

## Prayers

Jesus, light of the world,  
you have come;  
you have banished the darkness;  
and the darkness cannot overcome your light.

Thank you.

In your light I see the gift of life in others.

In your light I see the God-given possibilities in myself.

In your light I can rejoice in creation,

dew laden grass, sparkling stream,

the rainbow in the rain.

In your light I rise today

forgiven, liberated

free to shine.

Hallelujah! The light of the world has come

and the darkness cannot put it out.

Amen, thanks be to God.

We pray for those in special need at this time....

Amen, thanks be to God who send the light into the darkness

The Lord's Prayer: **Our Father...**

Hymn: StF 231 **The silent stars shine down on us** *or*  
StF 227 / H&P 123 **Brightest and best of the sons of the morning**

Blessing: **May the light of the Word shine upon us and the peace of the Prince surround us, today and in the days to come. Amen**

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## **Darlington District** **Worship at Home Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021**

Happy new year! As we share in worship today let us travel in our minds to Bethlehem and worship the new born king:

O come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! Ps 95: 6 NRSVA

Hymn: StF175 **Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness**

Let us pray using the words of Psalm 95: 1-7 (NRSVA):

O come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

For the LORD is a great God,

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth;

the heights of the mountains are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it,

and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

O come, let us worship and bow down,

let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.

*You might like to read the psalm again imagining yourself kneeling by the infant Jesus alongside the shepherds or wise men.*

Reading: [Matthew 2: 1-12](#)

Hymn: StF 224 / H&P 121 **As with gladness men of old**

Of Epiphany by Revd Jean Hudson

Epiphany means a revealing.  
Inextricably linked with the Magi,  
Gentile visitors to Jesus,  
scholars from the east,  
following a star, bringing gifts.  
Matthew is the one to recount  
the story,  
surprisingly not Luke,  
the Gentile gospel writer.  
But here we are, at the very  
beginning of Matthew's gospel,  
and men who were as far from  
Jewish heritage as possible,  
were meeting  
with Mary and Joseph,  
and presenting gifts to Jesus.

A revelation indeed.  
Not only did God draw in outcast  
shepherds  
into the joy and privilege of his  
light,  
but Gentiles.  
Jesus is truly being revealed,  
even now,  
as Light of the World,  
Light for the world.

Light is wonderful.  
It brings colour into a grey world.  
To those of us who  
wait, sleepless, for the first signs  
of dawn,  
it brings release of tension.  
To those of us who  
suffer seasonal depression  
it brings a living promise of hope.  
To those of us who  
fear the shadows  
it brings a vital return of  
confidence.  
To all of us it comes, herald of  
change.

Everything about Jesus  
belongs to the light.  
It's why and how he  
has such life and energy,  
why he attracts all who  
want and need to feel his  
warmth and his vitality.

Light words all reflect  
life and movement –  
dancing, sparkling,  
streaming, flooding,  
shifting, shimmering –  
delighting our eyes,  
lifting our spirits,  
healing our bodies,  
inviting wonder.

Life-creating  
life-giving,  
life-enhancing  
LIGHT.

Jesus is the antithesis  
of all who choose  
to dwell in the shadows,  
who scheme and exploit,  
abuse and damage,  
exclude and diminish.  
He scatters hope,  
embraces all,  
renews self-worth,  
restores identity,  
feeds the crowds,  
bestows forgiveness,  
holds out the promise of  
living differently

to all who would  
receive it.  
The life that is in him is the  
light of God  
and the light of all people,  
a light that shines in the  
darkness  
which the darkness has not  
and cannot put out.

The first essential  
of creation,  
the first description  
of our incarnate God,  
the essence  
of the new Jerusalem.  
From beginning to end,  
LIGHT.

Epiphany calls us, all over the  
world,  
to live  
in the light of  
Christ,  
the forgiving  
liberating  
shining  
love of God.