



St Andrew's, Bedford

# All Age Worship

## 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022

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### Greeting

The Lord be with you  
and also with you!

### Opening Hymn and Welcome

### Confession

By the mercies of God,  
Let us confess our sins and present our bodies as a living sacrifice,  
holy and acceptable to him,  
which is our spiritual worship.

Lord Jesus, illuminate the darkness in our hearts:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, open our eyes to your saving love:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, unstop our ears to hear your living word:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

### Absolution

May God who loved the world so much  
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour  
forgive us our sins  
and make us holy to serve him in the world,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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**

## Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea during the time when Herod was king. After Jesus was born, some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the baby who was born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east. We came to worship him."

When King Herod heard about this new king of the Jews, he was troubled. And all the people in Jerusalem were worried too. Herod called a meeting of all the leading priests and teachers of the law. He asked them where the Christ would be born. They answered, "In the town of Bethlehem in Judea. The prophet wrote about this in the Scriptures:

'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
you are important among the rulers of Judah.  
A ruler will come from you.  
He will be like a shepherd for my people, the Israelites.'"

Then Herod had a secret meeting with the wise men from the east. He learned from them the exact time they first saw the star. Then Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem. He said to them, "Go and look carefully to find the child. When you find him, come tell me. Then I can go worship him too."

The wise men heard the king and then left. They saw the same star they had seen in the east. It went before them until it stopped above the place where the child was. When the wise men saw the star, they were filled with joy. They went to the house where the child was and saw him with his mother, Mary. They bowed down and worshiped the child. They opened the gifts they brought for him. They gave him treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But God

warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they went home to their own country by a different way.

This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

## **Hymn**

## **Talk**

## **Creed**

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.  
We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.  
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.  
We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen**

## **Prayers**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

## **The Peace**

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

## **Closing Hymn**

### **Blessing**

Christ our Lord,  
to whom kings bowed down in worship and offered gifts,  
reveal to us his glory  
and pour upon us the riches of his grace;  
and may the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be amongst us and remain with us always.  
**Amen**

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
**In the name of Christ, Amen.**