

A GIFT FOR EVERYONE



Christ Church with St Marys All Age Service Sunday 4 January 2026

Welcome, Introduction and Opening Prayer

Lord, speak to us **that we may hear your word.**
Move among us **that we may behold your glory.**
Receive our prayers **that we may learn to trust you.**
Amen.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and
the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with
you**

We come from scattered lives to meet with God. **Let
us recognize his presence with us.**

As God's people we have gathered: **let us worship
him together.**

Song: As With Gladness Men Of Old

With the Arrival of the Magi

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 God, may we
Evermore be led by Thee.



Song: As With Gladness Men Of Old

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.



Song: As With Gladness Men Of Old

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.



Song: As With Gladness Men Of Old

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.



Song: As With Gladness Men Of Old

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
Hallelujahs to our King.



The Magi are placed in the Crib

Offertory and Thankyou Prayer



Saying Sorry



Sometimes we forget that Jesus came for everyone, and we forget to tell people the good news of his light and love.

Some small gift boxes are being passed through the congregation.

As each of you receives it, hold it quietly for two seconds then pass it on remembering when you have not shared that good news

Saying Sorry

Sometimes we forget that Jesus is a gift to each of us, and sometimes we ignore him in our lives.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy**

Sometimes we forget that Jesus came for everyone, and we ignore those who we do not like.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy**

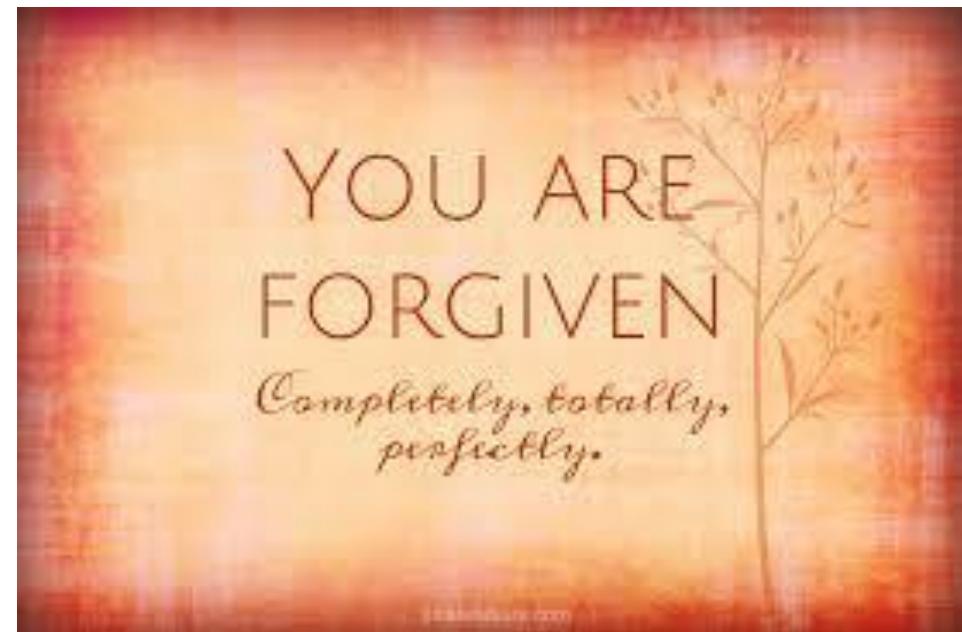
Sometimes we forget that we need to tell others the good news of God's love and we keep it to ourselves.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy**



Absolution

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to himself and cleanse us from all our sins that we may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Song: Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning

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 dew-drops 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.



Song: Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning

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.



Song: Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning

5. 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.





Collect

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 forever. Amen

Readings

Reading: Psalm 72

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reading: Matthew 2:1 to 12

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Setting and the Talk

The Two Kings



Psalm 72

Endow the king
with your justice,
O God,
the royal son
with your
righteousness
.....

Song: We Three Kings

1. 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.*



Song: We Three Kings

2. 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.*



Song: We Three Kings

3. 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.*



Song: We Three Kings

4. 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.*



Song: We Three Kings

5. 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.*



A Statement of Faith

我相信

ਮੁੱਖ ਵਿਖਾਸ ਹੈ

I believe

Let's join with God's saints from every time and place to declare the things we believe.

Eu acredito

We believe In God the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

Я вірю

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith and fills us with his love.

Jag tror

Je

crois

We believe in God the Holy Spirit who strengthens us with power from on high.

אנו מאמין

We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

Yo creo

من معتقدم

Rwy'n credu

Ndiyakholwa

Intercessions



Gold (*Holding up bowl of gold coins*)

The colour of gold makes us think of wealth and power. We pray today for all those in the world who make decisions that affect other people, for those who lead in this country and in our world. Help them to remember that power and authority is not about them but is about working towards love and justice for everyone. Lord, hear our prayer.

Please

Intercessions

Frankincense (*Holding up lit candle*).



The perfume of incense makes us think of worship and the life of the Church. We pray today for the Church here in Swindon and throughout the world, asking God to help us be brave in sharing the good news of love to everyone around us. Lord, hear our prayer.

Please

Intercessions

Myrrh (*Holding up perfume*).



The richness of myrrh reminds us of times of sadness. We pray for all those we know who are struggling with life for whatever reason, and we pray that those who help them will have wisdom and compassion to share God's love with them. Lord, hear our prayer.

Please

Intercessions

(Everyone holding hands on hearts).

The perfume of incense makes us think of worship and the life of the Church. We pray today for the Church here in Swindon and throughout the world, asking God to help us be brave in sharing the good news of love to everyone around us. Lord, hear our prayer.

Please



Lord's Prayer



Joining our prayers together we pray in the words that Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as
in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive
us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from
evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are
yours now and for ever. Amen.**

Sharing the Peace

Christ came and proclaimed the gospel. Peace to those who are far off and to those who are near.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us share a sign of that peace with one another



Song: Joy To The World

Joy to the world! the Lord has come;
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing!



Song: Joy To The World

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns;
Your sweetest songs employ.
While fields and streams and hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!



Song: Joy To The World



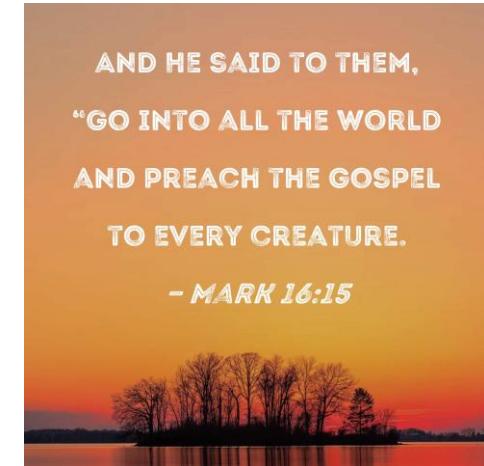
He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
The wonders of His love,
The wonders of His love,
The wonders, the wonders of His love.

Going Out Into The World

We carry the light of hope to the East ...
the South ... the West... the North
and share it with a waiting world.

We carry the word of life to the East ...
the South ... the West... the North
and share it with a waiting world.

We carry God's heart of love to the East
... the South ... the West... the North
and share it with a waiting world.



The Blessing

May the peace of the Christ child be in our homes.
Amen.

May the glory of the Christ child shine our hearts.
Amen.

And the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and
Holy Spirit, be upon us and those we love and pray
for, now and forever. **Amen**

