

Epiphany; Come to the Light!

Celebration of Epiphany

7PM † January 6, 2022

WELCOME

READING FROM ISAIAH

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
Isaiah 9:6

SONG OF REFLECTION:

O Come O Come Emmanuel

Red Book 257

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

PROCLAMATION OF EPIPHANY

Rejoice! Today is the day of Epiphany. The word Epiphany means...”to be made known”. It’s the day we observe and celebrate the visit of the Magi to Bethlehem when they came to worship Jesus, who had been made known to them by the guiding of a star. And this, my friends...was just the beginning of the story!

PRAYER

Let us pray: Eternal God, you have made yourself known to people of all ages, all times, and all walks of life.

C: As the magi were overjoyed when they saw the star, so may we be filled with joy as you reveal yourself to us this night and always. Amen.

READING FROM JOHN 1:5, 14

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

SONG OF PRAISE

Shine Jesus Shine

Red Book 671

Refrain

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father’s glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

1 Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us, set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me: *(Refrain)*

2 As we gaze on our kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness,
Ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here, may our lives tell your story
Shine on me, shine on me: *(Refrain)*

THE PROMISE OF EPIPHANY

Jesus said, "If you seek me, you will find me." We are only able to find him because he reveals himself to us. And he reveals himself to us because he wants to have a relationship with us. And when we find him, Jesus promises to fill us with great joy!

SONG OF PRAISE

Joy to the World

Red Book 267

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Matthew 2:1-12

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "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." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 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.' " ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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." ⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Word of the Lord
(*Silence for Reflection*)

C: Thanks be to God!

SONG OF PRAISE:

The First Noel

Red Book 300

- 1 The first Noel 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

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

- 5 Then entered in those wise men three, full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. (*Refrain*)

(*Silence for Reflection*)

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

O Lord our God, in Psalm 119 we read, "Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light to my path." Now as we hear your Word, fill us with your Spirit. Soften our hearts that we may see your ways. Fill us with your light, this night and always. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF FAITH:

Hark, The Herald Angel's Sing!

Red Book 270

1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! (*Refrain*)

3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. (*Refrain*)

PRAYERS/PSALM OF FAITH: Prayers are based on Psalm 72 (Words in regular print are verses from the Psalm, *words in italics are the prayers*):

Song of Praise:

Bring Forth the Kingdom

Purple Book 22

1 You are salt for the earth, O people: Salt for the Kingdom of God!
Share the flavour of life, O people: Life in the Kingdom of God!

Refrain

Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy, bring forth the Kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice, bring forth the City of God!

The Lord is our light and our salvation; all that he does is good.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for your light in our lives. Help us to trust in your love and grace in the midst of the struggles we experience.

He defends the afflicted among the prophets and saves the children of the needy; he crushes the oppressor.
God of mercy, be with those who are in need, those who are homeless and those who are victims of oppression, because of oppressive governments as well as oppressive work conditions.

Song of Praise:

Bring Forth the Kingdom

Purple Book 22

2 You are a light on the hill, O people: Light for the City of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people: Shine for the Kingdom of God!

Refrain

Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy, Bring forth the Kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice, Bring forth the City of God!

He will endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations. He will be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth.

O God, your love for us endures forever. In the struggles, challenges and tragedies of our lives, bring us healing, peace and comfort. Refresh us, like the showers watering the earth.

He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death. He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight.

God of care, inspire us as your people, to reach out to those in need in our communities and bring an end to violence and war that impacts the lives of so many innocent people.

Song of Praise:

Bring Forth the Kingdom

Purple Book 22

3 You are a seed of the word, O people; bring forth the kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, grow in the kingdom of God!

Refrain

Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy, bring forth the Kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice, bring forth the City of God!

Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds. Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory.

C: Amen.

Song of Praise:

Bring Forth the Kingdom

Purple Book 22

4 We are a blest and a pilgrim people: Bound for the Kingdom of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland: Love is the Kingdom of God!

Refrain

Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy, bring forth the Kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice, bring forth the City of God!

LORD'S PRAYER:

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.

BENEDICTION:

SENDING SONG:

We Are Marching in the Light of God

Red Book 866

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,) we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,) we are marching in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib:

We are dancing . . .

We are praying . . .

We are singing . . .

SENDING:

Jesus is the true light that has come into the world. Let us rejoice, worship him and follow him. Go in peace and serve the Lord. And have fun doing it!

C: Thanks be to God.