

Journey of the Magi by Jan Richardson

Grace Episcopal Church

Epiphany Sunday

January 6, 2019 | 8 and 9:30am

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Music | Wendi Olinger

Tribe | Cherry

Epiphany

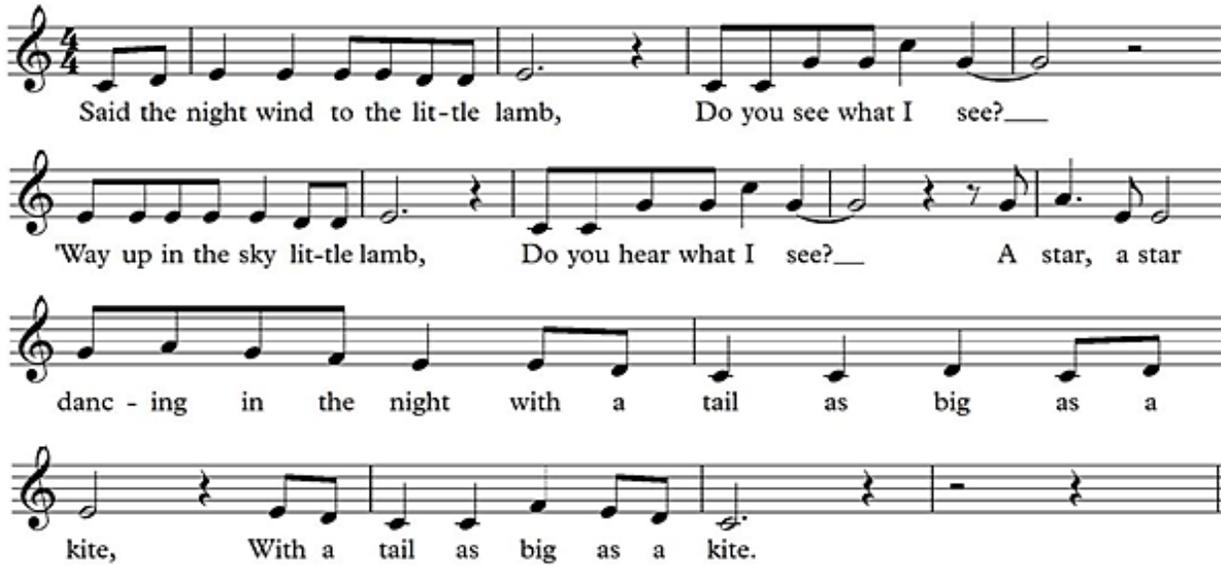
It might have been just someone else's story,
Some chosen people get a special king.
We leave them to their own peculiar glory,
We don't belong, it doesn't mean a thing.
But when these three arrive they bring us with them,
Gentiles like us, their wisdom might be ours;
A steady step that finds an inner rhythm,
A pilgrim's eye that sees beyond the stars.
They did not know his name but still they sought him,
They came from elsewhere but still they found;
In temples they found those who sold and bought him,
But in the filthy stable, hallowed ground.
Their courage gives our questing hearts a voice
To seek, to find, to worship, to rejoice

~ Malcom Guite

We remain standing and sing together.

Opening Song | Do You Hear What I Hear?

by Noel Regney & Gloria Shayne



Said the night wind to the lit-tle lamb, Do you see what I see?__

'Way up in the sky lit-tle lamb, Do you hear what I see?__ A star, a star

danc - ing in the night with a tail as big as a

kite, With a tail as big as a kite.

Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king
Do you know what I know?
In your palace wall mighty king
Do you know what I know?
A child, a child shivers in the cold
Let us bring him silver and gold
Let us bring him silver and gold

Said the king to the people everywhere
Listen to what I say
Pray for peace people everywhere
Listen to what I say
The child, the child sleeping in the night
He will bring us goodness and light
He will bring us goodness and light

The Collect

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

God of wonder, by the leading of a star you draw all of humanity to yourself, calling people of all nations to journey to you. Today by the light of your Spirit, guide our steps, receive the gifts we bring as we adore you, and grant us wisdom to discern your will and seek your presence in unexpected places. **Amen.**

WE TELL THE STORY

We are seated for the reading.

