

What has God been doing?

Prayers and Intercessions

Closing Hymn **In Christ alone**

Blessing - Northumbrian Community Blessing

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,
wherever He may send you.

May He guide you through the wilderness,
protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing
at the wonders He has shown you.

May He bring you home rejoicing
once again into our doors.

Amen.

After the service please join us for
refreshments, and remember there are
people willing to pray with you in confidence.

Welcome

Greeting

Arise, shine; for your light has come,

The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Call to Worship

A new year has begun.

Let us leave behind all that is past,

and walk together into the new year

Let us trust in the God of new beginnings,
and worship the God of fresh hopes.

Together with people of every race

let us worship God together

Allelujah, Amen,

Allelujah, Amen.

Opening Hymn **Joy to the world (Phil Wickham)**

Confession

Lord, just as the wise men set out into new territory
in search of you,

help us to step out of life's narrow tramlines.

Forgive us for seeking you out only in areas we know
and in which we are comfortable.

Lord be merciful to us

Hear us and forgive us we pray

In their day, the wise men were outsiders,
yet were guided by a star and spoken to in a dream;
their steps directed for your purpose.
Forgive us when we fail to see – or even dismiss –
your leading from unexpected places and unlikely people.
Lord be merciful to us
Lord hear us and forgive us

The wise men made mistakes on their journey,
and looked for you in the wrong places.
Forgive us when we find it hard to forgive ourselves,
and help us to seek you and your kingdom always.
Lord be merciful to us
Lord hear us and forgive us

Absolution
Lord, forgive us.
Widen our vision and expand our minds
to search and discern you in all places and people,
that we may be drawn closer to you.
We know that by your blood shed on the cross
we are forgiven and restored
Thanks be to God.
Amen

Collect for Epiphany
O God,
who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we,
who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory face to face;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

Introduction to the theme

Song **Like a candle flame**

Creed
I believe in God who made the universe.
I believe that Jesus is God's son
who was born as a human baby,
grew up to be a man,
died on a cross,
came to life again and appeared to his friends.
I believe he returned to God.
I believe God gave us the Holy Spirit
to help us to follow Jesus.
I believe that one day I will see God.

The Ministry of the Word
First Reading – Ephesians 3: 1-12 (NRSV)
This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn **You are the king of Glory**

Gospel Reading - Matthew 2: 1-12 (NRSV)
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord.
(After the reading)
This is the Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, O Christ**

Sermon