

The Benefice of Chew Valley East

Morning Prayer for Sunday 4 January 2026, Epiphany

*If you wish to join in the service, then the words in bold are to be said together.
Please join in with the Psalms and Canticles by reciting each one in its entirety.*

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Your light springs up for the righteous
and all the peoples have seen your glory.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,
king of the nations,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
From the rising of the sun to its setting
your name is proclaimed in all the world.
As the Sun of Righteousness dawns in our hearts
anoint our lips with the seal of your Spirit
that we may witness to your gospel
and sing your praise in all the earth.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Word of God

Psalm 72:10-15

¹⁰The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute; ♦
the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring gifts.

¹¹All kings shall fall down before him; ♦
all nations shall do him service.

¹²For he shall deliver the poor that cry out, ♦
the needy and those who have no helper.

¹³He shall have pity on the weak and poor; ♦
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

¹⁴He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, ♦
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

¹⁵Long may he live; unto him may be given gold from Sheba; ♦
may prayer be made for him continually
and may they bless him all the day long.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

¹Arise, 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.

⁶A 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.

Canticle

Above you the Holy One arises, and above you God's glory appears.

¹Arise, shine out, for your light has come, ♦
the glory of the Lord is rising upon you.

²Though night still covers the earth, ♦
and darkness the peoples;

³Above you the Holy One arises, ♦
and above you God's glory appears.

⁴The nations will come to your light, ♦
and kings to your dawning brightness.

⁵Your gates will lie open continually, ♦
shut neither by day nor by night.

⁶The sound of violence shall be heard no longer in your land, ♦
or ruin and devastation within your borders.

⁷You will call your walls, Salvation, ♦
and your gates, Praise.

⁸No more will the sun give you daylight, ♦
nor moonlight shine upon you;

⁹But the Lord will be your everlasting light, ♦
your God will be your splendour.

¹⁰For you shall be called the city of God, ♦
the dwelling of the Holy One of Israel. *Isaiah 60.1-3, 11a, 18, 19, 14b*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Above you the Holy One arises, and above you God's glory appears.

Second Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ²‘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. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Responsory

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;

let the whole earth tremble before him.

Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is King.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Tell out his salvation from day to day.

Let the whole earth tremble before him.

Declare his glory among the nations
and his wonders among all peoples.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;

let the whole earth tremble before him.

from Psalm 96

Gospel Canticle: Benedictus

**This is the Christ, the Chosen of God,
the one who will bring healing to the nations.**

¹Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, ♦
who has come to his people and set them free.

²He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, ♦
born of the house of his servant David.

³Through his holy prophets God promised of old ♦
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,

⁴To show mercy to our ancestors, ♦
and to remember his holy covenant.

⁵This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: ♦
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

⁶Free to worship him without fear, ♦
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

⁷And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, ♦
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

⁸To give his people knowledge of salvation ♦
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

⁹In the tender compassion of our God ♦
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

¹⁰To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, ♦
and to guide our feet into the way of peace. *Luke 1.68-79*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**This is the Christ, the Chosen of God,
the one who will bring healing to the nations.**

Intercessions

<i>To the words:</i>	Lord of glory,
<i>Please respond:</i>	hear our prayer.

Let us worship the Saviour with joy
and make our prayer to our heavenly Father.

The magi came from the east to worship your Son:
Father, grant to Christians everywhere
the spirit of adoration ...
Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

The infant Christ received gifts of gold, incense and myrrh:
Father, accept the offering of our hearts and minds
[at the beginning of this year] ...
Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

The kingdoms of this world have become
the kingdom of our God and of his Christ:
Father, grant an abundance of peace to your world ...
Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

The Holy Family lived in exile and in the shadow of death:
Father, look in mercy on all who are poor and powerless,
and all who suffer ...
Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

Your Son shared the life of his home and family at Nazareth:
Father, protect in your love our neighbours,
our families and this community of which we are a part ...
Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

Father, we rejoice in our fellowship
with the shepherds, the angels, the magi,
the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph
and all the faithful departed,
In your unfailing love for us and for all people,
hear and answer our prayers through your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Collect

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Believing the promises of God,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray
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.

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Conclusion

May Christ, who sends us to the nations,
give us the power of his Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**