

Mary of Magdala, ECC January 3, 2021

Celebrating the Epiphany – Sanctified Imagination

Preparations include participants preparing their home altars with a lit candle, and the food and drink to be remotely shared. If you have bells, please bring to ring!

Announcements – *Lector Ruth Alexander*

Black Lives Matter – *Tom Moos, co-chair Social Justice Ministry*

Entrance Opening Song *(please join in with Bill while muted)*

O Come All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

O come, let us adore him!

O come, yes come, let us adore him!

2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!!

Text: Irregular with refrain; John F. Wade, ca. 1711–1786; tr. by Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, alt.
Music: John F. Wade; arr. © 2013, Spirit & Song, a division of OCP. All rights reserved

Greeting – *Father Teri*

May the Divine Presence of God, the New Light of the Incarnation, and the passion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **ALL: And also with you.**

God's mercy in our midst - *Father Teri*

Let us remember our God

God, your Reign is being Love forever present
ALL: Lord, have mercy.

God, you are the Incarnation, One with the world.
ALL: Christ, have mercy.

God, your Kingdom is a Kin-dom, Lord have mercy
ALL: Lord, have mercy.

May our loving God shower us with grace, be forever present to us. We ask for this assurance now in prayer together **ALL: Amen**

Opening Prayer – *Father Teri*

May the new manifestation of God and Love in the world, be born in us this day. May we be gifts in God's world, sharing ourselves generously that God's life changing grace may be experienced

through us as we follow God's star. We pray together in Jesus Emmanuel's name:

ALL: Amen

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading from Sirach 24. 1-4, 12-20 – *Lector Ruth Alexander*

Wisdom's praises come from Her own mouth.
She tells of her glory in the midst of Her people.

In the assembly of the Cosmic Chorus, She opens her mouth.



In the presence of the heavenly hosts, She sings her glory:

“I came forth from the mouth of the Cosmic Creator.

I came to Earth, covering Earth like mist.
My tent was in the highest heavens,
my throne was in a pillar of cloud.

I took root in a people honored by God,
in Gods own portion and heritage.
I have grown tall as a cedar in Lebanon,
as a cypress on Mount Hermon.
I am raised aloft as a palm in En-Gedi,
as the rose bushes of Jericho.

I have grown tall as a fair olive tree in the field,
and as a plane tree by the water.

I have yielded a perfume like cinnamon and camel's thorn.
I spread my fragrance like choice myrrh,
like sweet spices, the smoke of frankincense in the tent.

I have spread my branches like terebinth,
and my branches are glorious.
Like the vine, I bud forth delights,
and my blossoms bear the fruit of glory and richness.

Come to me, all you who desire me,
and eat your fill of my fruit.
For the memory of me is sweeter than honey.
Wisdom is sweeter than the honeycomb.

The Word of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm - *Lector Ruth Alexander*

Isaiah 60. 1-6, 11

Our response is: We lay our treasures before you. **ALL: We lay our treasures before you**

Rise in splendor! Your dawn has come!
Glorious rays shine upon you.
Darkness swaddled Earth.
Long nights guided you in quiet preparation.
As the sun now begins its increase,
God's glory, conceived and formed in holy
darkness, will be brought to birth.

Response: We lay our treasures before you.

All will arise at your rising star!
Distant rulers will awaken to the brightness of
your splendor.
Lift your eyes and look around!
See! Your scattered ones all gather together.
They come to you!
Your people will come from afar,
your daughters, with young ones on the hip.

Then, you shall see an be radiant!
Then your heart shall throb and overflow!
Response: We lay our treasures before you.

The abundance of the sea will be brought to you.
Treasures will be laid before you.
A caravan of camels will come to you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah.
All from Sheba will come carrying gold and
frankincense, heralding praises.
By day and by night, your gates will not be shut.
Your gates will always be open to those who seek
you.

Response: We lay our treasures before you



Second Reading – Lector Lynne Barnes

Wise Women Also Came, from *Night Visions: Searching the Shadows of Advent and Christmas*, by Jan Richardson

Wise women also came.
The fire burned
in their wombs
long before they saw
the flaming star
in the sky.
They walked in shadows,
trusting the path
would open
under the light of the moon.

