



*ST. JAMES' CHURCH*  
MADISON AVENUE AT 71ST STREET



Three Magi Bearing Gifts, Giotto di Bondone, 1304-1306

# Epiphany Lessons & Carols

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY • JANUARY 6, 2022

## **ABOUT EPIPHANY**

Tonight we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, the culmination of the Twelve Days of Christmas. The Greek word epiphany means "to manifest" or "to show." Epiphany celebrates the appearance of God's glory in the world through the birth of Jesus, and the revelation of the Incarnation to the whole world. This is the moment we see that Jesus is so much more than a good human being, a wise teacher, and a moral example; he is Emmanuel, God with us, the Word made flesh. The Epiphany season, which begins tonight, is associated with the first manifestations of Jesus — to the wise men, in his presentation in the Temple, at his baptism in the River Jordan, in the calling of his first disciples, and through his first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee.

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## **IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

**OFFICIANT**           The Rev. James H.B. Morton III  
**PREACHER**           The Rev. Zachary R. Thompson  
**ASSISTING CLERGY**   The Rev. Brenda G. Husson  
**MUSICIANS**           The St. James' Compostela Choir  
                              Dr. E. Davis Wortman II, Stephen Tharp

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# THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

## LESSONS & CAROLS

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### PRELUDE

Improvisation

Stephen Tharp

*The service begins with a period of silence in a darkened church.*

### A READING

*seated*

JOHN 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

### AT THE PROCESSION

*standing, sung by all*

Hymn 82 Of the Father's love begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

### THE BIDDING PRAYER

*Celebrant* Dear People of God: As the days of Christmastide draw to a close with the celebration of the Epiphany, let it be our care and delight to celebrate with joy the appearance of God's glory in the world. As the kings arrive to pay homage to Christ, the Word made flesh who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light, let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us kneel and pray for the needs of God's whole world:

*The people kneel.*

For peace and justice on earth; for the unity and mission of the Church Christ came to build, and for which he died; and especially for this country, this city of New York, and this congregation at St. James'.

And because the Light has been promised particularly to those who dwell in darkness, let us remember in Christ's name the poor and the oppressed; the cold, the hungry and the homeless; the sick and all who mourn; and those who are in any kind of distress.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and who followed the star that led to Christ, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself taught us, saying:

*People*

**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 Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.

*People*

**Amen.**

*The people sit.*

**THE FIRST LESSON****MATTHEW 1:18-23**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,

‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel’, which means, ‘God is with us.’

**ANTHEM**

Bogoroditse Devo (Bogoróditse Dyévo)

Sergei Rachmaninoff

*Bogoróditse Dyévo, ráduisya,  
Blagodátnaya Mariye, Gospód s tobóyu.  
Blagoslovyéna ty v zhenákh,  
i blagoslovyén plod chryéva tvojevó,  
yáko Spása rodilá yesí dush náshikh.*

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos,  
Mary full of grace, the Lord is with Thee.  
Blessed art Thou amongst women,  
and blessed is the Fruit of Thy womb,  
for Thou hast borne the Savior of our souls.

—*Orthodox Vespers Service***THE SECOND LESSON****LUKE 2:8-20**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among

those whom he favours!’

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hymn 92 On this day earth shall ring

PERSONENT HODIE

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout,

looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

#### ANTHEM

Nunc Dimittis (Collegium Regale)

Herbert Howells

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word;  
 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,  
 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;  
 To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel.  
 Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

—*Luke 2:29, Book of Common Prayer*

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."

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 gift of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.'

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star

Hymn 128 We three kings of Orient are

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT

*The Congregation sings stanzas 1 and 5 and the refrain.*

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Zachary R. Thompson

Hymn 117 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning

MORNING STAR

AT THE OFFERTORY

*An offering is collected as a symbol of our life and labor and to support the work of the church.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

There Shall a Star

Felix Mendelssohn

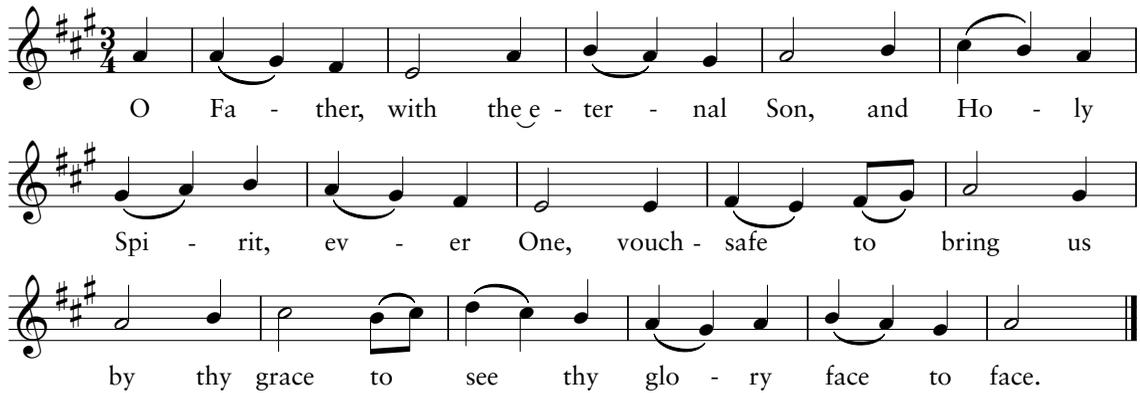
There shall a star from Jacob come forth,  
 And a sceptre from Israel rise up,  
 And dash in pieces princes and nations.  
 As bright the star of morning gleams,  
 So Jesus sheddeth glorious beams  
 Of light and consolation!

Thy Word, O Lord,  
 Radiance darting,  
 Truth imparting,  
 Gives salvation;  
 Thine be praise and adoration!

—Numbers 24:17, Psalm 2:9

PRESENTATION HYMN *standing, sung by all*

WAREHAM



O Fa - ther, with the e - ter - nal Son, and Ho - ly  
Spi - rit, ev - er One, vouch - safe to bring us  
by thy grace to see thy glo - ry face to face.

Words: Latin, 15th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861. Music: *Wareham*, melody William Knapp (1698-1768).

THE COLLECT FOR EPIPHANY

*Celebrant* O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*People* Amen.

*As we sing the closing hymn, the congregation processes out of the church, following the Kings and clergy, for the lighting of the Epiphany Fire and Candles, Blessing, and Dismissal.*

CLOSING HYMN

1. The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
*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*

**PRAYERS OVER THE NEW FIRE**

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Look down, O Lord, from your heavenly throne, and shine forth your light in our darkness, that your presence may be revealed to us, and that by night and day your people may glorify your holy Name; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

*People* **Amen.**

*Celebrant* By way of Bethlehem lead us, O Lord, to newness of life;

By the innocence of the Christ Child renew our simple trust;

By the tenderness of Mary deliver us from cruelty and hardness of heart;

By the patience of Joseph save us from all rash judgment and action;

By the shepherds' watch open our eyes to the signs of your coming;

By the wise men's journey keep our searching spirit from fainting;

By the music of the heavenly choir put to shame the clamor of the earth;

And by the shining of a star guide our feet into the way of peace.

All this, we ask in Jesus' name.

*People* **Amen.**

**THE BLESSING**

*Officiant* May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

*People* **Amen.**

**THE DISMISSAL**

*Asst. Priest* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*We are glad you joined us for worship. Please come back often.*





