

La Côte Anglican Church Epiphany 3

16.1.22

*We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship Him. (cf. Matthew 2:2)
Celebrating the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*



Welcome

The Greeting

Welcome in the name of Christ.

God's grace, mercy and peace be with you

and also with you.

Brothers and sisters, we are united today with fellow believers throughout the world as we gather to pray for the visible unity of the Church. We do this with worship resources prepared by churches in the Middle East. Our theme is inspired by the visit of the Magi to the new-born King, as described in the Gospel according to Saint Matthew: "We observed his star in the East, and have come to pay him homage." Let us fix our eyes on the star that was seen in the East and allow it to lead us too.

Hymn O Worship the King

- 1 O worship the King,
all-glorious above;
O gratefully sing
His power and His love;
our shield and defender,
the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendour,
and girded with praise.

- 2 O tell of His might,
O sing of His grace,
whose robe is the light,
whose canopy, space;
His chariots of wrath
the deep thunder-clouds form,
and dark is His path
on the wings of the storm.

3 Thy bountiful care
what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air,
it shines in the light,
it streams from the hills,
it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distils
in the dew and the rain.

4 Frail children of dust,
and feeble as frail,
in Thee do we trust,
nor find Thee to fail:
Thy mercies, how tender,
how firm to the end,
our maker, defender,
Redeemer, and friend!

We have come together as God's family
to pray for the recovery of the unity of Christ's Church
and for the renewal of our common life.

The Lord is full of gentleness and compassion.
In penitence and faith let us ask his forgiveness of our sins.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
and against one another,
in thought, and word, and deed.
We are truly sorry for our pride,
and for our lack of faith, of understanding and of love.
We repent of our narrow-mindedness,
of our bitterness and our prejudices.
Pardon and forgive us,
save us and renew us,
that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

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

Gloria (Sung)

All All glory be to God on high
his peace on Earth proclaim;
to all his people tell abroad
the glory of his name.
In songs of thankfulness and praise
our hearts their homage bring
to worship him who reigns above,
our God and Heavenly King.

O Christ, the Father's only Son,
O Lamb enthroned on high,
O Jesus who for sinners died
in mercy hear our cry.
Most high and holy is the Lord,
most high his heavenly throne;
the Father, Son and Spirit reign
in glory ever one.

(Kingsfold)

Prayer for today

Lord Jesus Christ,
who said to your apostles,
'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you':
look not on our sins but on the faith of your Church
and grant it the peace and unity of your kingdom;
where you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

First Reading

Isaiah 9.2-7

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
³ You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
⁴ For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.
This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn *Lord the light of you love is shining*

Lord, the light of Your love is shining,
In the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us,
Set us free by the truth You now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me

[Chorus]

*Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth Your word, Lord, and let there be light*

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,
From the shadows into Your radiance;
By the blood, I may enter Your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.

As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
So our faces display your likeness,
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2: 1-12

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

All Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In 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.' ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They 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.'" ⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ 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.' ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *The light of witness*

We've thought about God's promise – the love that reaches out to everyone. So let's stand and speak out together what we believe.

The Apostles' Creed

**All I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayers of intercession *Sharing Christ's Light*

As the Magi followed the star to Bethlehem, we gather under this star today, adding our own stars to the sky, uniting our own gifts and prayers for the visible unity of the Church. As we journey towards that goal, may our lives together give a luminous witness that leads others to know Christ.

Leader 1 The Magi came from the East to pay homage and offer special gifts from their cultures and countries. We pray today for all Christian communities around the world in their diversity of worship and tradition: Lord we ask you to preserve these treasures, particularly in areas of the world where the presence and survival of the Church is threatened by violence and oppression.

All O, Lord, hear our prayer

Leader 2 The early years of the Lord's life were marked by violence and massacres at the orders of the despot Herod. We pray for children living in places in the world where violence continues and where its results are tangible. Strengthen, O Lord, the bonds of unity and mutual love among our churches and help us to cooperate and witness to your holy Name. Inspire us to work without ceasing to defend those who are oppressed and to include the marginalized. Encourage us to stand together in the face of tyranny and oppressive regimes as we seek your Kingdom among us.

All O, Lord, hear our prayer

Leader 3 After the visit of the Magi, the holy family experienced migration through the wilderness and became refugees in the land of Egypt. We pray for all the refugees and uprooted people in this world: Equip us, Lord, to show hospitality to those driven from their homes, and grant us the spirit of welcome to those looking for a safe haven.

O, Lord, hear our prayer

Leader 2 The birth of Jesus was good news for all, gathering people from different nations and religions in worship of the holy child.

We pray for our efforts to seek harmony and dialogue with other religions: Lord, give us humility and patience to walk with others with respect on their journey.

O, Lord, hear our prayer

Leader 3 The Magi returned to their home by a different way.

We pray for our churches in this changing world: Lord, help us to find new and creative ways to follow you and to witness to you so that the world may believe.

O, Lord, hear our prayer

Leader 1 When the Magi saw the holy child, they rejoiced with great joy.

Heavenly Father, fix our eyes on him so we do not lose our way. Unite us in the Lord Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life.

We ask all these prayers in the name of Christ, **Amen.**

The Peace

We are all one in Christ Jesus.
We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
All and also with you.

Offertory Hymn 615 *Spirit of the Living God*

1. Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me;
break me, melt me,
mould me, fill me;
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.

2. Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on us;
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on us;
break us, melt us,
mould us, fill us;
Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on us.

Prayer at the Table

God of power and love,
by your Holy Spirit,
draw the scattered flock of Christ into a visible unity
and make your Church a sign of hope to our divided world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

All His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places
to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King,
almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

And now we give you thanks
because of the unity you have given us in your Son
and that you are the God and Father of us all,
above all and through all and in all.

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying,
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.
Great is the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise.

**All Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Agnus Dei (sung)

*Jesus, Lamb of God, Jesus, Lamb of God,
Jesus, Saviour, have mercy on us.*

*Jesus, bearing all our sins, Jesus, bearing all our sins,
Jesus, Saviour, have mercy on us.*

*Jesus, redeemer of the world, Jesus, redeemer of the world,
Jesus, Saviour, O give us your peace.*

Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**All Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

The people receive communion.

**All Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

Hymn In Christ there is no East or West

- 1 In Christ there is no east or west,
in Him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.
- 2 In Him shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find:
His service is the golden cord
close-binding humankind.
- 3 Join hands, united in the faith,
whate'er your race may be!
Who serve my Father as their own
are surely kin to me.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west,
in Him meet south and north,
all Christlike souls are one in Him,
throughout the whole wide earth.

Blessing

The Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,
teach you to walk in his way more trustfully, to accept his truth more faithfully, and to share
his life more lovingly;
that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may come as one family to the kingdom of the
Father.

And the blessing ...

One in heart and one in mind,
And empowered by the Spirit,
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Prayer and Care

This week if you would like prayer for anything, do contact [Peta Tracey](#), who will share your
prayer request in confidence with our La Côte Church prayer group.

Finding out more about us

Please go to www.lacotechurch.ch for more information about our church.

Support for our church

On behalf of our church - thank you to all of you who are pledging and donating your
collections online.

Thank you also to those who are putting collection money aside each week.

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