

# Morning Prayer 04.01.26

"I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope." *Psalm 130:5*

## Opening Sentences

O Lord open our lips and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Pause for reflection as you offer the day to God.*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Song – In the Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak midwinter  
Frosty wind made moan  
Earth stood hard as iron  
Water like a stone  
Snow had fallen snow on snow  
Snow on snow  
In the bleak midwinter  
Long ago

Our God heav'n cannot hold Him  
Nor earth sustain  
Heav'n and earth shall flee away  
When He comes to reign  
In the bleak midwinter  
A stable place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty  
Jesus Christ

Angels and archangels  
May have gathered there  
Cherubim and seraphim  
Thronged the air  
But His mother only  
In her maiden bliss  
Worshipped the Beloved  
With a kiss

What can I give Him  
Poor as I am  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb  
If I were a wise man  
I would do my part  
Yet what can I give Him  
Give my heart

## Bible Readings

### Old Testament Reading – Psalm 72: 10-15

10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles  
render him tribute,

may the kings of Sheba and Seba  
bring gifts.

11 May all kings fall down before him,  
all nations give him service.

12 For he delivers the needy when they call,  
the poor and those who have no helper.

13 He has pity on the weak and the needy,  
and saves the lives of the needy.

14 From oppression and violence he redeems their life;  
and precious is their blood in his sight.

15 Long may he live!  
May gold of Sheba be given to him.  
May prayer be made for him continually,  
and blessings invoked for him all day long.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

### **New Testament reading – Matthew 2: 1-12**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.”’

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

### **Talk**

## Prayers

*In our prayers we will pray for the world, the church, our local community, and for those who are in need.*

*At the end of each section we say:*

**Lord in Your mercy  
hear our prayer.**

*And at the end:*

**Merciful Father,  
accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever.**

## News

## Conclusion

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life.  
**Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Online Giving**

Everything we do in mission and ministry is made possible by the generous support of our church family. We encourage everyone who is a regular member of St Marys to join our planned giving scheme (standing order) as this helps us to plan and budget.

You can now make donations online as a one off or regular gifts, and every penny goes back into enabling our mission and ministry.

Details of how to give online or join the planned giving scheme can be found online @ [www.stmaryshanwell.org.uk/giving](http://www.stmaryshanwell.org.uk/giving)