

**A Service of Morning Prayer
for January 2, 2022
Epiphany of the Lord**



Adoration of the Three Kings,
1488 Painting by Domenico Ghirlandaio, 1449-1494, Uffizi Gallery, Florence, Italy
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tornabuoni_Adoration_of_the_Three_Kings_by_Domenico_Ghirlandaio.jpg

We have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him. *Matthew 2:2*

CP 132 Of Eternal Love Begotten (vss 1, 2, 3, 5)

1 Of eternal love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.

2 At His Word the worlds were framed.
He commanded, it was done:
Heaven and earth and depths of ocean,
In their threefold order one;
All that grows beneath the shining,
Of the moon and burning sun,
evermore and evermore.

3 O that birth for ever blessed,
when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bare the Saviour of our race,
and the babe, the world's redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.

5 O ye heights of heaven adore Him;
angel hosts, his praises sing;
all dominions bow before Him,
and extol our God and king;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
And the love of God,
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
Be with you all.

And also with you.

May his grace and peace be with you.
May he fill our hearts with joy.

Almighty God,
**To you all hearts are open,
 All desires known,
 And from you no secrets are hidden.
 Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
 By the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
 That we may perfectly love you,
 And worthily magnify your holy name;
 Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14 *Refrain: All nations shall serve him.*

72:1 Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

72:2 May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.

72:3 May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

72:4 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

72:5 May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

72:6 May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

72:7 In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

72:10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.

72:11 May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.

72:12 For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.

72:13 He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

72:14 From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight.

A Reading from Isaiah 60:1- 6

60:1 Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

60:2 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.

60:3 Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

60:4 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.

60:5 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.

60:6 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CP 156 The People That in Darkness Sat

1 The people in that darkness sat
A glorious light have seen;
The Light has shined on them who long
In shades of death have been.

4 For unto us a child is born,
To us a Son is given,
And on his shoulder ever rests
All power in earth and heaven.

2 To hail thee, Sun of Righteousness,
The gathering nations come;
They joy as when the reapers bear
Their harvest treasures home.

5 His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
The everlasting Lord,
The wonderful, the Counsellor,
The God by all adored.

3 For thou their burden dost remove,
And break the tyrant's rod,
As in the day when Midian fell
Before the sword of God.

6 Lord Jesus, reign in us we pray,
And make us thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art
And Holy Spirit one.

A Reading from Ephesians 3: 1-12

3:1 This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles-

3:2 for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you,

3:3 and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,

3:4 a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.

3:5 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:

3:6 that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

3:7 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.

3:8 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,

3:9 and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things;

3:10 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.

3:11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,

3:12 in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CP 160 As With Gladness Men of Old

1 As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we
evermore be led to thee.

2 As with joyful steps they sped
to thy lowly manger-bed,
there to bend the knee before
thee, whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek the mercy-seat.

3 As they offered gifts most rare
at that manger rude and bare;
so may we with joyful song,
raising voices pure and strong,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.

4 In the heavenly country bright
need they no created light:
thou its light, its joy, its crown,
thou its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing
alleluias to our king.

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Matthew 2: 1-12

2:1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,

2:2 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."

2:3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;

2:4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

2:5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

2:6 '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.'"

2:7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.

2:8 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."

2:9 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.

2:10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

2:11 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.

2:12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon by the Rev. Alison Westervelt**CCLI 5351880 How Many Kings**

1 Follow the star to a place unexpected
 Would you believe after all we've projected
 A child in a manger
 Lowly and small the weakest of all
 Unlikeliest hero wrapped in His mother's shawl
 Just a child
 Is this who we've waited for because

Chorus

***How many kings stepped down from their thrones
 How many lords have abandoned their homes
 How many greats have become the least for me
 And how many gods have poured out their hearts
 To romance a world that is torn all apart
 How many fathers gave up their sons for me***

2 Bringing out gifts for the newborn Savior
 All that we have whether costly or meek
 Because we believe
 Gold for His honor and frankincense for His pleasure
 And myrrh for the cross He'll suffer
 Do you believe
 Is this who we've waited for

Chorus...Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.
 I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the Virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again.
 He ascended into heaven.
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again
 to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People compiled and led by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

Today we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord, when the light of Christ was revealed to all the nations of the world, to Jews and Gentiles, to you and me. With confidence let us bring our petitions to the Lord, saying, Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord hear our prayer.

