

# Season of Epiphany

4th January 2026

Led by Fiona Bennett & Laurence Wareing

## 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.

One: Let us lift our voices to worship the God of Light.



*Baptized & Beloved*  
by  
*Jan Richardson*

### Hymn: As with gladness CH4 326

As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold,  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onwards, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore be led to thee.

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.

As they offered gifts most rare  
at thy homely cradle 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.

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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.

## **Time for all ages: Gold Frankincense & 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.*

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### **Readings: Isaiah 60:1-9**

60 Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. 2 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. 3 Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. 4 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. 5 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. 6 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. 7 All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; they shall be acceptable on my altar, and I will glorify my glorious house. 8 Who are these that fly like a cloud, and like doves to their windows?

9 For the coastlands shall wait for me, the ships of Tarshish first, to bring your children from far away, their silver and gold with them, for the name of the Lord your God, and for the Holy One of Israel, because he has glorified you.

### **Matthew 2:1-12**

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 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." 3 When 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. 12And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

## **Reflection by Laurence Wareing**

### **Music for Meditation**

#### **Offering**

#### **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 & Blessing:*

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

God be with you

ALL: And with your spirit

One: Lift up your hearts  
ALL: We lift them to God  
One: Let us give thanks to God  
ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise

One: Holy Loving God,  
For the universe you have crafted in all its variety and mystery  
ALL: We praise and thank you  
One: For the gift of Christ Jesus; vulnerable healer & guide  
ALL: We praise and thank you  
One: For your Salvation; love crucified and resurrected.  
ALL: We praise and thank you  
One: With people everywhere, past present and yet to come  
ALL: We praise and thank you.

One: We offer you our thanks as we sing together...

### **Hymn: God bless to us our bread CH4 763**

God bless to us our bread,  
And give bread to all those who are hungry  
and hunger for justice to all who are fed.  
God bless to us our bread.

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### **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*

### *Closing Response*

One: Together we are nourished by Jesus' life.  
ALL: We go to share his life and love.

### **Notices**

### **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 in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
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 power to save us.  
Make us your living voice.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
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 in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
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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**Blessing & Sung Amen**

## What's on @ AUC this week?

Event	Date	Time	Location	Notes
Sunday Worship	Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	11am	AUC & Online	Fiona is leading and Laurence is preaching
Post Service Zoom Social	Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	12 noon	Online	
Our Tribe (LGBTQI+)	Thu 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	7.30-9pm	Online	Our Tribe is a monthly gathering for LGBTQI+ Christians, allies and explorers to explore a topic and worship together. To find out more and to get online links please email Maxwell (maxwell.reay@augustine.org.uk)
Contextual Bible Study is on a break over Christmas and will return on Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January				
Sunday Worship	Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> Jan	11am	AUC & Online	Laurence is leading and Leslie is preaching
Post Service Zoom Social	Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> Jan	12 noon	Online	

**Zoom ID for worship: 84317815003**

**Zoom ID for all social events: 3140057633**

**Password: 1861AUC**

**Zoom Telephone number: 0131 4601196**