



“Shining Hope”/ Lauren Wright Pittman

Grace Episcopal Church

Epiphany Sunday

January 3, 2021 | 9:30am

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Curate | Stephen Crippen

Music | Martin Cockroft

Star Song

We have been having
epiphanies like stars
all this year long.
And now, at its close
when the planets
are shining through frost,
light runs like music
in the bones,
and the heart keeps rising
at the sound of any song.
An old magic flows
in the silver calling
of a bell,
rounding
high and clear,
flying, falling,
sounding
the death knell
of our old year,
telling the new appearing
of Christ, our Morning Star.

Now burst,
all our bell throats!
Toll,
every clapper tongue!
Stun the still night.
Jesus himself gleams through
our high heart notes
(it is no fable).
It is he whose light
glistens in each song sung
and in the true
coming together again
to the stable,
of all of us: shepherds,
sages, his women and men,
common and faithful,
wealthy and wise,
with carillon hearts
and suddenly, stars in our eyes

~ Luci Shaw from *A Widening Light, Poems of the Incarnation* ©1984.

A bell rings. We listen to the longing in our hearts.

Announcements

Gathering Song | I Wonder as I Wander

by John Jacob Niles

The musical score is written on three staves. The first staff has the lyrics "I won-der as I wan-der out un-der the sky, how Je-sus the Sav-four did" with chords Am, C, G, and Am above it. The second staff has the lyrics "come for to die for poor, or'n-r'y peo-ple like you and like I; I" with chords F, Am, F, and Em above it. The third staff has the lyrics "won-der as I won-der out un-der the sky." with chords Am, *Dm7, Am, and Dm above it.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Call to Worship

Officiant In the beginning
People was the Word.
Officiant The Word was with God,
People and the word was God.
Officiant In the beginning was God.
People All things came into being with God. What has come into being is life,
Officiant and that life is the light of all people.
People The light shines in the darkness,
Officiant and the darkness did not
People will not
Officiant can not
People overcome it

We remain standing and sing together.

Opening Song | The Light of Christ

By Don Fishel

The musical notation consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a whole rest, followed by a quarter note G4, then a 2/4 time signature, a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a 4/4 time signature, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, and a quarter note B3. The second staff begins with a quarter note G4, then a 2/4 time signature, a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a 4/4 time signature, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, and a quarter note B3. The lyrics 'The li - ght o - f Christ has come in - to the world' are written below the notes.

The Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star you revealed 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. **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.

People 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 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.**

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.

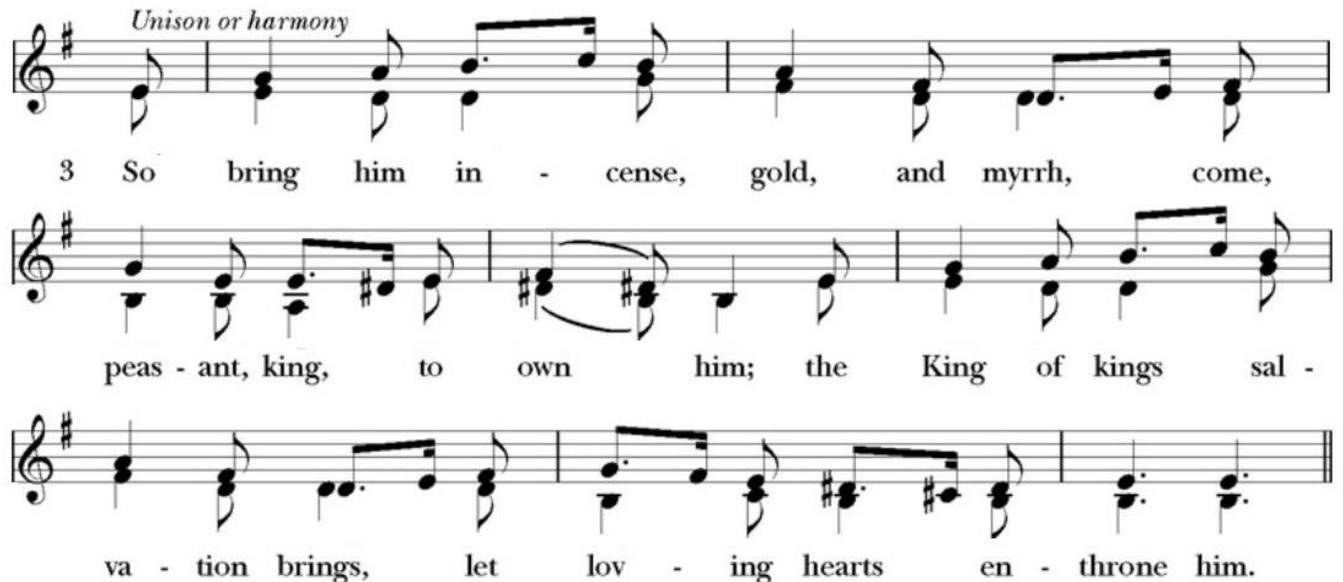
People Thanks be to God.

