

# St Simon Zelotes



## **MORNING PRAYER ONLINE**

**Sunday 4 January 2026**

**10.00am**

St Simon Zelotes Church  
Milner Street  
London SW3 2QF

Tel. 020 7589 8999

[www.stsimonzelotes.com](http://www.stsimonzelotes.com)



## Welcome

### Hymn

#### *As with gladness*

(Children in Year 9 and under leave for Sunday School and Crèche during this hymn)

1 As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold,  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright:  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore be led to thee.

2 As with joyful steps they sped  
to that lowly manger-bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
him whom heav'n and earth adore,  
so may we, with willing feet  
ever seek thy mercy-seat.

3 As their precious gifts they laid,  
at thy manger roughly made,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure, and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee, our heav'nly King.

4 Holy Jesu, every day  
keep us in the narrow way;  
and, when earthly things are past,  
bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds thy glory hide.

5 In the heav'nly country bright  
need they no created light;  
thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
thou its sun which goes not down;  
there for ever may we sing  
alleluias to our King.

William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898); CCLI Licence No. 1891688



## Sentence of Scripture

### Confession

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done, and there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy name. Amen.

### Absolution

### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

### Responses

O Lord, open thou our lips.

**All: And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.

**All: O Lord, make haste to help us.**

*Please stand*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

**All: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.**

**Amen.**

Praise ye the Lord.

**All: The Lord's name be praised.**



## **Metrical Psalm 72**

1 A King on high is reigning  
whom endless ages bless,  
from sea to sea sustaining  
his rule of righteousness.  
Beneath his strong defending  
his people stand secure,  
whose justice knows no ending  
while sun and moon endure.

2 As rains that gently nourish  
and bring the seed to birth,  
his righteousness shall flourish,  
his peace possess the earth;  
her sceptre kings acclaim him,  
before his feet they fall,  
the nations kneel to name him  
the sovereign Lord of all.

3 His Name endures for ever  
who formed the fertile land;  
the fruits of our endeavour  
shall prosper in his hand.  
With prayer and song and story  
his praises sound again,  
in all the earth his glory;  
so be it, Lord! Amen!

Timothy Dudley Smith. CCLI Licence No. 1891688



**First reading: Psalm 72:1-20**

<sup>2</sup> May he judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice.

<sup>4</sup> May he defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy;

<sup>5</sup> May he endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations.

<sup>7</sup> In his days may the righteous flourish and prosperity abound  
till the moon is no more.

<sup>9</sup> May the desert tribes bow before him and his enemies lick the dust.

<sup>11</sup> May all kings bow down to him and all nations serve him.

<sup>13</sup> He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death.

for precious is their blood in his sight.

<sup>16</sup> May corn abound throughout the land; on the tops of the hills may it sway. May the crops flourish like Lebanon and thrive like the grass of the field.

<sup>19</sup> Praise be to his glorious name for ever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory.  
Amen and Amen.

<sup>20</sup> This concludes the prayers of David son of Jesse.

**All: Thanks be to God**



## Second reading: Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> 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.' <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they replied, 'for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup> "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."

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> 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.' <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

This is the word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**



### **Choir: Jubilate**

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands:  
serve the Lord with gladness,  
and come before his presence with a song.

Be ye sure that the Lord he is God:  
it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves;  
we are his children and the sheep of his pasture.

O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise;  
be thankful unto him and speak good of his Name.

For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting,  
and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning  
is now and ever shall be,  
world without end.

Amen.

Music: Herbert Brewer; CCLI Licence No. 1891688



### The Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### Responses

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

**All: And grant us thy salvation.**

O Lord, save the King.

**All: And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

**All: And make thy chosen people joyful.**

O Lord, save thy people.