The First Reading | 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.

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

We stand and say the Psalm.

Psalm | 72:1-7,10-14

Give the king your justice O God
and your righteousness to the king's son,

**that he may judge your people rightly
and uphold the poor with justice.**

Let the mountains bring forth peace for the people
and the hills prosperity with justice.

**May the king defend the cause of the poor among the people
save the children of the needy and crush the oppressor.**

May he live as long as the sun endures
and long as the moon from age to age.

**May he come down like rain upon the grass
like showers that water the earth.**

In his days may righteousness flourish
and abundance of peace till the moon is no more.

**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute
the kings of Sheba and Seba bring their gifts.**

May all kings fall prostrate before him
and all nations render him service.

**He shall deliver the needy when they cry
and the poor who have no helper.**

He shall have pity on the weak and the needy
and save the lives of the poor.

**He shall rescue them from oppression and violence
and their blood shall be precious in his sight.**

We are seated for the second reading.

The Second Reading | Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles-- for surely 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.

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

We stand together and sing

Gospel Song | We Three Kings

Words: Matthew 2:11, John H. Hopkins, Jr. | Music: KINGS OF ORIENT; John H Hopkins, Jr.



1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are, Bear - ing
2. Born a babe on Beth - le - hem's plain, Gold we
3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; In - cense
4. Myrrh is mine: its bit - ter per - fume Breathes a
5. Glo - rious now be - hold him rise, King and



gifts we trav - erse a - far Field and foun - tain,
bring to crown him a - gain; King for - ev - er,
owns a De - i - ty nigh, Prayer and prais - ing
life of gath - 'ring gloom; Sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
God and sac - ri - fice: Heav'n sings, "Hal - le -



Moor and moun - tain, Fol - low - ing yon - der star.
Ceas - ing nev - er, O - ver us all to reign.
Glad - ly rais - ing, Wor - ship - ing God on high.
Bleed - ing, dy - ing, Sealed in the stone cold tomb.
lu - jah!" "Hal - le - lu - jah!" earth re - plies.



O star of won - der, star of night, Star with



roy - al beau - ty bright, West - ward lead - ing, still pro -



ceed - ing, Guide us to the per - fect Light.

The Celebrant then introduces the Gospel by saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

The Gospel | Matthew 2:1-12

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.

After the Gospel the Celebrant will say

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

The Homily

At the 9:30am service the children are invited to join Wren for a conversation about the gospel reading. Afterwards they may go to their classrooms and return for Communion.

Affirmation of Faith

We stand and say

**We believe in God above us,
maker and sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon,
of water and earth,
of all humanity.**

**We believe in God beside us,
Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,
Born of a woman's womb, servant of the poor,
he was tortured and nailed to a tree.
Knowing full passion and deep sorrow, he died forsaken.
He descended into the earth to the place of death.
On the third day he rose from the tomb.
He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present,
and his Kingdom will one day be known.**

**We believe in God within us,
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the Church.
She is the Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of resurrection and of life everlasting. Amen.**

We gather in prayer.

The Prayers of the People

Gathering

Leader “In the time of King Herod, 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.’”

As we journey, we look for our epiphany, our revelation as the Wise Men on their long journey found the Christ child.

All **May we find the star of Christ and be open to his leading and new discoveries in the beginning of this new year.**

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts.

Prayer Requests

Leader “In Christ Jesus our Lord we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.”

We offer prayers for those we carry in our hearts, for the disabled, the aging and their helpers, and for those on our prayer list.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts.

Leader Light of Jesus,

All **lead us in our prayers.**

Gratitude

Leader “Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice.”

We give thanks to Christ who is the road on which we travel, our companion along the way, and our journey’s end.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts.

Leader Light of Jesus,

All **lead us in our prayers.**

Life Journeys

Leader “Arise shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.”

We offer prayers for ourselves and for others when the emotional, spiritual or physical journey is fearful and dangerous. Open all of us to the experience of Christ’s hope, faithfulness, and love.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts.

Leader Light of Jesus,

All **lead us in our prayers.**

World and Faith Leaders

Leader “In his time shall the righteous flourish; there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.”

May God bless leaders of the world and faith communities with the compassion to work for peace with love for all people.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts.

Leader Light of Jesus,

All **lead us in our prayers.**

Closing

Leader “On entering the house, the Magi 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.”

All **Christ, in the spirit of love, hear our prayers and embrace our hopes. Show us your presence in the world.**

The Peace

We conclude these prayers with the sharing of God’s peace.

Celebrant We turn to one another with outstretched arms, saying: the peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

After the peace, we are seated.

Offertory Song | Good King Wenceslas by Jeremy Frederick Lanning / John M. Neale

Offered by Kim Cockroft, Deanna Gemmer, & Wendi Olinger

THE CELEBRATION OF OUR SACRED MEAL

We stand as the table is set with the gifts of our hearts and hands.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might a-dored,
heaven and earth shine so bright with the glo - ry of your light.
Loud ho-san-nas now we sing! In the high-est may they ring! Blest is your An-
oint-ed One, Christ, E - man - nu - el, your Son. Sing Ho-san - na
at his birth! Glo - ry on high, and peace on earth!

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me." And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

**All Dying, you destroyed our death.
 Rising, you restored our life.
 Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

The Celebrant continues.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

All Blessed are you now and forever. AMEN.

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

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

We are now invited to share the gifts of Communion.

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast! Alleluia!

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Please know that at Grace Church all are invited to receive the bread and wine. This sacrament is God's free gift. Assist the Chalice Bearers by tipping the cup from the base. Please tell your server if you prefer a wafer that is free from gluten, soy, and dairy.

Music during Communion | Winter Sky *by Billy Edd Wheeler*

Solo by Dusty Collings

Out under the winter sky

Out under the winter sky

Stars come trembling on my eye

Stars do tremble on my eye

And I feel like something's gonna die

I feel like something's gonna die

I feel like something's gonna die

Hand me wings for to fly

High is heaven in early morn

High is heaven in early morn

We lie sleeping in beds that are warm

Sleep in beds that are warm

And I feel like something's being born

I feel like something's being born

I feel like something's being born

Tells my soul not to mourn

What Star is This?

Words: Charles Coffin | Music: *Puer nobis*, melody from Trier MS, 15th cent.; adapt. Michael Praetorius

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more beau - teous
 2 True spake the pro - phet from a - far who told the
 3 The guid - ing star a - bove is bright; with - in them
 4 O Je - sus, while the star of grace im - pels us
 5 To God the Fa - ther, heaven - ly Light, to Christ, re -

1 than the noon - day light? It shines to her - ald
 2 rise of Ja - cob's star; and east - ern sa - ges
 3 shines a clear - er light, and leads them on with
 4 on to seek thy face, let not our sloth - ful
 5 vealed in earth - ly night, to God the Ho - ly

1 forth the King, and Gen - tiles to his crib to bring.
 2 with a - maze up - on the won - drous to - ken gaze.
 3 power be - nign to seek the Giv - er of the sign.
 4 hearts re - fuse the guid - ance of thy light to use.
 5 Ghost we raise our e - qual and un - ceas - ing praise.

One Light, One Sun

by Raffi Cavoukian

1. One light, one sun, One sun light-ing eve-ry one,
 2. One world, one home, One world home for eve-ry one,
 3. One love, one song, One song heard by eve-ry one,
 One world turn - ing, One world turn-ing eve-ry one.
 One dream, one song, One song heard by eve-ry one.
 One hope, one joy, One love fill - ing eve-ry one.
 4. One light, one sun, One sun light-ing eve - ry
 one, One light warm-ing eve - ry one.

