

Epiphany; Come to the Light!

Celebration of Epiphany

7PM † January 6, 2021

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:

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. 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.

C: 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.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

The splendor of Christ shines upon us.

C: May we be filled with his light!

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

O Lord our God, you are a lamp to our feet and a light to our 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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 60:1-6

Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift 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. ⁵Then 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. ⁶A 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.

C: Thanks be to God!

SONG OF PRAISE:

Arise Your Light has Come

Red Book 314

- 1 Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.
- 4 Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

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

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*

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 our lives, 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 (verse 4)* *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.

✠ REMEMBER IN PRAYER ✠

HOMEBOUND, HOSPITALIZED, SPECIAL CONCERNS

Teri Massey, Anne, Chris, Clara, and Allie Burkauskas, Ellen Prevatte, Ted Prevatte, Maxine Jordan, Lisa Lee, Barry Nelder, Emily Barber, Irene Girvan, Bob Stuart, Barb Stuart, Mina Piedmont, Joanne Adams, Marge Lucido, Cathleen Applegate, Hannah Dumbrowski, Victoria Sanchez, Aris Mora, Morgan Smith, Billy Ward, John Walker, Pam Solstad, Morgan Davison, Kaitlin Sprague, Gene Snuggs, Lisa, Frank Dyson, Beth Loony, Belle Hunt, Megan Peoplis, Vaughn & Cathy Schweitzer, Andra Ciparis, Clifford Johnson, Beth Deaton, Jennifer Von Cannon, Don Bowman, John Vrba, Karen Matthews, Marge McClosky, Richard Laudati, Joe Wright, Ruth Ann Getsinger, Steve Jones, Herb Flamer, Raymond & Dottie Holden, Lynne Denne.

FRIENDS & FAMILY

Sandy Hunt and Ginny Blauboer (Buckley), Tracy McKay, Tom Grady, Pat Hankin (Hambel), Paul Piedmont (Piedmont), Kristi Johnson, Cyndie Heath, Jami Harris, Jac Schlagle, Lexi Westfall (Hitchcock), Senka Gambino, Jean Behanna, Rick & Sharon Ellis (Lundy), Terry Ford & Carl Ford (Rehder), Arlo Bond (Jordan), Joey (Palamara), Pat Addington (Hearne), Julian, Jason & baby Jackson (Full), Mary Adobato (Vecchio), Megan Manley (Cox), Richard White (Prevatte), Arden Buckley & Erin O'Brien (Buckley), Brad Cook (Shearin), Kari Craig, (Palamara), Bridges family (Lundy), Larry Gilbert (Wrenn), Anne C., Claire Houston, Tammy V., Dave Stultz, Matt Stultz, Pastor Tom Schutt, Belle Hunt, Steve Siferd, Janet Kassor, (Keck), Barbara Gavigan (Gavigan), Robin Stoehr (Gourville) Meghan O'Brien (Campbell), Kent Parker (Shearin) Barbara Murtha (Hambel/Lundy).

Please pray for the caregivers as they care for those who are ill.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE MISSIONS OF OUR CHURCH

Federal Point Help Center / Coupons to Service men's families / KMLC Preschool / Girl Scout Troops #867, #901 and #155 / Good Shepherd (food & supplies) / Trinity Grove / KMLC Youth Group / Katie B Hines Senior Center lunch program / The Lutheran Church of Costa Rica/ Casa Abierta-La Carpio / Seamen's Center

STUDENTS ATTENDING COLLEGE / SEMINARY

Emily Graff-Luther Seminary / Tommy Ullring-Cape Fear Community College / Katelyn Copenhaver-Santa Fe College / Jordan Pivik- East Carolina University / Rachel Pivik-ECU / Katie Elkin-Duke Divinity School / Andro Keck- University of South Carolina / Vegas Vecchio- University of Washington, Seattle / Heather Keck- Medical University of South Carolina / Mackenzie Clark-Hood College, Maryland / Matthew Shuttleworth-Cape Fear Community College / Mia Shoffner-East Carolina University / Sydney Maguire-College of Charleston / Preston Gourville-Vanderbilt / Kelsey Bloch-Wake Tech / Kari Bloch-Wake Tech.

MILITARY PERSONNEL SERVING

Col Wayne Lett in Frankfort, Germany; John Brandon in Wayton, Utah; Steven Blum at Fort Bragg; Christopher Bennett in San Diego, CA; Marley Von Cannon at a Naval Base in Walton County Florida; Brandon Muehl at Fort Bragg, NC; Jacob Clinton at Fort Geiger, NC; Thomas Stafford at Ft. Bragg, NC, Nick Schwenker-Fort Benning, GA.

COSTA RICA MICRO LOAN RECIPIENTS

Rosa Marin, Aida Marin, Raquel Marin: Village of Guatuso / Zoraida Hernandez, Raul Perez: Village of Quitirrisi / Ana Yensi Rivera: La Carpi / Alexa Araya: San Jose / Marta Doderó.