

# +WEEKLY SERMON

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## The Epiphany of Our Lord and Saviour

*Matthew 2.1-12*

An ancient English word, rarely used these days, is a good fit for today. Shewing (not a spelling mistake). It means something like revealing, or indeed, epiphany.

Today is the day we celebrate the shewing of Jesus, the One sent by God to bring the good news of salvation. It is, of course, often associated with the visit of the Wise Men, or Magi, to the Holy Family after the birth of Jesus. Jesus is shewn as the unique one who is revealed. Today we celebrate together the coming of the nations (us!) to see Messiah. What a positive way to start a New Year in church.

It can sometimes seem that the world is enshrouded by darkness including the recent atrocities of shootings in America and Australia. In one case the murders are of people celebrating the Jewish festival of Chanukah. Yet dark though these events are, we Christians have a responsibility to profess that Jesus is the Light of the World.

However dark though things may seem, the reality is Christ has overcome even death, and the truth of the Resurrection can never be extinguished. This is what is revealed in the shewing of today.

This can feel hard to convey. To appear to tell a hurting world that all is well could sound trite. Yet this is no message of jolly cheer. It is a profound reality. Today reveals (or shews) that God has this covered. The pain we feel is felt by Him and the hope we need is found in Him. If Jesus were not the One we claim him to be, things would be very dark indeed.

Pray today for those who seem to dwell in darkness and hate.

Pray for those who feel victim to their violence.

Give thanks for the Light of the World, revealed today. Without Him this would feel bleak indeed.

O Come Let us Adore Him, Christ the Lord.

**The Venerable David Picken, Archdeacon of Lancaster**

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