

Sunday, January 6, 2018

Epiphany
Worship at 9:30 AM

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

God we search for light in this world, we search for direction and meaning to our lives. We know that in Christ our light has arrived, yet we still too often live in darkness. We ask that you would have mercy on us and continue to shine your light of love on our lives as we confess our sins to you know...

Silence for confession...

God of Light,
we confess that we have gone astray and have left your light. We follow the dim lights of the world of success and fortune. We follow the dim lights that call us to be more religious by following rules. We follow the fading light of instant gratification. Forgive us for not seeking the true light, of your love for all the world.

People of God, live in the light and love of God's forgiveness for all your sins are forgiven. Live as followers of Jesus loving one another. Forgiving one another. Live as bearers of light; giving mercy, compassion, and justice to all you encounter.

Thanks be to God.

Gathering Song

Drawn to the Light #593

1 People who walk in darkness have sought
a light in the heart of the darkest night.
Just when we thought all would be lost,
we were drawn to the light of God.

Refrain

Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night,
drawn to the light and the morning.
Glorious and bright, oh, what a sight
to be drawn to the light of God.

2 How can we tell a heaven from hell
if ev'ryone dwells in the dark of night?
Morning dispels, gently compels,
and we're drawn to the light of God. *Refrain*

3 Where is the sun? Oh, there will be none!
The Lamb is the one who is shining bright,
bids us to come! Life has begun
when we're drawn to the light of God. *Refrain*

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
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Greeting

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray...

God of life, guide us as we like the magi, follow your light as it leads us
down unfamiliar paths and unexpected destinations. Teach us to open our
eyes and look around to discover with great joy that your Christ child is all
around us. **Amen.**

WORD

Scripture Reading

Psalms 72:1-7; 11-14

Bible, pg. 464

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 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.

Word of God, Word of Life **Thanks be to God**

Children's Message

Please stand, as you are able

Scripture Acclamation Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional

God's Word for the Day

Matthew 2:1-15

Bible, pg. 783

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew. Hear God's Word for God's People.

Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening.

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.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God

Please be seated

Message

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song

Hymn of the Day

As with Gladness Men of Old

#302

- 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 by thee.
- 2 As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before
thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;

so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy seat.

- 3 As they offered gifts most rare
at thy cradle, rude and bare,
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 Jesus, 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 they glory hide.
- 5 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.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Kinsley Marie Lager, daughter of Amanda and Brandt Lager

Apostles' Creed

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Thanksgiving at the Font

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:
join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative
and redeeming word to all the world.**

Prayers

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always
And also with you

Please share the peace of our Risen Christ with your neighbors

MEAL

Offering

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of
those in need.*

Offertory Anthem Walk in the Light

Offertory Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Hymnal #184

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

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Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful
Offering Song



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 dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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Offering Prayer

Let us pray...

Loving God, we follow the Magi in giving you gifts, praying that as you receive our acts of offering, you would shine the light of Christ in our hearts to lead us in lives which serve you more deeply. **Amen**

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord 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 for the remembrance of me."

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.

The time is now. Jesus calls us all to this meal.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Hymnal pg 154

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music during Communion

Bright and Glorious Is the Sky Hymnal #301

- 1 Bright and glorious is the sky,
radiant are the heavens high
where the golden stars are shining.
All their rays to earth inclining
beckon us to heav'n above,
beckon us to heav'n above.
- 2 On that holy Christmas night
through the darkness beamed a light;
all the stars above were paling.
all their luster slowly failing
as the wondrous star drew nigh,
as the wondrous star drew nigh..
- 3 Sages from the East afar,
when they saw this wondrous star,
went to find the king of nations
and to offer their oblations
to the child, the newborn king,
to the child, the newborn king.
- 4 Him they found in Bethlehem,

yet he wore no diadem;
there they saw a maiden lowly
with an infant pure and holy
resting in her loving arms,
resting in her loving arms.

5 Guided by the star, they found
him whose praise the ages sound.
We too have a star to guide us,
which forever will provide us
with the light to find our Lord,
with the light to find our Lord.

6 And this star, as bright as day,
that will never lead astray
with its message so appealing,
is the word of God, revealing
Christ, the way, the truth, the life,
Christ, the way, the truth, the life.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Jens Christian Aaberg, 1877-1970, alt.

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Hymn Brightest and Best of the Stars #303

1 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
 dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.
 Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
 guide where our infant redeemer is laid.

2 Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining;
 low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
 angels adore him in slumber reclining,
 maker and monarch and savior of all.

3 What shall we give him, in costly devotion?
 Shall we bring incense 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 ample oblation,

vainly with gifts would his favor secure;
richer by far is the heart's adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

- 5 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
 dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.
 Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
 guide where our infant redeemer is laid.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, alt.

Table Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray...

*We give you thanks for inviting us to your table to remind us that you go beyond what is reasonable and call us to wonder at the depths of your love. May this meal nourish our faith as we go from this place to follow your light wherever it may lead. **Amen.***

SENDING

Announcements

Benediction

May the faithful persistence of the magi guide you as you seek Jesus. Always moving toward the promise of hope. Always aware God can be hidden in the frailest among us. Always open to the unexpected flash of God's grace reminding us that God embraces us all. **Amen.**

Sending Song**Be Thou My Vision**

#793

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
- 3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 4 Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931

Dismissal

Go in peace. Go in hope. Go in love.

It's about time.**Postlude**