We stand together and sing

Gospel Song | What Child Is This

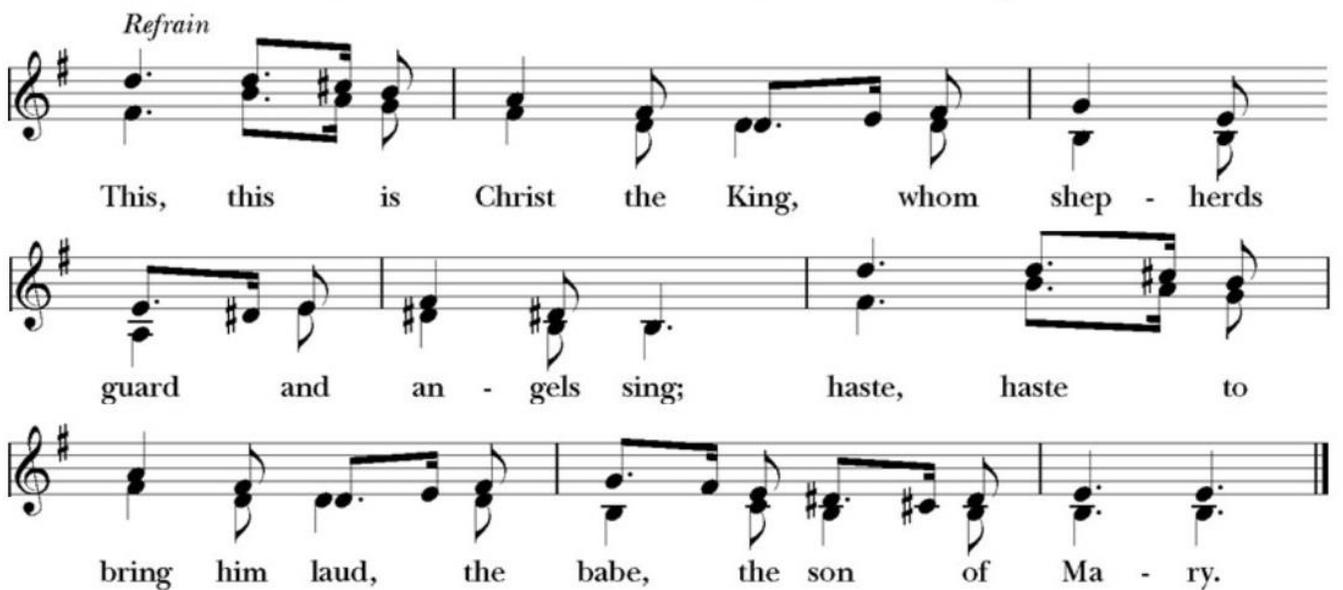
Lyrics by William Chatterton Dix

Unison or harmony



3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,
peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -
va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Refrain



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds
guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to
bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

The Officiant 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 Officiant will say

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

The Homily

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 silently in prayer.

The Prayers of the People

John Henry Hopkins, Jr.

Refrain

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 thy per - fect light!

Leader "God shall come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth...
God shall deliver the poor who cry out in distress, and the oppressed who have no helper."

Gracious God, we pray for your Church and its leaders, and for all the baptized, that we might follow your light, and minister faithfully to our neighbors.

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

Leader O Star of Wonder,
People **shine your light upon us.**

Leader We pray for the world, all nations, and all in authority, that justice and peace might rise over all the earth.

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

Leader O Dawn of Justice,
People **shine your light upon us.**

Leader We pray for the earth, and for this city and community, that all living things might flourish abundantly.

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

Leader O Sun of Righteousness,
People **shine your light upon us.**

Leader We pray for all who suffer, and all who are in any kind of trouble, that they might receive your healing mercy. We pray especially for those on our parish prayer list.

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

Leader O Beacon of Mercy,
People **shine your light upon us.**

Leader We pray for all who have died, and for all who mourn, that the hope of new life might warm our hearts, and give us courage.

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

Leader O Fire of Resurrection,
People **shine your light upon us.**

Refrain

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 thy per - fect light!

