

WHEATHILL PRIORY BENEFICE

“Jesus Lives: Follow Him”

Sunday 3 January 2021 Epiphany

Happy New Year and welcome back to worshipping at home!

This Sunday we reach the end of ‘Christmas’ by celebrating the Epiphany 3 days early, and the reflection comes from Ken Taylor ‘Magi’

The way that Matthew wrote it

is so very different from the story of the three kings,
of Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar, which we’ve received

Matthew did not give

their rank, their number or their names,
nor were they led to a stable but a house!

Nor did he suggest their origins:

what mattered most to him was where they did not come from,
And they did not come from Palestine.

They were not Jews

but foreigners – and the Christ child was for them.

That’s the point;

Christ is for everyone - and none is specially chosen
no barriers of race or gender: God has no favourites.

The magi also witness

to that important truth that God is no respecter of persons:
God reveals himself not to Herodic politicians,
intent to keep their power or to be re-elected,

nor to religious leaders, sure in their blinkered truth
that they have grasp of God,
but God reveals himself to secular men, astrologers,
who seek the future in the stars.

He starts where they are – and leads them

. . . by an unexpected path to an unexpected place
and at their journey's end a most surprising King.

Call them astrologers or kings or what you will

but make sure you ask where you can find the Christ;

be prepared to look in unexpected places
and unexpected people;

. . . . and don't be surprised to find God revealing himself
to secular people who think that
they can find their future in the stars!

There are many stars but only one to follow

there are many gods, but only one to serve.

He will start just where you are and lead if you trust him;
however dark the way his light will always guide;
he may take you by a different road than you expected
but at your journey's end you will find Christ.

Readings etc for the week ahead

Sunday 3 January Psalm 72:10-15, Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12

Monday 4 January Psalm 89:1-37, Isaiah 60:13-end, John 1:43-end

Tuesday 5 January Psalm 48, Isaiah 61, John 2:1-12

9am Morning Prayer on Zoom

Wednesday 6 January Psalm 132, Isaiah 62, John 2:13-end

Thursday 7 January Psalm 99, Isaiah 63:7-end, 1 John 3

Friday 8 January Psalm 46, Isaiah 64, 1 John 4:7-end

Saturday 9 January Psalm 148, Isaiah 65:1-16 1 John 5:1-12

Sunday 10 January Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29, Mark 1:4-11

10:00am 'Coffee' on Zoom

I expect that we will continue to meet for worship on YouTube at least until 17 January and possibly longer. Benefice Council meets on Thursday 14 January and we will decide then on our approach to in person worship whilst in tier 4.

In the meantime I hope that you stay well and safe