

# QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH

## MIDWEEK SERVICES

JANUARY 2021

### Week 1 – Epiphany

#### Leader:

The wise of old had their epiphany;  
a star shone in the heavens.  
They searched and found their fulfilment.

The foolish of today look for a star in human guise;  
they search and seldom find what they seek.

We need to become wise again.  
The wise still seek him, they seek him, not any lesser  
star, but the one who rules over the stars in the  
heavens.

#### Opening Responses

Gladly, O God, we come together, here in this place, to  
seek your deeper presence in the silence.

#### **SILENCE**

We bring before you our wounds and weariness from  
the journey

**TOGETHER WE LOOK WITH HOPEFUL EXPECTATION  
TO FIND THE STAR WHICH SIGNALS YOUR ARRIVAL**

Thankfully we come forward to kneel and to receive the glory of your presence.

**WITH OUR LITTLE GIFTS WE ARE HUMBLED BEFORE YOU.**

And we find among the straw in the misty breath of the animals,

**THAT YOU HAVE COME MORE HUMANLY THAN WE COULD IMAGINE**

**You might want to read one of the Epiphany hymns.**

**Read:** Psalm 72

### **Prayer**

We look to the heavens, Lord;  
we look for signs of your order and your orderliness;  
but we look too for signs of your continuing creation, of your ageless activity, bringing new worlds into being, new stars to birth.

For in you is growth and development – there are new creations and new understandings, new discoveries for us to find, to explore, to ponder.

As the magi set out on their quest, so may we never be tempted to settle for what we already think we know or understand.

Convince us that there is always more to be revealed of your will and your ways, always more of your being to be made manifest in our lives and in our world.

.

For you are greater than all our thoughts, greater than our imaginations, greater than our wildest dreams. Call us to look further, call us to gaze in wonder, and call us to follow the star with joy.

God over all,  
Christ within us,  
Spirit around us,  
hear our prayer and send your light to us and to this world where there is so much darkness.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ in whose words we pray further together, saying:

### **OUR FATHER**

**Read:** Isaiah 60 verses 1 - 6  
Matthew 2 verses 1 - 12

### **Reflection**

This should take the form of an introduction from the leader of 5 – 7 minutes **maximum**, and designed to stimulate discussion on the subject.

This part of the service might involve music or something visual; it might involve silence.

### **Prayer**

This a time for prayers for the world, for the communities in which we live; for the Church and the ways in which we continue to be the Church in a time of restrictions; for the smooth rolling out of vaccines; for

those known to us to be in particular need of our prayers; for ourselves.

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Starshine, moonshine, sunshine

**WE WILL WALK WITH GOD**

Mountains, main roads, side tracks

**WE WILL WALK WITH GOD**

Questions, answers, mysteries

**WE WILL WALK WITH GOD**

Backwards, onwards, homewards

**WE WILL WALK WITH GOD**