



**The Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ  
January 6, 2021**

**Prelude**

*How Bright Appears the Morning Star*

Dietrich Buxtehude

**Welcome**

**Songs**

*For Unto Us a Child Is Born/ Open the Eyes of My Heart*

For unto us a Child is born,  
a Son is given, a Son is given  
For unto us a Child is born,  
a Son is given, a Son is given

The Messiah oh to see Him  
to see Him high and lifted up  
Shining in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love  
as we sing holy holy holy

For unto us a Child is born,  
a Son is given, a Son is given  
For unto us a Child is born,  
a Son is given, a Son is given

The Messiah oh to see Him  
to see Him high and lifted up  
Shining in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love  
as we sing holy holy holy

You are high and lifted up,  
Shining in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love  
As we sing holy holy holy  
Holy holy holy holy holy holy  
Holy holy holy holy holy holy

For unto us a child is born  
Holy holy holy  
For unto us a child is born  
Holy holy holy!

*Noel*

Love incarnate love divine  
Star and angels gave the sign  
Bow to babe on bended knee  
The Savior of humanity  
Unto us a Child is born  
He shall reign forevermore

Noel Noel  
Come and see what God has done  
Noel Noel  
The story of amazing love  
The light of the world given for us  
Noel

Son of God and Son of man  
There before the world began  
Born to suffer born to save  
Born to raise us from the grave  
Christ the everlasting Lord  
He shall reign forevermore

Noel Noel  
Come and see what God has done  
Noel Noel  
The story of amazing love  
The light of the world given for us  
Noel

*Clergy*  
*People*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
**And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

## Gloria

Glo - - ri - a, glor - - ri - a, in ex - cel - - sis De - o!  
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glor - ry in the high - est!

Glo - - ri - a, glo - - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## Collect of the Day

*Clergy* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Clergy* 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 Lessons

### The 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.

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.  
*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14**

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

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

*Refrain*

*O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.

*(Refrain)*

Frankincense to offer have I: incense owns a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, gladly raising, worship him. God Most High.

*(Refrain)*

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone cold tomb.

*(Refrain)*

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;  
Heaven sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies.

*(Refrain)***Holy Gospel**

Matthew 2: 1-12

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

*Clergy*      The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*      **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **Sermon**

The Rev. Dr. Charles N. Stewart, Dcn.

## **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**

Called by the Holy Spirit into relationship with a loving God, we pray for the church, all in need, and the whole creation.

### *Silence*

In our Parishes, we pray for the people of Grace Episcopal Church, Syracuse; and the people of Zion Episcopal Church, Greene and their priest, the Very Rev. David Hanselman. In our Companion Diocese, we pray for the people of La Divina Providencia, El Maizal, Sonsonate, and their priest, The Rev. Juan Pablo Alvarado. In the Episcopal Church, we pray for the people of the Diocese of East Carolina, and their Bishop The Rt. Rev. Robert Skirving. And in the Anglican Communion, we pray for the people of the Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria, and their Bishop The Most Revd. Dr. Mouneer Hanna Anis.

God of glory and grace, you answer those who call on your name. Continue the transformation of your church so that we may share your love with the world. Radiant God; **let your light shine through us.**

We pray for your creation, especially where it is wounded. Renew the whole earth with your love. Radiant God; **let your light shine through us.**

Let the rulers of the earth honor your decrees and uphold your statutes so that your peace would reign throughout the earth. Give mercy to the poor and justice to the weak. Radiant God; **let your light shine through us.**

Heal the sick, comfort the grieving, send peace to the dying, and companionship to those who are alone. Be with all who suffer, especially those we name silently or aloud \_\_\_\_\_.  
Radiant God; **let your light shine through us.**

That this congregation, anointed and sealed by God and given the Holy Spirit in our hearts, would welcome the stranger, be a place of refuge and help to those in need, and go into all the world with your light and life. Radiant God; **let your light shine through us.**

We give thanks for all who have died in the faith of Christ Jesus, especially those we name silently or aloud \_\_\_\_\_. May we be ever mindful of God's promises to us until we also are made one with all the saints. Radiant God; **let your light shine through us.**

Into your loving hands, gracious God, we place ourselves and all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

### **Confession of Sin**

*The Clergy says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*All*

**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.**

*The priest says*

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.**

### **Announcements**

### **Music for Reflection**

#### *Christmas Offering*

Over the skies of Bethlehem appeared a star  
While angels sang to lowly shepherds  
Three wise men seeking truth traveled from afar  
Hoping to find the child from Heaven  
Falling on their knees  
They bowed before the humble Prince of Peace

I bring an offering of worship to my King  
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing  
Jesus may You receive the honor that You're due  
Oh Lord I bring an offering to You  
I bring an offering to You

The sun cannot compare to the glory of Your love  
There is no shadow in Your presence  
No mortal man would dare to stand before Your throne  
Before the Holy One of Heaven  
It's only by Your blood it's only through Your mercy  
Lord I come

I bring an offering of worship to my King  
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing  
Jesus may You receive the honor that You're due  
Oh Lord I bring an offering to You

### The Holy Communion

### The Great Thanksgiving

*Priest* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Priest* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*Priest* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

### Sanctus

**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.**

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.



On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 for ever. **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.**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

### **Prayer for Spiritual Communion**

**Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. We desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving as we proclaim your resurrection. We love you above all things, and long for you in our souls.**

**Since we cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, 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.**

## Music during Communion

*Fraction anthem: Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world*      Joel Martinson

## The Postcommunion Prayer

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, 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.**

## Blessing

May Almighty God, who led the Wise Men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, lead you also in your pilgrimage, to find the Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Closing Song

*What Child Is This?*

What Child is this who laid to rest  
On Mary's lap is sleeping  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping  
This this is Christ the King  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing  
Haste haste to bring Him laud  
The Babe the Son of Mary

Why lies He in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding  
Good Christian fear for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading  
Nails spear shall pierce Him through  
The cross be borne for me for you  
Hail hail the Word made flesh  
The Babe the Son of Mary

So bring Him incense gold and myrrh  
Come peasant king to own Him  
The King of kings salvation brings  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him  
Raise raise the song on high  
The Virgin sings her lullaby  
Joy joy for Christ is born  
The Babe the Son of Mary!

**Dismissal**

*Clergy* Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia!  
*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Postlude**

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

J. Wayne Kerr

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