



Sherwood Episcopal Church

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The Epiphany
10 AM

January 3, 2021
Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Watch live on our Facebook page and our website at 10 am, and on our YouTube channel after the service

THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern* (How lovely shines the Morning Star)
Johann Pachelbel

Welcome and Announcements The Reverend Nancy H. Hennessey, Rector

THE OPENING SENTENCES

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom now and forever. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: 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.**

GLORIA - 197

How bright appears the Morning Star

1 How bright appears the Morning Star,
with mercy beaming from afar;
the host of heaven rejoices;
O righteous Branch, O Jesse's Rod!
Thou Son of Man and Son of God!
We, too, will lift our voices:
Jesus, Jesus!
Holy, holy, yet most lowly,
draw thou near us;
great Emmanuel, come and hear us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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. **Amen.**

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, *
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.
- 11 All kings shall bow down before him, *
and all the nations do him service.
- 12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, *
and the oppressed who has no helper.
- 13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; *
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
- 14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, *
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

HYMN – 124, v. 1

What star is this, with beams so bright

1. What star is this, with beams so bright,
more beauteous than the noonday light?
It shines to herald forth the King,
and Gentiles to his crib to bring.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

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

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

HYMN – 124, v. 2

What star is this, with beams so bright

2. True spake the prophet from afar
who told the rise of Jacob's star;
and eastern sages with amaze
upon the wondrous token gaze.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Nancy H. Hennessey

HYMN – 124, v. 4

What star is this, with beams so bright

4. O Jesus, while the star of grace
impels us on to seek thy face,
let not our slothful hearts refuse
the guidance of thy light to use.

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray for all those impacted by COVID-19, and especially for those on our parish prayer list: Sally, Debbie, Shannon, Jeff & Kim, Norma, Sharon, Margaret, Ed, Laura, Joyce, Christine, Mike and his family, Kendall, Jean, Marge, Sarah, Joe, Gail, Steve W., Pam, Michelle, Joe G., Jay, Stan, Rick; David C., Ella Mae, Steve & Debbie, Jeanetta, Christina, Khalil, Charles, Samantha, Courtney, Bud, Steve S., Debbie H., Danny, Allison, the Daniels family, and Linda and her family.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We thank you for the blessings of this life; especially for those celebrating birthdays as well as anniversaries including Kathy and Tom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Celebrant concludes

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP pg. 360

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept

**Most merciful God, we confess that we
have sinned against you in thought, word,
and deed, by what we have done, and by
what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly
repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus
Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and
walk in your ways, to the glory of your
Name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The people greet one another virtually with a sign of God's peace.

We continue to do God's work and your contributions of any size make a huge difference.

You may now contribute online via our website. Go [here](#) to check it out.

(sherwoodcokeysville.org/give) Or if you would prefer, mail in your contribution to 5 Sherwood Road, Cokeysville, 21030. We are checking the mail regularly and depositing any checks. Thank you!

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY HYMN - 119

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 that lowly manger-bed;
there to bend the knee before
him 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 holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ! to thee, our heavenly King.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A – BCP pg. 361

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant offers thanks to God for the grace and mercy made available in Christ, and in response the people sing:

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS - S130

setting by Franz Schubert (Deutsche Messe)

**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.

The Celebrant gives thanks to God for the reconciling work of Christ's passion and resurrection and prayers over the bread and wine.

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic prayer and at the conclusion says

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP pg. 364

The Celebrant says

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

People and Celebrant

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 and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

AGNUS DEI - *Jesus, Lamb of God*, S164 *setting by Franz Schubert (Deutsche Messe)*

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace, grant us peace.

A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Episcopal Prayer Book for the Armed Forces (1988)

Celebrant:

Let us say together the prayer for spiritual communion.

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. And since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

*The Celebrant pronounces a blessing over the People, and the People respond, **Amen.***

HYMN - 109

The first Nowell

1. The first Nowell 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.

Refrain:

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)

DISMISSAL

As we go forth into the world, refreshed and renewed, we reaffirm our commitment to our mission as a congregation:

God commands us to enthusiastically cast open our doors to embrace all, impacting lives through bold service, no exceptions!

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Postlude *Vom Himmel hoch da komm' ich her* (From Heaven above to Earth I come)
Johann Gottfried Walther

Worship Participants from Studio Sherwood

Officiant: The Rev. Nancy H. Hennessey

Music Director & Organist: Greg Sesek

Cantor: Cassidy Dixon

Lector: Greg Szymaszek

Broadcast Engineer: Anne Wismer

Thank you for joining us for our virtual worship this morning. Please be sure to check out our Facebook page for updates and also remember to subscribe to our YouTube channel. If you are interested in receiving our e-newsletter, please contact Carey Mednick at sherwoodparish@gmail.com.

Announcements

Mark Your Calendars!

On Sunday, January 17 following worship, the Cockeysville Middle School (CMS) Imperative group will make its presentation to the congregation via Zoom. This past summer, they worked to put together a 3-5 year plan for the CMS Imperative and presented the plan to the vestry this fall. Despite COVID they have made tremendous inroads to building our relationship with CMS and the needs of the community.

Please join us for the presentation; it won't be something you'll want to miss.

Did You Know This About Epiphany?

"Epiphany is the manifestation of Christ to the peoples of the earth. The winter solstice was kept on Jan. 6 at some places during the first centuries of the Christian Era. In opposition to pagan festivals, Christians chose this day to celebrate the various manifestations, or "epiphanies" of Jesus' divinity. These showings of his divinity included his birth, the coming of the Magi, his baptism, and the Wedding at Cana where he miraculously changed water into wine. The day was called "The Feast of Lights." Celebration of the Son of God replaced celebration of the sun. Baptisms were done, and a season of preparation was instituted. It was later called Advent." (from the *Episcopal Dictionary of the Church*)

The Three Kings Have Arrived!

This Sunday, we will celebrate the Epiphany and remember the three wise men who visited baby Jesus. The three wise men will finally join all the other figures who played a role in welcoming the Christ child into the world. There are various traditions surrounding Epiphany; one of the customs is the chalking of one's door mantel with 20+C+M+B+21. The numbers represent the year and the letter the three Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. The letters are also an abbreviation for the Latin words, *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless this house."

A Special Thank You!

Our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services could not have taken place if it weren't for a small group of dedicated people. It truly takes a village to create worship whether we gather in person or virtually. So, please thank those who made our Christmas 2020 worship possible. Thank you, Greg Sesek (Choir Director and organist), Cassidy Dixon (Soloist), Carrie Fowler, (choir), Kaitlyn Fowler (choir), Greg Szymaszek, (reader), Anne Wismer (tech), Taylor Brooks (tech), and Carey Mednick (parish administrator).