

Bible Reading from the Old Testament

Isaiah 60: verses 1 to 6

The Ingathering of the Dispersed

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

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.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

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.

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.

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

First Reading at Service Bible Reading from the New Testament

Ephesians 3: verses 1 to 12

Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading at Service Gospel Reading

Matthew 2: verses 1 to 12

The Visit of the Wise Men

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 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.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"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." '

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then 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.' When 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Notices

Refreshments – please join us for a cuppa and a biscuit after the service. Thank you to all who have signed up on the rota to help for 2024. There are still spaces available if you would like to help!

Open Church Wednesdays back 10th January! We shall be opening the doors of our beautiful church to welcome you every Wednesday between 1pm and 4pm for refreshments, a chat or simply as a space for quiet reflection. We will be delighted to see you!

22 Questions The next open discussion group (at 22 Phildock Wood Road DE22 4PH) will be on Tuesday 16th January from 7.30-9pm. If you haven't joined us before, please contact Chris for directions on 07502291577.



Don't forget your stamps!

Please continue to save your used stamps and help us find a cure for cancer. There is a box for them at the back of the church. Thank you to all who have contributed so far – I have just sent 1kg of stamps in aid of Cancer Research! Peter



Dates for the Diary

14th January – 9.30am – Morning Prayer –
Second Sunday of Epiphany



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*For more information please visit our website:
www.klmm-parishes.org.uk or follow us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/klmmparishes
If you would like to include a notice in the pew sheet,
please contact Emma Jones.*

**WELCOME TO
ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH
KIRK LANGLEY**

Sunday 7th January 2024

Epiphany



The service today is Morning Prayer

*If you have a prayer request, please
pass to the Church Warden.*

Please take this leaflet home with you for reference.