

Ayr St Columba Church

Sunday 3 January 2021 – Epiphany



Star of Bethlehem

The sky is deep velvet black
yet myriad points of scattered light,
and one sparkles brighter than all,
the resplendent star of Bethlehem.

This is the light that guided
three travellers from the east,
journeying towards the Great Sea,
until the star stopped, hovering above the village.

What is it that would guide
three men of wisdom on a spiritual quest?
What but the hand of God,
drawing them by his created star.

The star was simply the sign
of a brighter burning light.
The birth of a child was the beginning
of light for a darkened world.

Shine on, then, star of Bethlehem
for we too live in deep darkness;
lead us, spiritual thirsting seekers,
to find the light in Jesus, prince of peace.

John Johansen-Berg

Organ Voluntary

The Bible, God's Word for life, is placed in the pulpit by the Beadle.

Welcome & Announcements

Preparatory Silence

Call to Worship

Hymn 319

Of the Father's love begotten

(t Corde Natus)

Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.

By his word was all created;
he commanded; it was done:
heaven and earth and depths of ocean,
universe of three in one;
all that sees the moon's soft shining,
all that breathes beneath the sun,
evermore and evermore.

O that birth for ever blessed,
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Spirit's power conceiving,
bore the Saviour of our race,
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.

This is he whom seers and sages
sang of old with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets
promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long-expected;
let creation praise its Lord,
evermore and evermore.

All the heights of heaven, adore him;
angel hosts, his praises sing;
powers, dominions bow before him,
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,
and unwearied praises be,
honour, glory, and dominion,
and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore.

Call to Prayer

Prayers of Adoration, Confession, Absolution and Supplication

Lesson St Matthew 2: 1 - 12

Hymn 312 **Away in a manger** *(t Cradle Song)*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus! look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Reflection

Solo

Prayers of Thanksgiving, Intercession, Commemoration of the Faithful Departed and The Lord's Prayer

Hymn 313 **See! in yonder manger low** *(t Humility)*

See! in yonder manger low,
born for us on earth below,
see! the tender Lamb appears
promised from eternal years.
Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'

Lo! within a manger lies
he who built the starry skies,
he who, throned in height sublime,
sits amid the cherubim.

Say, ye holy shepherds, say,
what your joyful news today;
wherefore have ye left your sheep
on the lonely mountain steep?

'As we watched at dead of night,
lo! we saw a wondrous light:
angels, singing peace on earth,
told us of the Saviour's birth.'

Sacred Infant, all Divine,
what a tender love was thine,
thus to come from highest bliss
down to such a world as this!

Edward Caswall (1814-1878)

BENEDICTION

Closing Voluntary