**All: And bless thine inheritance.**

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

**All: Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.**

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

**All: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

### Collect for the Epiphany

O God, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only-begotten Son to the Gentiles: Mercifully grant, that we, which know thee now by faith, may after this life have the fruition of thy glorious Godhead; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### Morning Collects





**Anthem**  
*The first Nowel*

The first Nowell the angels did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds  
in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they  
lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night  
that was so deep.  
*Nowell, born is the King of Israel.*

This star drew nigh to the north-west;  
Over Bethlehem  
it took its rest,  
And there it did  
both stop and stay  
Right over the place  
where Jesus lay.  
*Nowell...*

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east,  
beyond them far;  
And to the earth  
it gave great light,  
And so it continued  
both day and night:  
*Nowell...*

Then entered in those Wise Men three,  
Full reverently  
upon their knee,  
And offered there  
in his presence,  
Their gold and myrrh  
and frankincense:  
*Nowell...*

And by the light of that same star,  
Three Wise Men came  
from country far;  
To seek for a king  
was their intent,  
And to follow the star  
wherever it went:  
*Nowell...*

Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to  
our heavenly Lord,  
That hath made heaven  
and earth of nought,  
And with his blood  
humankind hath bought:  
*Nowell...*

Words: Trad; Music: Bob Chilcott  
CCLI Licence No. 1891688

**Intercessions**

**Notices**



### **Hymn**

#### *Brightest and best*

1 Brightest and best of the suns of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid!  
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

2 Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining;  
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
angels adore him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.

3 Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,  
odours of Edom, and off'rings divine,  
gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,  
myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?

4 Vainly we offer each humble oblation;  
vainly with gifts would his favour secure:  
richer by far is the heart's adoration,  
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Reginald Heber (1783-1826); CCLI Licence No. 1891688

### **Sermon**

Matthew 2:1-12

‘Let there be light!': The coming of the Magi'

*Joe Ammoun*



## Hymn

### *O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness*

We take a collection during this hymn. People give in a variety of ways.  
Some may not be in a position to give. Please pass the plate on if that  
is appropriate for you. If you are a taxpayer, please use one of the Gift Aid  
envelopes in your pew, completing the information on the front.  
You can also give using the card reader located at the back of the church.

1 O worship the Lord  
in the beauty of holiness;  
bow down before him,  
his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience,  
and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him ;  
the Lord is his name.

2 Low at his feet lay  
thy burden of carefulness:  
high on his heart  
he will bear it for thee,  
comfort thy sorrows,  
and answer thy prayerfulness,  
guiding thy steps  
as may best for thee be.

3 These, though we bring them  
in trembling and fearfulness,  
he will accept  
for the name that is dear;  
mornings of joy give  
for ev'nings of tearfulness,  
trust for our trembling  
and hope for our fear.

4 O worship the Lord  
in the beauty of holiness;  
bow down before him,  
his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience  
and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him:  
the Lord is his name.

John Samuel Bewley Monsell; CCLI Licence No. 1891688

## Blessing

### Organ Voluntary

*Epilogue on 'Dix' - William Harris*

## Notices

### **Church building closed**

The church building will be closed on Wednesday 7 January and Thursday 8 January.

### **Women's Monthly Bible Study Group - Friday 9 January, 10.30am-12pm**

On Friday 9 January we will have our monthly Bible study group at Joe and Zannie's flat (Flat 3, 51 Lennox Gardens). It will be an opportunity for women of all ages and stages to come together to encourage one another, and to spend some time thinking through the previous week's passage and sermon. Pre-school children and babies are very welcome. The group takes place on the second Friday of each month. For more details, and to signal an interest in coming, please get in touch with [zannie.ammoun@ssz.org.uk](mailto:zannie.ammoun@ssz.org.uk).

### **Christianity Explored**

One life, what's it all about? Starting **Wednesday 14 January at 7.30pm**, our 4 short Christianity Explored sessions are an opportunity to discuss any questions about Christianity. We'll also read extracts from the Gospel of Mark and watch a short film each week. Whether you're unsure, intrigued, or would like to re-visit the essence of Christian faith, this course is for you. To indicate an initial interest in the first (taster) session, get in touch with Mike at [mike.neville@ssz.org.uk](mailto:mike.neville@ssz.org.uk).

### **Weekly email**

*Associate Vicar Joe Ammoun sends out a weekly email letter each Wednesday with church family news and a short reflection. If you don't currently receive this but would like to, please get in touch with Gloria at [gloria.skelsey@ssz.org.uk](mailto:gloria.skelsey@ssz.org.uk).*