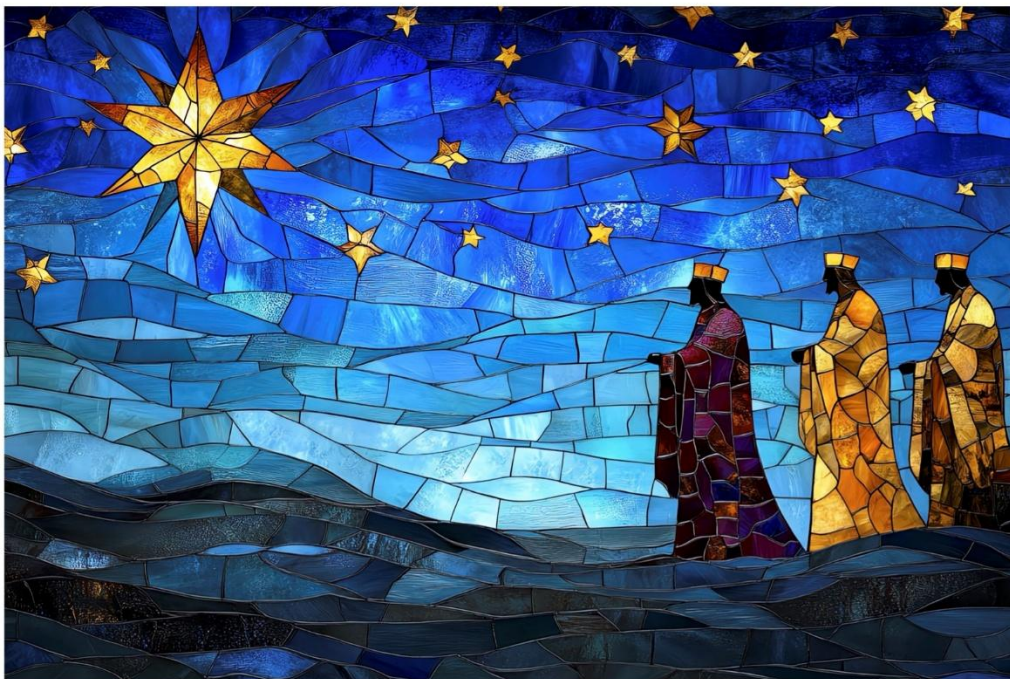




Welcome

We welcome you today whatever your reason for coming

**'A global Christian family following
Jesus at the heart of London'**



9:30 am Sunday, 28th December 2025



METHODIST
CENTRAL HALL



ONLINE SERVICE

Preacher: Deacon Ali McMillan and Revd Dr Joyce Popoola

Isaiah 60: 1-6; Matthew 2: 1-12

LIVE-STREAM WELCOME

VIDEO CALL TO WORSHIP – His Star Still Shines
Motion Worship

VIDEO SONG – Joyful Joyful, We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

All thy works with joy surround thee,
Earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around thee,
Centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,
All who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals join the mighty chorus
Which the morning stars began;
Father love is reigning o'er us,
Brother love binds man to man.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music lifts us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

Henry van Dyke (1852-1933)

OPENING PRAYERS

Deacon Ali McMillan

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please join in using your own language or the version you prefer.

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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

VIDEO LESSON Isaiah 60:1-6

Read by Evelyn Longdon

'Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.
² See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the Lord rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.
³ Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
⁴ 'Lift up your eyes and look about you:
all assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the hip.
⁵ Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.
⁶ Herds of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah.
And all from Sheba will come,
bearing gold and incense
and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

VIDEO SONG – We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we travel afar;
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.
*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to your perfect light.*

Born a king on Bethlehem plain,
gold I bring, to crown him again,
King for ever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign:

Chorus

Frankincense to offer have I,
God on earth to glorify,
prayer and praising, gladly raising,
worship him, God most high.

Chorus

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Chorus

Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and sacrifice;
alleluia, alleluia,
earth to the heav'ns replies.

Chorus

John Henry Hopkins (1820-1891) alt.

VIDEO LESSON Matthew 2:1-12

Read by Marygrace Jose

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.'

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ 'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they replied, 'for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for out of you will come a ruler

who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, 'Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.'

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

SERMON 'Arise, shine, for your light has come,'

Deacon Ali McMillan

VIDEO SONG – What Can I Bring?

If a wise man knows
where the Saviour's born
guided by a shining star,
to the world He shows
why He came so far

understanding who You are.

What can I bring
what can I sing
to honour you my friend and King.
Who can describe
this love of mine
the holy saviour so divine.

If a shepherd hears
when a child is born
guided by the angels shining bright,
and the hopes and fears
of a thousand years
will be met in you tonight.

What can I bring
what can I sing
to honour you my friend and King.
Who can describe
this love of mine
the holy saviour so divine.

Singing Gloria
singing Gloria
brining praises to the King.
Singing Gloria
singing Gloria
brining praises to the King.

When a child is born
and the reason why
was to love this broken world.
How can I repay
can the only way
be to love him in return.

What can I bring
what can I sing
to honour you my friend and King.
Who can describe
this love of mine
the holy saviour so divine.

By Pennells/Porter

PRAYERS FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

Revd Dr Joyce Popoola

VIDEO CAROL – Noel
Love incarnate, love divine
Star and angels gave the sign
Bow to babe on bended knee
The Savior of humanity

Unto us a Child is born
He shall reign forevermore

*Noel, Noel
Come and see what God has done
Noel, Noel
The story of amazing love
The light of the world, given for us
Noel*

Son of God and Son of man
There before the world began
Born to suffer, born to save
Born to raise us from the grave
Christ the everlasting Lord
He shall reign forevermore

*Noel, Noel
Come and see what God has done
Noel, Noel
The story of amazing love
The light of the world, given for us
Noel*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING PRAYER

Led by Revd Dr Joyce Popoola

VIDEO CAROL – Joy to the World

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
let earth receive her King.
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

*Joy, unspeakable joy!
An overflowing well; no tongue can tell!
Joy, unspeakable joy!
It rises in my soul, never lets me go!*

He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness
and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love,
and wonders, wonders of His love!

Refrain

Isaac Watts (1674-1748) Chorus: Chris Tomlin (born 1972), Ed Cash, and Matt Gilder

HEALING PRAYER TEAM

Deacon Ali McMillan

THE BLESSING

Deacon Ali McMillan

VIDEO OUTRO ORGAN

Night of the Star by Robert Elmore played at MCHW

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