Wise women also came,
seeking no directions,
no permission
from any king.
They came
by their own authority,
their own desire,
their own longing.
They came in quiet,
spreading no rumors,
sparking no fears
to lead

to innocents' slaughter,
to their sister Rachel's
inconsolable lamentations.
Wise women also came,
and they brought
useful gifts:
water for labor's washing,
fire for warm illumination,
a blanket for swaddling.

Wise women also came,
at least three of them,
holding Mary in the labor,
crying out with her
in the birth pangs,
breathing ancient blessings
into her ear.

Wise women also came,
and they went,
as wise women always do,
home a different way.

Words Inspired by God. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Wonderful Counselor (*please join in with Bill while muted*)

So let us beat all our
Swords into plowshares,
And let the wolf come be the guest
Of the lamb.
And let the song of all the world's
Nations be peaceful.
Worship the child into the world
In Bethlehem.

Refrain:
Sing Alleluia to the Wonderful Counselor,
Sing Alleluia to the mighty God.
Sing Alleluia to the Father forever and
Sing Alleluia to the true Prince of peace.

Lyrics and music: John Michael Talbot; b. 1954.
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Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Pastor Rosean

Our God is with you.
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

ALL: And also with you.
ALL: Glory to you, O God



After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea during the reign of Herod, Magi from the East arrived in Jerusalem asking, “Where is the newborn leader of the Judeans? We observed the child’s star at its rising and have come to pay homage.” When Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him. Calling together all the head 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 this 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 leader who is to shepherd my people, Israel.

Herod secretly called for the Magi. He learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. He sent them along to Bethlehem,

saying, “Go! Search diligently for the child! When you have found the newborn, bring me word so that I may also go and pay homage.” Upon hearing these words of Herod, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star 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, the mother, and they knelt down and paid homage. Opening their treasure chests, they offered gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Then, having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

The Good News of Salvation of Jesus the Christ.

ALL: Praise to you, Jesus the Christ

Homily – Father Teri
Sanctified Imagination

Prayers of the People –

Lector Lynne Barnes

Our response is: Emmanuel, hear our prayers

ALL: Emmanuel, hear our prayers

Creator God, we lift up our prayers knowing your grace will flow always and surround us...

For all the gifts and blessings we have received, that we may share with people in need, we pray,

Response: Emmanuel, hear our prayers.

For all churches and faith traditions that they may extend the gift of love to all people without price, we pray,

Response: Emmanuel, hear our prayers.

For Mother Earth that all people will acknowledge our responsibility to care for the soils, waters, air, flora and fauna and take actions to keep her healthy, we pray,

Response: Emmanuel, hear our prayers.

I now invite you to share your prayers so that we may pray in community with you. If you feel comfortable, you could press the space bar and say your prayer, OR you could type the prayer into the chat box.

(Lynne to read each prayer on “chat”)we pray **Response: Emmanuel, hear our prayers.**

And for all the prayers we hold in the privacy of our hearts, we pray: **Response: Emmanuel, hear our prayers.**

Father Teri to conclude the Prayers of the People



Sign of Peace – *Pastor Rosean*

Christ Jesus, you said to your apostles: I leave you peace, my peace I give you. Look not on our failings and doubts, but on the faith of your Church, and grant us peace and unity with your kin-dom for ever and ever.

All: Amen

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **All: And also with you.**

Let us all unmute and go to ‘gallery view’ on our screens and share with one another a sign of Christ’s peace.

Offertory Meditation

We Three Kings *(please join in with Bill while muted)*

1. We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, Moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

2. Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain,
Gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, Ceasing never
Over us all to reign.

5. Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
“Alleluia, Alleluia!”
Sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

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

Text: 88 44 6 with refrain; based on Matthew 2:1–11; John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1820–1891, alt. Music: *Carols, Hymns and Songs*, 1863; John H. Hopkins, Jr.; arr. © 2013, Spirit & Song, a division of OCP. All rights reserved

Our Celebration at the Table - for all tables are God’s Table

Father Teri

The Love of God be with you all.
Life up your hearts
Let us give thanks to our loving God

All: And also with you.

All: We lift them up to God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Let us welcome God and God’s creative spirit.
God has called us to gather around these tables
this evening, knowing that all tables are God’s
table. So....God, welcome in! Like Mary made
room in her body, and Joseph made room in his
family; like Bethlehem makes room in its streets
and the innkeeper makes room out back, we make
room now for you God.

May our hearts, our homes, our world be a
dwelling place for you and your Incarnation.
Bring to birth in us a new heaven and a new earth
as we bring our best gifts to you.

Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker.
Out of nothing, you called all worlds into being

starting with Light. Day and night celebrate and
reveal your glory and love for all of creation.

In Jesus, your Word became flesh and dwelt
among us and walked on Your streets; swaddled
in flesh in bones, your love was made manifest in a
new way, born in the night of his mother Mary,
becoming fulling human, that through Jesus’
incarnation and passion we might come to see in
ourselves this divine nature.

Filled with the Spirit, who at the first Creation
moved over the face of the waters, and later
blessed Mary at Nazareth, we await with joy the
fulfilment of your new Creation.
Tonight, we gather around a promise:



This child known as Jesus will grow up to say, “My friends, how I have longed to share this Passover meal with you.”

This child will grow up to say, “Take this bread and eat it. Remember that I am God’s gift to you” and “Take this wine and drink it. Remember that I have renewed your relationship with God, forgiving all sin.”

This child will grow up to say, “Forgive them, they have no idea what they are doing.” “I am thirsty.” and “It is finished.”

This child will grow up to say, “Touch my scars.” “My peace I give to you.” and “I am with you always.”

My sisters and brothers, my family, Christ has come among us.

Christ is here now, coming to all of us in the gifts of bread and wine and other sacred food and drink which God has provided. And Christ will come again to make all things new. May we look for Christ in one another and in all those yet to be. God, enfleshed as Emmanuel, You have made this food which feeds us. May we be open to the ways you connect to us in relationship and love in your holy dance with all of your creation. In Jesus’ name we pray.

All: Amen

The Prayer of Jesus–

Father Teri

Let us join hearts together as part of God holding the world in love, and let us trust in prayer as we pray together:

(All to Join in on mute)

Our Amma/Abba God in heaven, holy be your name, your kin-dom 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 kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

All Amen.

Edited, modern ‘Our Father’ provided by Trinity Lutheran Church

Reception for Spiritual Communion

Father Teri

Before we share in eating the food on our tables, I’d like to remind you that God invited you here today. Where-ever you are on your journey, God is with you. Let us share together these words of celebration of God with the food God has provided.

All: Jesus, our hearts are Your Tabernacle. You live in us. You love in us. Your Light

shines through us. Come now, and visit us with Your grace. Make us to be more like You. May we receive Your fullness in this food as You desire. May we become Your Body in the world today. Amen.

Please spend a moment now, receiving God’s grace as you eat and drink what is on your table.\

Sacred Music - Instrumental by Bill Smith



Prayer after Communion

Father Teri

Let us pray...

God Who dwells in our homes, in our hearts, in our sanctuaries, and in our streets, You have entered the world in a new way, declaring that Love in a new manifestation is here and grace is abundant. And you invite us all to come and see. May we

recognize God-with-us and God-in-us. May we be bearers and makers of light on earth, Christ's light that emerges anew. May we share the gifts of our best selves. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen**

Blessing

Father Teri

The Love of God be with you. **ALL And also with you.**
Please open your hearts as we ask for God's blessing

God of all goodness,
May we be incarnations in your world.
May we be swaddled in flesh and bone, like our brother Jesus.

May we be light bearers.
May we look to you, and participate in your Divinity as you participate in our humanity in our homes and in your streets.

We ask for your heavenly peace where shepherds and angels unite and all creation sings.
We ask for this blessing now, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen

Dismissal – Pastor Rosean

We are the Body of Christ. May we go forth now to love and serve God as we get to love and serve in God's world. **All: Thanks be to God**

Closing Song - (please join in with Bill while muted – Join in with your bells!)

Angels We Have Heard on High

1. Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?

Say what may the tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?

Refrain
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!.

Text: 77 77 with refrain; trad. French carol, ca. 18th cent.; tr. fr. *Crown of Jesus Music, II*, London, 1862; tr. by James Chadwick, 1813–1882, and others, alt. Music: Trad. French carol; arr. © 2013, Spirit & Song, a division of OCP. All rights reserved.