

Worship outline: Sunday, January 3, 2021 - Epiphany

Opening Hymn: #158 Earth Has Many a Noble City (v.2,3,4,5) (Powerpoint)

**Fairer than the sun at morning
Was the star that told His birth,
To the world its God announcing
Seen in fleshly form on earth.**

**Eastern sages at His cradle
Make oblation rich and rare;
See them give, in deep devotion,
Gold, and frankincense and myrrh.**

**Sacred gifts of mystic meaning:
Incense doth their God disclose,
Gold the King of kings proclaimeth,
Myrrh His sepulcher foreshows.**

**Jesus, whom the Gentiles worshipped
At Thy glad Epiphany,
Unto Thee, with God the Father
And the Spirit, glory be.**

Gathering of the Community

The Word became flesh and lived among us.

And we have seen his glory.

The true light that enlightens everyone has come into the world.

Glory to God who has blessed us in Christ. Glory to God forever.

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The peace

The peace of the Christ child be with you. **And also with you**

Prayer of the Day

God, you placed a star in the sky to draw wise folk to the place of Christ's nativity. There you revealed the mystery of your eternal purpose for all humanity: God made flesh, born of Mary, opening to all the world the promise you made to Abraham and Sarah. Empower your church to be as the light of the star, that we may draw the world to the glory of Christ, our Lord, through whom we pray. Amen.

First Reading 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.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

Thanks be to God

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son. May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.

May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness. May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations. May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more. May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.

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

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

He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy. From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight.

Gradual Hymn: **We Three Kings of Orient Are** (Powerpoint)

We three kings of Orient are Bearing gifts we traverse afar

Field and fountain, moor and mountain Following yonder star (Refrain)

Refrain:

O Star of wonder, star of night Star with royal beauty bright

Westward leading, still proceeding Guide us to thy Perfect Light

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign *(Refrain)*

Frankincense to offer have I
Incense owns a Deity nigh
Prayer and praising, all men raising
Worship Him, God most high *(Refrain)*

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
Breathes of life of gathering gloom
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb *(Refrain)*

Glorious now behold Him arise
King and God and Sacrifice
Alleluia, Alleluia
Earth to heav'n replies *(Refrain)*

Gospel:

The Lord be with you

And also with you

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (2:1-12)

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

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.

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Reflections:

Jan Savory

Hymn: #160 As With Gladness Men of Old (Powerpoint)

**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.**

**As with joyful steps they sped, Saviour, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before thee, whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare at that cradle rude and bare,
so may we with joyful song, raising voices pure and strong,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee our heavenly king.**

**In the heavenly country bright need they no created light:
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing alleluias to our king.**

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God, the creator of all things, the giver of life and breath. We believe in Jesus Christ, born Emmanuel, God with us, baptized and revealed. The most beloved Son of God; he sought to heal humanity by taking our brokenness upon himself, suffering for us, dying for us and being raised from the dead for our sake and for the sake of all the world.

We believe that he will come again. We believe in the Holy Spirit, continually poured out refreshing our lives, leading us into a new day, ever-birthing the church, the body of Christ in the world. This Spirit is our soul companion and counselor of truth reminding us of the gift of faith, the ever presence of God and the promise of eternal life. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Prayers of the People

Bidding: Lord God Response: we offer you ourselves

Those in need: Margaret, David, Wendy, Barbara, Alex, Michelle, Anne, George, Stephen, Jane, Sari, Paul, Marion, Gregg, Logan, Dianne, Ken, Bill, Pam, Ardene, Don, June, Rick C, Pearl, Karen, Dorothy, Patti, Carole, Steve, Nick, Jim & Judy

Those in our parish: Rev. Canon Susan Wells, Winston & Jean White, Nancy & Norman Wood, Peter & Diane Wright

In the Niagara Diocese: St. John the Evangelist, Thorold, our parish of St. Elizabeth, our rector Susan, and our Bishop Susan Bell.

In the World Wide Anglican Communion: The Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria.

THE EPIPHANY

*Jesus, the promised Messiah,
is shown to the Gentile world.*

Let us pray to the God who loves us
and knows the terrain we travel.

We thank God for all those who brought
the good news of Jesus to us,
and all who nourish our faith today.
We pray that the whole people of God
may work in unity and openness
for the coming of God's kingdom.

Silence

Lord God:
we offer you ourselves.

We thank God that salvation is for all people,
and pray for a just and accepting world
where none is rejected, despised
or treated with contempt.

Silence

Lord God:
we offer you ourselves.

We thank God for the privilege of parenting
and of living in communities;
we pray that our homes and churches
may be welcoming and generous-hearted.

Silence

Lord God:
we offer you ourselves.

We thank God for all who care
with such thoughtfulness and practical loving

for those who are vulnerable,
and especially for the very young.
We pray for healing and wholeness,
peace of mind, protection and hope.

Silence

Lord God:
we offer you ourselves.

We thank God for all who have reached
the end of their earthly journey in faith,
that they may be welcomed into his eternity.
May we use the time left to us here
as good stewards of God's gifts.

Silence

Lord God:
we offer you ourselves.

We thank God for including us
in the plan of salvation,
and pray that we may be made worthy
of our calling.

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

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

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 forever. Amen

Children's Focus

Doxology (sung X2)

(Powerpoint)

Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever, for ever and ever Amen

Blessing

Closing Hymn: #154 Joy to the World (v. 1,2,4)

(Powerpoint)

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 nature sing

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns

Let men their songs employ

While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains

Repeat the sounding joy

Repeat the sounding joy

Repeat the sounding joy

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 wonder wonders of His love

Dismissal

Go forth in the grace of Christ. We rejoice in his grace.

Go forth in the light of Christ. We walk in his light.

Go forth in the love of Christ. We serve in his love.

Social hour