



THE WORSHIP OF GOD
Epiphany Sunday
January 3, 2021

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Allyson Lawrence
Associate Minister

MUSIC OF PREPARATION

We Three Kings
Mr. Rick Massengale, organ

John Hopkins

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lawrence and **People**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with us all.
Blessed be the one, holy and living God.
Glory to God forever and ever. Amen.

***HYMN**

The First Noel

THE FIRST NOEL

*The first Noel 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.*

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

*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.*

*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.*

***OPENING PRAYER**

Rev. Lawrence and **People**

Eternal God, by the birth of Jesus Christ you gave yourself to the world. Grant that, being born in our hearts, he may save us from all our sins, and restore within us the image and likeness of our Creator, to whom be everlasting praise and glory, world without end. Amen.



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*When I was a seeker, I sought both night and day.
I asked the Lord to help me, and he showed me the way.*

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.*

*While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flock by night,
Behold! throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.*

*And lo! when they had seen it, they all bowed down and prayed.
They traveled on together to where the Babe was laid.*

*He made me a watchman upon the city wall;
And if I am a Christian, I am the least of all.*

***PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Rev. Lawrence and People

**Prepare our hearts, O Lord, to accept your word.
Silence in us any voice but your own; that hearing we may also obey your will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Matthew 2:1-12

Rev. Lawrence

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "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." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'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.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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."

⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

May God bless the hearing of this scripture.

Thanks be to God.

INVITATION, CONFESSION AND PARDON

Rev. Lawrence and **People**

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another.
So now, let us rise in body or spirit and confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

**Let us pray together:*

Gracious God, have mercy on us.

We confess thick tongues and awkward lives; we are slow to sing your praise.

**Yet, we plead, Lord, in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown, those things done and left undone.**

**Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and the glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are a forgiven people.

Glory to God! Alleluia! Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Offer one another signs of reconciliation and love:

“The peace of Christ be with you.” **“And also with you.”**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
God Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

... And so,
with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory,**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

... And so,
in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

... Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and for ever.

Amen.

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

THE 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. Amen.

COMMUNION

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Rev. Lawrence and **People**

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN**

Love Came Down at Christmas

GARTAN

*Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign.*

*Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine;
Worship we our Jesus, but wherewith the sacred sign?*

*Love shall be our token, love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men, love for plea and gift and sign.*

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Lawrence

POSTLUDE

Postlude on 'Il Est Ne'

Keith Christopher

*Please stand in body or spirit.

Congregational responses are in **bold type**.

*Offerings may be sent to the church office by mail
or made online. See link and QR code.*

Please remember in your prayers:

Billy Arnold
Van Askew
Carolyn Broady
Annelle Burch
Joe Byers

Quentin Cash
Richard Clayton
Summer Dorsey
Howard Dunham
Bob Garrett

Margaret Grainger
Martha Hale
Cindy Jennings
Doris Kerlin
Sara Morgan

Lurlene Perry
Claudia Rhodes
Jon Wade
Mabel Wilbanks
Brad Wilkinson

In Memoriam
Norma Saunders
December 26, 2020

Our Christian prayers and sympathy are with

Don Saunders and Dennis (Linda) Saunders and families upon the death of Don's wife and Dennis' mother, Norma Saunders, on December 26, 2020.



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GIVING

