

Worship for Epiphany – January 6, 2022

Prelude

Announcements

Introduction of the Service

The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

Confession and Forgiveness

We begin the service by acknowledging that we are sinners and that God forgives us—we are practicing how to love one another—saying ouch and sorry and I forgive you.

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Dear Lord, you know us better than we know ourselves. Reveal to us your mercy, bless us with right relationship with you and with our neighbors, for Jesus Christ’s sake.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Merciful Savior,

Like Peter we could fall down before you and say, “get away from me, Lord, for I am a sinner.” For we are both captured by and contribute to the hollow brokenness of the world.

Please call us by name, claim us, forgive us, make us people who heal and help and follow after you, in Jesus name. Amen.

God's love overflows and God's mercy is relentless. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of your Sin, in the name of the Father, and the + Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Opening Hymn – WOV#646 “We Three Kings of Orient Are”

Verses 1 & 5



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
 bring to crown him a - gain; king for - ev - er,
 owns a de - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
 God and Sac - ri - fice; heav'n sings al - le -



moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain



Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Greeting

We gather together in worship, because we don't do this alone, but as a community formed around Jesus Christ. Where two or three are gathered in his name, Jesus is there.

Jesus who was revealed in a manger, at a river, and during a wedding feast. We gather expecting Jesus to keep showing up, in food, water, and community.

May it be so.

Kyrie

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Prayer of the Day

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Word

We weekly hear the story of God in scriptures, sermons, and creeds because there are so many stories told in this world and there is a real danger that we will forget our own.

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

God's Word, revealed to us.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
**that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**
that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

**Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**

May all kings bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.

**For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**

He has compassion on the lowly and poor,
and preserves the lives of the needy.

**From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 2nd Chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: 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.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

LBW#82 “As with Gladness Men of Old”

Verses 1 & 5



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from
true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was
buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom
will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the
Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken
through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one
Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

Prayers

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

God of wanderers, you sent the magi from afar to witness the mystery and majesty of your birth. Send us into the world with your will in our hearts and on our lips. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You created heaven and earth. Through your Spirit send your all-encompassing love over the cosmos. Bless the stars that guide our way and the night sky that invites the earth into slumber. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You sent the magi to follow the star into an uncertain future. May all leaders and peoples seek your face, especially when paths are not clear, conflicts rage, tyrants oppress, and fear abounds. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You sent your Spirit to dwell with Paul in prison. Send your Spirit to those who are imprisoned and enslaved (*especially*). Give courage and wisdom for building roads that lead to justice and freedom. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You sent the holy family to seek safety in a new land. Protect all who make similar journeys. Send your guiding Spirit to asylum seekers, refugees, and all who journey toward safety. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Your glory is shown to the saints. We give thanks for those whose earthly journey has ended and now dwell with you forever. Give us signs of your continual presence until that day when we arise in you. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Offering

*We give thanks, because it helps us recognize that all good things come from God.
We practice being thankful.*

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Let us pray,

Merciful God, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Holy Communion

When we receive Holy Communion, we consume what we are, the Body of Christ.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Yes! We praise you for the love, fidelity, and mercy that you continually show to us.

Your presence could shake the heavens and the earth, but instead we experience you as a resting place and refuge. Thank you.

You were faithful to Moses in his wanderings and Miriam through her song. You showed your mercy to the widow of Zarephath through your prophet Elijah. Thank you.

Your mercy shined on the Magi and reflected out into all the world. Your son Jesus brought joy to the feast and blessings to the least, last and lost. The grave could not hold him and his Spirit pushes us to live out his good news. Thank you.

We thank you and join the song of your Church in every age, and the heavenly angels as well:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
 Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

On the night in which he was handed over,
 Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 Broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 And gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this in the remembrance of me.

Let us pray as our Lord taught us:

Lord's Prayer

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

Let us lift up these common elements of bread and wine, as we ask your Holy Spirit's blessing that they might be for us the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

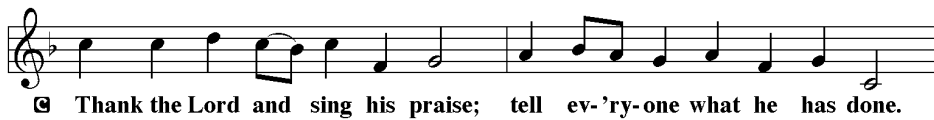
The Body of Christ, given for you.

The Blood of Christ, shed for you.

May Christ's body and blood strengthen and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Benedictus



Praise and thanks to you almighty God, for you have revealed yourself to us in bread and cup. Be generous to us, please, that we might be faithful to you and loving to our neighbor, for Jesus' sake.

Amen.

Sending

We are sent out to be salt and light, revealing God's love to a world that needs it.

Blessing

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

WOV#652 "Arise, Your Light Has Come!"

Verses 1 & 4



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Dismissal

Go with Christ into a weary world.

Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude