

THE EPIPHANY

'Epiphany in the Garden'
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Raleigh, NC
January 6, 2021 – 12:00 p.m.

THE GATHERING

The people gather in silence

Community Announcements

The singing bowl is struck once to prepare us for the Voluntary. At the second ring, the people stand.

Voluntary "Partita on 'O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright'", setting by Anne Krentz Organ

Opening Sentences

Presider 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.

People **Amen! Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place. Amen and Amen!**
(Isaiah 61:1-2; Luke 2:15b, juxtaposition)

The Lighting of the Epiphany Wreath—Theme: Light

The appointed leader(s) approach the Epiphany Wreath and begin with the following:

We have watched for the Light.

(All candles are lit, including the Christ candle)

Arise, shine. The Light of Christ has come.

The glory of the Lord is now with us.

Hear the Word of the Lord from the prophet Isaiah:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Glory to God in the highest!

Peace on Earth and goodwill to all!

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom now and forever. Amen.**
The Word became flesh and dwells among us.
And we see his glory. Amen and 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.**

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

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 WORD OF GOD

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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

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

Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the reason that I, Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— or surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you

to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. 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: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. 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. 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, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; 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. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.
People **Thanks be to God.**

+ The Holy Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

 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. 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." 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.
People **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

The Homily
Silence

A period of silence follows the homily

Musical Interlude "We Three Kings of Orient Are", setting by Janet Linker

The Nicene Creed

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.

Prayers of the People

God has called us out of darkness into the glorious light of the Son. Let us therefore pray for those who do not yet know the light and for all those in need of our prayers, saying: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the church and its ministry to the world, for all bishops and clergy, for missionaries, and for all those who bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to the nations, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

For the nations of the world and their leaders, for all those in authority and for an end to war and oppression, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

For those who have not heard the good news of salvation, for those who have heard but have not believed, and for those who have forsaken their faith, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

For the lonely and destitute, for the victims of injustice and discrimination, for the unloved and the forgotten, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

For those who labor: for all essential workers who prepare food, serve at cash registers, stock grocery shelves, process food, sweep floors, pick-up trash and recyclables, clean bathrooms and work in the cold, we pray to you O Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

For front line workers, for doctors and nurses, police officers and firefighters, gas station attendants, bus and taxi drivers, and all those whose work prevents them from sharing this time with those they love, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

For the sick in body, mind, and spirit, for the hungry and the homeless, for the dying and the bereaved, and for all those in need of our prayers especially, **Doris Jacobs, Rudolph McEwan, David Myher, Elayne Karickoff, Dave Bergum, Barbara O'Neal, JoAnn Roebuck, Elliot Phillips, Gary Schaffer, Arlene McCullers, Abbie Silvia, Betty Jo Jacobs, Lee Witcher, Audrey Witcher, Carol Pregent, Deanna Hill, Sophia Vaughan Morning, Sarah Roholt, Marilyn Adams, Mary Mainwaring, Becca Valone, Katie Critcher, Samuel Davenport, Rachael London, Beauty Munawa, Mike Newton-Ward, Dave Bowman, Lucas Sams, Missy Sams, Justin Sams, Maggie Dusenbery, Jeff Glutz, Sarah Erickson, Ron Aycock, Harriet Banner**, that their illnesses may be turned into health and their sorrow into rejoicing, let us pray to you, O Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

For those who are suffering in addictions this Epiphany, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

For the more than 350,000 people who have died from the Coronavirus in our country and for those who are infected with COVID-19, the world over, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

For the saints who have gone before us in the faith and are now at rest especially St. Mark and for all the saints on earth who surround us in a great fellowship of love, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

And for all who have died in the peace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord hear our prayer.**

The Presider offers a Concluding Collect

The Exchange of Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider: All things come from you, O God.

People: **And of your own have we given you.**

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 our 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 voice with Angel and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name,

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one 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. And 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.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Presider breaks the consecrated bread also known as 'The Fraction'. Please remain masked during the distribution of Communion. You may wish to hold your communion wafer until the end of distribution, so we may all commune together.

Prayer after Communion

The people stand.

Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE SENDING

The Epiphany Blessing

May Almighty God, who led the Wise Men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light, lead you also, in your pilgrimage, to find the Lord. **Amen.**

May God, who sent the Holy Spirit to rest upon the Only-begotten at his baptism in the Jordan River, pour out that Spirit on you who have come to the waters of new birth. **Amen.**

May God, who by the power that turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, transform your lives and make glad your hearts. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Alleluia. Alleluia. Let us bless the Lord.

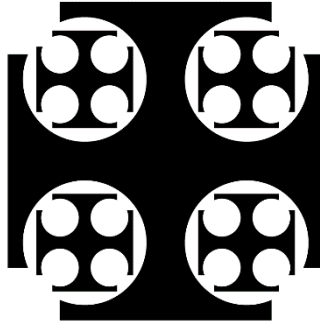
Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Voluntary "As with Gladness Men of Old", setting by Wayne L. Wold



The Rev. Tyrone Fowlkes, Officiant; **Marcia Klinder-Badgley**, Director of Music

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 1725 N. New Hope Road, Raleigh, NC, 27604 Phone: (919) 231-6767



THE EPIPHANY CHALKING AND BLESSING

'Epiphany in the Garden'

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Raleigh, NC

January 6, 2021 – 12:00 p.m.

There is a long-standing custom of blessing homes in the New Year. In like fashion, we will bless our church home—marking the posts of the Memorial Garden, the current setting of our worship services during this COVID crisis—as a sign of Christ's presence and a welcome to all who gather here. Traditionally, a family would hold a short service of prayer to ask God's blessing on their homes and on all who live, work, and visit with them. In this way, they were inviting Jesus to be a guest in their homes, to be a listener in each of their conversations, to guide them through troubled times and to bless them in times of thanksgiving.

'Chalking the door' or the door step was used in a way to celebrate and literally mark the occasion. In ancient times, the Israelites were told to mark their doors with the blood of the lamb on the night of the Passover to ensure that the angel of death would pass by. The Great Commandment taught by Jesus first appears in Deuteronomy, where we are also told to write God's commandment on our hearts, teach them to our children, and write them on the doors of our homes (Deut. 6:4-9). Many Jews follow the command by affixing mezuzahs, scrolls with the words of Deuteronomy, to their doorframes. Chalking the lintel as a part of an Epiphany house blessing allows Christians to emulate this sacramental rite.

Today, at St. Mark's, we are recovering this ancient ritual during this time of great pandemic. Over time and as the image of the chalk fades, we will remember the sign we made and transfer it to our heart and our habits.

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the ordinances—that the Lord your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy, so that you and your children and your children’s children may fear the Lord your God all the days of your life, and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has promised you.

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

Thanks be to God.

The Presider then takes the chalks and marks the lintel/posts with the following:

The Magi:

C	Caspar
M	Melchior
B	and Balthasar followed the star of God’s Son who became human
20	two thousand
21	and twenty-one years ago.
++	May Christ bless this place
++	and remain with us throughout the new year.

The setting is then blessed with incense as a symbol of this offering to God.

Prayer

Visit, O blessed Lord, this place with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who visit here and all who are here laid to rest here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort and strengthen us; and preserve us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. **Amen**

The Almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us. **Amen.**