Officiant Let us 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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Offertory Song | Sister Winter

By Sufjan Stevens

While we cannot gather in person, we make our weekly offerings online here: <https://www.gracehere.org/give/>.

Oh my friends, I've begun to worry, right
Where I should be grateful, I should be satisfied
Oh my heart, I would clap and dance in place
With my friends, I have so much pleasure to
embrace

But my heart is returned to sister winter
But my heart is as cold as ice

Oh my thoughts, I return to summertime
When I kissed your ankle, I kissed you through
the night

All my gifts, I gave everything to you
Your strange imagination, you threw it all away

Now my heart is returned to sister winter
Now my heart is as cold as ice

All my friends, I've returned to sister winter
All my friends, I apologize, apologize

And my friends, I've
Returned to wish you all the best
And my friends, I've
Returned to wish you a happy Christmas

The Blessing

The Officiant offers a blessing.

May the Creator, whose light brought creation from chaos;
and the Son, whose shining star enlightens all the nations;
and the Spirit, whose fire sends us into the world to proclaim the Good News;
bless you and remain with you now, and forever. **Amen.**

Closing Song | Shine Like a Star in the Morning

American Folk Song

Shine, ___ shine, shine like a ___ star in the mor - ning, Shine, ___

shine, all a - round the throne of God, God knows I'm going to God.

bethsnotes.com

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The first staff contains the first line of lyrics: "Shine, ___ shine, shine like a ___ star in the mor - ning, Shine, ___". The second staff contains the second line: "shine, all a - round the throne of God, God knows I'm going to God." The second staff includes first and second endings, indicated by "1." and "2." above the notes. The first ending leads back to the beginning of the second line, and the second ending concludes the piece.

Lyrics

Shine, shine, shine like a star in the morning
Shine, shine all around the throne of God
I know we're gonna shine...
Shine, shine, shine like a star in the morning
Shine, shine all around the throne of God.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Using the Zoom chat window, please share a milestone that we can recognize together.

We will sing, "God Grant Them Many Years."

The Peace

We conclude with the sharing of God's peace.

Officiant Now the peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

Dead Stars

Out here, there's a bowing even the trees are doing.

Winter's icy hand at the back of all of us.

Black bark, slick yellow leaves, a kind of stillness that feels
so mute it's almost in another year.

I am a hearth of spiders these days: a nest of trying.

We point out the stars that make Orion as we take out
the trash, the rolling containers a song of suburban thunder.

It's almost romantic as we adjust the waxy blue
recycling bin until you say, *Man, we should really learn
some new constellations.*

And it's true. We keep forgetting about Antlia, Centaurus,
Draco, Lacerta, Hydra, Lyra, Lynx.

But mostly we're forgetting we're dead stars too, my mouth is full
of dust and I wish to reclaim the rising—

to lean in the spotlight of streetlight with you, toward
what's larger within us, toward how we were born.

Look, we are not unspectacular things.

We've come this far, survived this much. What

would happen if we decided to survive more? To love harder?

What if we stood up with our synapses and flesh and said, *No.*
No, to the rising tides.

Stood for the many mute mouths of the sea, of the land?

What would happen if we used our bodies to bargain

for the safety of others, for earth,
if we declared a clean night, if we stopped being terrified,

if we launched our demands into the sky, made ourselves so big
people could point to us with the arrows they make in their minds,

rolling their trash bins out, after all of this is over?

- Ada Limón from *The Carrying* (Milkweed Editions, 2018).

News from Grace Church, Bainbridge Island

January 3, 2021

..... inclusion service discovery gratitude

Story and Song | Sundays from 9 – 9:30 am on Zoom

Click on the link to Grace's online worship (gracehere.org/join-us-for-online-worship-at-grace/) for the Zoom link. If you have questions please email Kim (kim@gracehere.org).

Newcomers

Are you new or visiting? Please email one of our clergy, Stephen Crippen (stephen@gracehere.org) or Wren Blessing (wren@gracehere.org), to get more connected.

Upcoming Events & Programs

Today

Poetry as Prayer Practice | Directly after the 9:30 service

Every 1st and 3rd Sunday the group will gather in a Zoom meeting after the 9:30 service.
Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/96243490290?pwd=eGJua2YyNm1vT1k2QlpZeVFUUnFmQT09>

Men's Group | January 4 from 7:30 – 8:30 pm on Zoom

Every two weeks, the group gathers in a Zoom meeting. If you have questions please email Eric Matthews at eric@ericmatthews.com for more information.

Wednesday Healing Prayer & Bible Study | January 6; 10:30 am

Please find links to the Zoom login and worship bulletin on our website: gracehere.org/join-us-for-onlineworship-at-grace/