

Epiphany Service Kit

Light for the nations — calls to worship from Isaiah 60, the wise men responsive reading, and inserts on worship and witness.

When to use it: 6 January and the Sunday nearest it.

Order of service

1. Prelude / gathering music
2. Call to worship (Scripture below)
3. Opening hymn
4. Invocation
5. Prayer of confession and assurance of pardon
6. Responsive reading
7. Scripture reading
8. Sermon
9. Response — communion, offering, or prayer
10. Closing hymn
11. Benediction

Hymn suggestions (public domain)

- We Three Kings
- As with Gladness Men of Old
- Brightest and Best

Suggested preaching text

Matthew 2:1-12 with Isaiah 60:1-6.

Calls to worship

Read one aloud to open the service. Short is better than long — the point is to turn the room toward God before anything else is said.

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.

Isaiah 60:1 (KJV)

Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

Matthew 2:2 (KJV)

This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalms 118:24 (KJV)

Invocation

God of light, thou didst hang a star over a stable so that strangers from far away could find thy Son. Lead us this morning by the same light, and make us a people who bring what we have and lay it at his feet. Amen.

Prayer of confession

Lord, we confess that we keep the good news to ourselves. Thou hast made thy Son a light to the Gentiles, and we have hidden that light under a bushel of politeness and fear. Forgive us and send us. Amen.

Assurance of pardon

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.

Isaiah 60:1 (KJV)

Responsive reading

The Light Is Come

Leader reads the plain lines; the congregation reads the lines in bold. Print this page in the bulletin exactly as it appears here.

Leader: Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.
Isaiah 60:1 (KJV)

People: **And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.**
Isaiah 60:3 (KJV)

Leader: Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.
Matthew 2:2 (KJV)

People: **And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him.**
Matthew 2:11 (KJV)

All: **I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**
John 8:12 (KJV)

Offering sentence

Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase.
Proverbs 3:9 (KJV)

Benediction

Speak the blessing over the congregation rather than praying it — the biblical pattern is a word given to the people, not a request made on their behalf.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.
2 Corinthians 13:14 (KJV)

Bulletin inserts — cut along the dashed lines

Photocopy this page, cut on the dashed borders, and slip one into every bulletin or visitor pack. Free to reproduce for church use.

BULLETIN INSERT 1 · BIBLE SUNDAYS

What the wise men teach us

Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

Matthew 2:2 (KJV)

They travelled far, they asked for directions, and when they arrived they fell down and worshipped before they opened a single gift. Worship first, giving second — that is the order Epiphany sets for the whole year.

BULLETIN INSERT 2 · BIBLE SUNDAYS

A verse for the week

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.

Isaiah 60:1 (KJV)

Arise and shine is not a command to manufacture light. It is a command to reflect one: thy light is come. You do not have to be bright; you have to be turned toward him.

Service planning notes

Fill this in on the Thursday before and hand a copy to the musicians, the reader, and the sound desk.

Preacher

Sermon title and text

Reader / liturgist

Hymns

Communion / ordinance

Announcements

Notes

More free KJV resources for Sunday at biblesundays.com/sunday — sermon series plans, printables, hymn texts, and free Bible widgets for your church website.