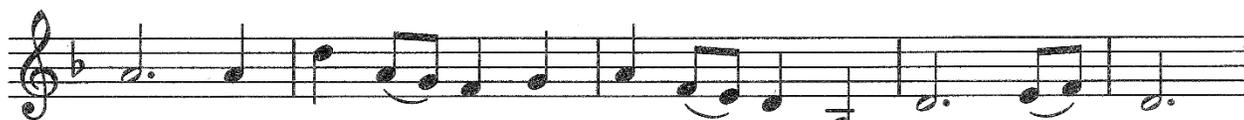
*Following Communion we share silence with one another.
The quiet will last a few minutes and will begin and end with a bell.*

Song after Communion | Shalom Chaverim

Traditional



Sha - lom cha-ver-rim, Sha - lom cha-ver-rim, Sha - lom, Sha -
Sha - loam khah-vair-eem, Sha - loam khah-vair-eem, Sha - loam, Sha -



lom! Le - hit - ra - ot, Le - hit - ra - ot, Sha - lom, Sha - lom!
loam! Luh - heet - rah - aut, Luh - heet - rah - aut, Sha - loam, Sha - loam!

GOING OUT INTO GOD'S WORLD

Our Prayer after Communion

We stand and say together

**Eternal God,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Pastoral Letter

The Rector reads a letter from Bishop Rickel.

The Blessing

The Celebrant offers a blessing.

May God who led the Magi by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the light from light, lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord. And the blessing of God be upon you, Christ's peace be with you, and the Spirit surround you now and always. **Amen**

Closing Song | He Came Down

Cameroon trad.; arr. Marty Haugen

He came down that we may have *love, he
came down that we may have love, he
came down that we may have love, Hal - le -
lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above a bracket) and lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'He came down that we may have *love, he came down that we may have love, he came down that we may have love, Hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.'

* peace,

* joy

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Announcements

Dismissal

Celebrant Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

As you depart, please take chalk from the basket by the door to write an Epiphany blessing over the door of your home.

Journey of the Magi

'A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter.'
And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory,
Lying down in the melting snow.
There were times we regretted
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling
And running away, and wanting their liquor and women,
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:
A hard time we had of it.
At the end we preferred to travel all night,
Sleeping in snatches,
With the voices singing in our ears, saying
That this was all folly.

Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;
With a running stream and a water-mill beating the darkness,
And three trees on the low sky,
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins,
But there was no information, and so we continued
And arrived at evening, not a moment too soon
Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory.

All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.

~ T.S. Eliot,
from *Collected Poems 1909-1962* (Faber, 1974)



The Wise Ones by Jan Richardson

The Slave to His Star

written 1863

Bright star, of all stars beloved,
To thee I turned from dreams erewhile;
Far up in God's free heaven unmoved,
I saw by night thy ceaseless smile,
Lighting a path of hope afar,
Freedom's high watchfire for the free—
Steadfast and solitary star,
I felt that fire was lit for me!

I gaze upon thy Northern light,
That never fails, and falters never,
But hang far over day and night,
From Heaven's wall shine down forever;
I seem to hear a voice of God
Speak through the silence down to me,
"Thy feet are strong, thy way is broad,
The star shall be my path for thee."

Hiding in darkling caves by day,
With toiling footsteps through the night,
To me came down thy guardian ray,
A burning lamp, a shining light!
The Red Sea of my pilgrim road,
Whose parted waves hung threateningly,
I traversed while that beacon glowed,
And freedom's fettered slave is free.

Star of the slave, crown of the free,
The eternal midnight's dearest gem,
My race from midnight look to thee,
As Bethlehem's star art thou to them.
Forever dear their light above,
Their path below through wood and wave,
Their evening star of trust and love,
Thou pilot of the pathless slave!

~ William Slade,
black leader, businessman, and White House steward.