

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Epiphany of Our Lord

2 January 2022

Welcome to Bethesda Church. Thank you for joining us for worship today. Masks are required while inside the church. For everyone's safety, please see the back of this bulletin for the guidelines to attend church.

Prelude

We Three Kings

David Maxwell

The Opening Acclamation

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit
People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect of The Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And with thy spirit.
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who by the leading of a star didst manifest thy only-begotten Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know thee now by faith, to thy presence, where we may behold thy glory face to face; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated

The First Lesson

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.

The Lector concludes
The People respond

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

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 little hills bring righteousness.

**He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.

**He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.**

In his time shall the righteous flourish; *

there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, *
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.**

All kings shall bow down before him, *
and all the nations do him service.

**For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, *
and the oppressed who has no helper.**

He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; *
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

**He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, *
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.**

The Second Lesson (10am)

Ephesians 3:1-12

I Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - assume that you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

*The Lector concludes
The People respond*

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The people stand, if able.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

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.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Nicene Creed *Said by all .*

I believe in one God,
 the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 and of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the only-begotten Son of God,
 begotten of his Father before all worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light,
 very God of very God;
 begotten, not made;
 being of one substance with the Father;
 by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation
 came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,

and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried:
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;
who spake by the Prophets.

And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of The People *Pease kneel.*

At the Epiphany, the Wise Men knelt before our Savior. Let us also kneel to worship him with great joy, and to make our prayer to his heavenly Father.

Father, the Wise Men came from the east to worship your Son: grant to Christians everywhere a true spirit of adoration.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Your Son is the King of kings and Lord of lords: grant an abundance of peace to your world.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Father, the Holy Family shared the life of the people of Nazareth: protect in your mercy our families and neighbors.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Your Son was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor: show your love for the poor and powerless.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Father, the Wise Men presented to your Son gold, frankincense and myrrh: accept the gifts we bring, and the offering of our hearts at the beginning of this new year.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

You are the King of heaven, the hope of all who trust in you: give to all the faithful departed the wonders of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the Wise Men, shepherds, and angels, and of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph, we commend ourselves and all Christian people to your unfailing love.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant concludes with a prayer.

The people respond Amen.

The Celebrant introduces the Confession

The people say

Almighty God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
maker of all things, judge of all men:
We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins
and wickedness,
which we from time to time most grievously have committed,
by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty,
provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.
We do earnestly repent,
and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us,
the burden of them is intolerable.
Have mercy upon us,
have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may ever hereafter
serve and please thee in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of thy Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Absolution

The Celebrant says

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace *Please stand.*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And with thy spirit.

At The Offertory Carol (at 10am)

1. The first Nowell the angel 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.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

2. 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. (Refrain)

3. 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. (Refrain)

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. (Refrain)

5. Then entered in those wise men three
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence,
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. (Refrain)

6. 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 our life hath bought. (Refrain)

The Great Thanksgiving *Please stand, if you are able.*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them up unto the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
People It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface Of the Epiphany

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, thou hast caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of thy glory in the face of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sanctus and Benedictus Qui Venit *Sung by all*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of
 Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -
 - ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Eucharistic Prayer *Please kneel, if you are able.*

The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic Prayer, which concludes

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of The Bread

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Prayer of Humble Access *Said by all*

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteous -ness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Agnus Dei *Sung by all*

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
on us. O Lamb of God, that
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have
mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of

God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the
world, grant us thy peace.

At The Communion As With Gladness Men Of Old Philip Gehring

The Post Communion Prayer *Said by all, kneeling if you are able.*

Almighty and ever-living God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Blessing

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. Amen.

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Please stand as the celebrant departs, if you are able.

Voluntary How Lovely Shines the Morning Star Dietrich Buxtehude

Notices

<p>In our Intercessions for the Church and Parish this week, we pray for Anglican Communion The Episcopal / Anglican Province of the Congo Our Parish For all those who are seeking God</p>

We remember with thanksgiving those who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week. We also pray for those who have died recently and those whose year's mind falls at this time.

Offering Envelopes are here for 2022. Please see an usher for your envelopes. If you do not currently use envelopes but would like to, please contact the church office.

To make a gift of Eucharist Elements for a month, or Altar flowers for a week, please contact the church office. Your generosity is appreciated.

The Annual General meeting is scheduled for the 30 January. There will be one service only on this day at 9am. The meeting will take place immediately after the Eucharist.

Pledges As of 20 December we have received 69 pledges totaling just over \$212,500. Thank you to all who have pledged to Bethesda. If you have not yet done so, there are pledge cards on the back of the table.

Special Offering for January. Parishioners who receive envelopes will notice there is a special envelope included for each month of the year. The special envelope in January will assist the church with the cost of heating during the winter months.

Newcomers— we encourage anyone who wishes to join the parish to complete a visitor card available on the back table.

Financial gifts for the ministry of Bethesda Church are gratefully received. Please place your donation in the collection plates. We appreciate your support.

LifeWorks Community Action (formerly EOC). Thank you to all those who have donated. As you can imagine the need is ongoing. If you would like to help by donating here is a list of items needed.

- ◆ Foods low in salt, fat & sugar. Gluten Free foods.
- ◆ Household cleaning supplies.
- ◆ Sponges, laundry detergent, dishwasher detergent.
- ◆ Diapers (size 4 & 5) and baby wipes.
- ◆ Baby care products like baby shampoo and soap.
- ◆ Adult personal hygiene products such as soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, razors, shaving cream, deodorant.

Fresh vegetables as well as other perishable food items like eggs, milk, butter, can be brought directly to the food pantry located at 39 Bath Street, Ballston Spa. Donations are accepted Monday - Friday from 9am to 4pm.

If you are shopping online remember to use **AMAZONSMILE** and designate Bethesda Episcopal Church as the charity to which you want Amazon to donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/14-1364477>.

Weekly Services at Bethesda

Monday to Friday	12 Noon Midday Prayers (Eucharist on Wednesdays)
Every Saturday	Vigil Eucharist (Rite II) 5pm
Every Sunday	Services at 8am & 10am.

A Prayer for Blessing your Home at the Epiphany

Begin by saying:

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

Using the blessed chalk, near your front door (on a wall, the lintel or step) write the following:

20 + C + M + B + 22.

Then, say this prayer:

The Three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and twenty-one years ago.

May Christ bless our (my) home and remain with us (me) throughout this new year.
Amen.

You may also offer the following prayer:

Visit, O Lord, this dwelling, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy Angels dwell herein, to preserve us (me) in peace; and let your blessing be upon us (me) for evermore; through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Guidelines for Attending Church

According to New York State policy, everyone (regardless of vaccination status) is required to always wear a mask while inside the church.

Please do not attend church if you are currently ill or have been in contact recently with someone who is ill.

Hand sanitizer is provided at the entrance of the church.

At the exchange of the Peace, please do not leave your pew.

At the distribution of Communion, remain in your pew until an usher invites you to move to the chancel step.

Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

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