For God's people throughout the world, especially for those in positions of leadership and authority; for all Bishops and clergy, for all teachers and preachers,

- For Bishop Stephen and those at the Diocesan office;
- For Heather and Alison, our vestry and wardens, our music ministry, Nadine, and all who serve you in so many varied ways,
- For the Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo
- For the Diocese of Yukon: the Rt. Rev. Lesley Wheeler-Dame, Bishop.
- For Holy Trinity Riverbend: Rebecca Harris, Priest-in-Charge; Elisabeth Thompson, Honorary Assistant.
- For the Buyé Diocese Bible School: Daniel Bizimana, Director; Alfred Uwimanihayé, teacher.
- For our brothers and sisters of the Cold Lake First Nations.

That they might spread the good news of God's indiscriminate love, let us pray to the Lord,

Lord hear our prayer

For each other, this community of the people of God gathered today, online and in person, that we might always proclaim with our lives the praise of the Lord that all may see and know the love of God and the call to God's promise and plan, let us pray to the Lord,

Lord hear our prayer

For all health care workers, all those called to work in places deemed necessary to the general population, that they may receive an abundance of strength, patience, and compassion as they struggle to cope during the ongoing pandemic, let us pray to the Lord,

Lord hear our prayer

For all victims of prejudice and discrimination, whether it is based on colour, nationality, gender, culture, or religion, that the light of Christ might shine as a beacon in the world's darkness and for gifts of healing and unity, let us pray to the Lord,

Lord hear our prayer

For our brothers and sisters in need; for those of us who struggle financially, those of us with no permanent home, those of us who are hungry, or feel abandoned and forgotten, and for those of us who are sick or are caring for the sick, especially, Sandra... Merle..... Mona..... Lois Ward..... Ray and Mary..... Irene Kathryn..... Helen..... Jenifer..... Judy..... Tony and Mary Jean..... Luisa..... Lois Davis..... Evelyn..... Miranda..... Iain..... Diane and Bill..... Maxime..... Barry Westervelt..... Geraldine.... Florence..... Joan..... Kathleen..... Jerry, for those who are nearing the end of their earthly journey and those who wait with them, that they might find hope, courage, comfort and peace in the open arms of the Saviour, let us pray to the Lord,

Lord hear our prayer

Loving God, we offer you our prayers, some in words and others written in our hearts. Read our hearts and hear our words and continue to shed on us your merciful light, this day and forever. Amen.

Collect

Eternal God,
 who by a star
 led wise men to the worship of your Son.
 Guide by your light the nations of the earth,
 that the whole world may know your glory;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever. Amen.

And now, as our Saviour 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,
 the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

CP 264 Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year

1 Now greet the swiftly changing year
 With joy and penitence sincere.
 Rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace
 Another year of grace.

2 This Jesus came to wage sin's war,
 The Name of names for us he bore.
 Rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace
 Another year of grace.

3 His love abundant far exceeds
 The volume of a whole year's needs.
 Rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace
 Another year of grace.

4 With such a Lord to lead our way
 In want and in prosperity,
 What need we fear in earth or space
 In this new year of grace?

5 "All glory be to God on high,
 And peace on earth!" the angels cry.
 Rejoice, rejoice, with thanks embrace
 Another year of grace.

The Dismissal

We have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him.

Matthew 2:2

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God.

May the God of peace enable us to do His will in every kind of goodness working in us what pleases Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever and ever, Amen.

My dear friends, let us be swift to love, make haste to be kind and let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.