holy One who calls us...



*Baptized & Beloved
by
Jan Richardson*

Hymn: Longing for light CH4 543

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,

Light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!

Shine out through the dark, shine!

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has pow'r to save us.

Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light!

Shine out through the dark, shine!

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for food many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,

Shared until all are fed.

Christ, be our light!

Shine out through the dark, shine!

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

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Opening Prayer with movement

(arms crossed in front)

Loving God,
You are in the darkest night and brightest day
In the sunrise

(arms opened)

& sunset

(arms closed)

You are with us, calling us into your light.

We draw our prayers together in the Lord's Prayer or Jesus prayer, using the form of words on the screen or a form more worshipful for us...

Source of Life,

Father and Mother of us all:

Creation honours you!

May your Realm of Justice & Joy

Sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread 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.

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

Time for all ages: Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh

Hymn: We three Kings

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

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

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.

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

Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high.

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

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

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

Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:

Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.
*O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

John Henry Hopkins Jr. Public domain

Readings:

Isaiah 60:1-5

60Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. 2For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. 3Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. 4Lift 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. 5Then 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.

Matthew 2:1-12

2In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2asking, "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." 3When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 6'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.'" 7Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8Then 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."

9When 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. 10When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11On 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.

12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Reflection by Fiona Bennett - Unexpected Light

Meditation

Offering & Dedication

Praise God from whom all blessing flow
Praise God all creature here below
Praise God above, You heavenly host
Praise Maker Christ and Holy Ghost

*Music: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510-1561.
Words: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711*

Communion

Gathering:

Hymn: Come to the table of grace

Come to the table of grace
Come to the table of grace
This God's table it's not yours or mine
Come to table of grace.

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Thanksgiving, Intercession & Consecration:

Celebrant: We unite in prayer with followers of Jesus since the earliest times
as we say:

God be with you

ALL: And with your spirit

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts

ALL: We lift them to God

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise

Celebrant: Holy Loving God,

For the universe you have crafted in all its variety and mystery

ALL: We praise and thank you

Celebrant: For the gift of Christ Jesus; vulnerable healer & guide

ALL: We praise and thank you

Celebrant: For your Salvation; love crucified and resurrected.

ALL: We praise and thank you

Celebrant: With people everywhere, past present and yet to come

ALL: We praise and thank you

Song: This is the body of Christ CH4 799

Broken that we might be whole.

This cup as promised by God,

True to God's Word,
Cradles our Lord
Food the good of us all.

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Peace

Celebrant: Let us sign the Peace to each other...

Closing Response

Celebrant: Together we are nourished by Jesus' life.

ALL: We go to share his life and love.

Notices

Hymn: Who would think that what was needed CH4 295

Who would think that what was needed
to transform and save the earth
might not be a plan or army,
proud in purpose, proved in worth?
Who would think, despite derision,
that a child should lead the way?
God surprises earth with heaven,
coming here on Christmas Day.

Shepherds watch and wise men wonder,
monarchs scorn and angels sing;
such a place as none would reckon
hosts a holy helpless thing.
Stable beasts and by-passed strangers
watch a baby laid in hay:
God surprises earth with heaven,
coming here on Christmas Day.

Centuries of skill and science
span the past from which we move,
yet experience questions whether,
with such progress, we improve.
While the human lot we ponder,
lest our hopes and humour fray,
God surprises earth with heaven,
coming here on Christmas Day.

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Blessing & Sung Amen

What's on @ AUC this week?

Event	Date	Time	Location	Notes
Sunday Worship	Sun 5 th Jan	11am	AUC and Online	Carol is leading and Fiona is preaching
Post Service Zoom Social	Sun 5 th Jan	12 noon	Online	
Contextual Bible Study	Weds 8 th Jan	7.30pm	Online	Luke 3:15-22. Email minister@augustine.org.uk for the Zoom link
Contextual Bible Study	Thurs 9 th Jan	12 noon	Online	Luke 3:15-22. Email minister@augustine.org.uk for the Zoom link
Our Tribe Online	Thurs 9 th Jan	7.30pm	Online	All welcome!
Sunday Worship	Sun 12 th Jan			Interactive service led by Fiona
Post Service Zoom Social	Sun 12 th Jan	12 noon	Online	

Zoom ID for worship: 84317815003

Zoom ID for all social events: 3140057633

Password: 1861AUC

Zoom Telephone number: 0131 4601196