

*Introduction to the day: 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.*

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

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### **WELCOME**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who was in the beginning,  
who makes a dwelling among us,  
who covers us with justice and mercy.

**Amen.**

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

God of goodness and lovingkindness,

**we confess that we have sinned against you  
and our neighbors.**

**We have turned away from your invitation to new life.**

**We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden.**

**In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,  
those we know and those known only to you,  
for the sake of the one who came to live among us,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Hear the good news of peace and salvation!

God forgives us all our sins,

not through our own work,

but through † Jesus Christ, made known to all people.

With all who come to the manger,

rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

**Amen.**

### **GATHERING SONG** *Joy to the World*

Source: Voices Together #240

*Please mute yourselves and sing along with Rachel*

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive its king;

let ev'ry heart prepare him room,

and heav'n and nature sing,

and heav'n and nature sing,

and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

(cont. next page)

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground.  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

4 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 wonders, wonders of his love.

## **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.**

## **HYMN OF PRAISE**

*Where Are You Now?*

Special Music Lauren Daigle

*Please mute yourselves and sing along with Rachel*

Where are You now  
When darkness seems to win?  
Where are You now  
When the world is crumbling?

Oh I, I-I-I, I hear You say  
I hear You say  
"Look up child", hey  
"Look up child", hey

Where are You now (Where are You?)  
When all I feel is doubt?  
Oh, where are You now  
When I can't figure it out?

Oh I, I-I-I, I hear You say  
I hear You say  
"Look up child", hey  
"Look up child", hey

"Look up child", hey  
"Look up child", hey  
"Look up..."

You're not threatened by the war  
You're not shaken by the storm  
I know You're in control  
Even in our suffering  
Even when it can't be seen  
I know You're in control  
Oh I, I-I-I, I hear You say  
I hear You say

"Look up child", hey  
"Look up child", hey  
"Look up child"  
I hear You say, You say, You say (Hey)  
"Look up child"  
I hear You say, You say, You say (Hey)  
Look up, look up, look up, look up  
"Look up child"  
I hear You say, You say, You say  
"Look up child"  
I hear You say, You say, You say  
Look up, look up, look up, look up  
"Look up child"  
I hear You say, You say, You say  
I hear You, I hear You calling my name, oh  
I hear You say, You say, You say  
"Look up, look up child", hey  
"Look up child", hey

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

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**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 60:1-6 (Jeff Dodge)

*A reading from Isaiah.*

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup>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.  
<sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.  
<sup>4</sup>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.  
<sup>5</sup>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.  
<sup>6</sup>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.  
Word of God. Word of Life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM:** Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (Allen Dunn)

<sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;  
<sup>2</sup>**that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**  
<sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.  
<sup>4</sup>**Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**  
<sup>5</sup>May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.  
<sup>6</sup>**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**  
<sup>7</sup>In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.  
<sup>10</sup>**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**  
<sup>11</sup>May all kings bow down before him,  
and all the nations do him service.  
<sup>12</sup>**For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,  
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**  
<sup>13</sup>He has compassion on the lowly and poor,  
and preserves the lives of the needy.  
<sup>14</sup>**From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,  
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

**KIDS' MESSAGE** (Rachel Kurtz)

**SECOND READING:** Ephesians 3:1-12 (Kristen Blackburn)

*A reading from Ephesians.*

<sup>1</sup>This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>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: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 2:1-12 (Rachel Kurtz)

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>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.” <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>‘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.’”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>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.” <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON** *(Rachel Kurtz)*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY** *(Rachel Kurtz)*

You heard the cry of our hearts  
And you came down  
Freely you gave us your love  
Showing us how  
Make me an instrument of your peace  
Where there is hatred let me show love  
Where there is darkness let me shine light and  
May your love cause us to open up  
Cause us to open up our hearts  
May your light cause us to shine so bright  
That we bring hope into the dark  
All that we do without love  
It means nothing  
Grant us the courage to give  
As you're calling  
Make me an instrument of your peace  
Where there is hatred let me show love  
Where there is darkness let me shine light and  
May your love cause us to open up  
Cause us to open our hearts  
May your light cause us to shine so bright  
That we bring hope into the dark

## **CREED**

In this Christmas Season, let us join with Christians throughout the world and confess our shared faith using the words of the 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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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 OF INTERCESSION** *(Barb Morris)*

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Glorious God, fill your church with joy. Let your faithful people live as beacons of your redemption. Give wisdom and courage to your church that it may speak with boldness and confidence, even when words of mercy are met with scorn. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Show us your faithfulness in the rising and setting of the sun. Place wonder into the hearts of those who search the skies and explore the heavens. Curb waste and pollution, that all might have clean air to breathe. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Bring all nations and rulers to the splendor of your dawn. Raise up advocates who champion the cause of exploited and vulnerable people. Inspire leaders to be generous with abundance, that all people might live in stability and freedom. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Come quickly with your healing power to all who seek love, support, and restoration. Dispel fears and shadows. Restore broken relationships and mend broken hearts. Bring relief to those who are sick or struggling, especially those suffering as a result of the ongoing pandemic. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Send traveling mercies upon all who journey home by other roads. Guard refugees, immigrants, and asylum seekers. Protect families fleeing conflict in their homelands or abuse in their homes. Tend to those who have no place to lay their heads. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

According to the boundless riches of Christ, you draw all your saints, from the least to the greatest, to your heavenly places. As you created all things, make all things new again in the splendor of your glory. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other prayers of thanksgiving or for special needs may be included by the congregation*

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

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## **OFFERING**

*We acknowledge that all we have is a gift from God and in gratefulness we return to God a portion of the time, finances, and gifts that God has given us. Thank you so much for your continued support in these unusual times.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Gracious God,  
you came to us as one unknown,  
bringing joy and salvation to the earth.  
Nourish us at your banquet table,  
that with all who welcome your birth  
we may proclaim your peace,  
revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER** (ELW p. 112)

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

## COMMUNION

*During this time, you are invited to take communion in your home or to be in a time of prayer.*

**SONG DURING COMMUNION**    “Special Music”    (Rachel Kurtz)

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, gracious God,  
that you have once again fed us from your very self  
with the body and blood of Christ.  
Through this mystery, send us forth  
to proclaim your promise to a world in need,  
through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

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## BLESSING

Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,  
proclaimed joy through the angels,  
sent the shepherds with good news,  
and led the magi by a star,  
bless you this day ✚ through the Word made flesh.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG**    *Angels We Have Heard On High*

*Please mute yourselves and sing along with Rachel*

1 Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly swinging o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains

*Chorus:* Gloria In Excelsis Deo. Gloria In Excelsis Deo

2 Shepherds why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be  
Which inspire your heavenly song? *Chorus*

3 Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him Whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King *Chorus*

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.  
**Thanks be to God and we will.**

## **CELEBRATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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