

**The Epiphany
January 6, 2026
6:00 p.m.**



**St. Paul's Episcopal Church
28788 North Main Street
Daphne, AL 36526**

The Rev. Thack H. Dyson, Rector
The Rev. S. Albert Kennington, Priest Associate
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***We worship together as we seek God, serve God,
and share God with love and acceptance for all.***

Processional Hymn 7

all verses

Christ, whose glory fills the skies

1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies,
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine!

Christ, the true, the on - ly Light,
un - ac - com - pan - ied by thee;
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief!

Sun of Right-eous - ness, a - rise! Tri-umph o'er the shades of night:
joy - less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer - cy's beams I see,
Fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine; scat - ter all my un - be - lief;

Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.
till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: *Ranibon*, melody from *Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn*, 1524; adapt. att. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

Reading (T S Eliot)

O great wonder, and miraculous sacrament: that the animals see the Lord born lying in a manger. Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ.

Please be seated

Responsory (Celebrant-C, People-P)

C: Arise, shine, for your light has come: the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

P: Arise, shine, for your light has come: the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

C: The Lord will arise upon you: and his glory will be seen over you.

P: The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

C: Nations shall come to your light: and kings to your dawning brightness.

P: The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

C: Your gates will always be open, shut neither by day nor by night.

P: The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

C: The Lord will be your everlasting light: your God will be your glory.

P: The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

C: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

UNISON:

Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come: the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. All of the Father's heart begotten, Ere the world from chaos rose, He is Alpha: from that Fountain All that is and hath been flows; He is Omega, of all things Yet to come the mystic close, Evermore and evermore.

By his word was all created; He commanded and 'twas done; Earth and sky and boundless ocean, Universe of three in one, All that sees the moon's soft radiance, All that breathes beneath the sun, Evermore and evermore.

He assumed this mortal body, Frail and feeble, doomed to die, That the race from dust created Might not perish utterly, Which the dreadful Law had sentenced in the depths of hell to lie, Evermore and evermore.

O how blest that wondrous birthday, When the Maid the curse retrieved, Brought to birth mankind's salvation, By the Holy Ghost conceived; And the Babe, the world's redeemer, In her loving arms received, Evermore and evermore.

Please Stand

Sequence Hymn 124 *verses 1-3*

What Star is this with beams so bright

Unison or harmony

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more beau-teous
2 True spake the prophet from afar who told the
3 The guid-ing star above is bright; with in them
4 O Je-sus, while the star of grace im-pels us
5 To God the Fa-ther, heaven-ly Light, to Christ, re-

1 than the noon-day light? It shines to her-ald
2 rise of Ja-cob's star; and east - ern sa-ges
3 shines a clear-er light, and leads them on with
4 on to seek thy face, let not our sloth-ful
5 vealed in earth-ly night, to God the Ho-ly

1 forth the King, and Gen-tiles to his crib to bring.
2 with a-maze up-on the won-drous to-ken gaze.
3 power be-nign to seek the Giv-er of the sign.
4 hearts re-fuse the guid-ance of thy light to use.
5 Ghost we raise our e-qual and un-ceas-ing praise.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, after John Chandler (1807-1876), alt.

Music: *Puer nobis*, melody from Trier MS., 15th cent.; adapt. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621); harm. Cowley Carol Book, 1902

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

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.

Please be seated

Responsory (Celebrant-C, People-P)

C: This day a star leads the wise men to the manger. Arise, shine; for your light has come

P: And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

C: Nations shall come to your light

P: And kings to the brightness of your rising.

C: They shall bring gold and frankincense

P: And proclaim the praise of the Lord.

C: Your gates will lie open continually

P: Shut neither by day nor by night.

C: No more will the sun give you daylight

P: Nor moonlight shine upon you.

C: But the Lord will be your everlasting light

P: Your God will be your splendor.

Bidding Prayer (*Celebrant*)

In the name of Christ, who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light, to be a kingdom of priests to our God, we welcome you. Grace to you and peace. As we rejoice in the Word made flesh, who comes among us to reveal God's glory, so we pray that his kingly reign may be acknowledged throughout the world. And so, we pray for the unity and mission of Christ's Church, for the ministers of the gospel of Christ, and for all for whom we bear witness. We pray for this world, which is already Christ's, that we may have reverence for the natural order and respect for every person, made in the image and likeness of God. And we pray for those who stand in need, for the lonely, the fearful, the anxious, for the sick and the bereaved, and all who have no one to pray for them. May God our Father take us and use us in His service; may He open our eyes to see His glory, and equip us to bless His people, now and at all times. *Amen.*

Reading: Journey of the Magi (T S Eliot)

Deep midwinter, the dark center of the year, Wake, O earth, awake, Out on the hills a star appears, Here lies the way for pilgrim kings, Three magi on an ancient path, Black hours begin their journeyings. Their star has risen in our hearts, Empty thrones, abandoned fears, Out on the hills their journey starts, In dazzling darkness God appears.

Homily

The Rev. Judith W. Comer

Please remain seated

Liturgy of Adoration

Adoration and Presentation of Gifts

The gifts will be brought to the altar.

Presentation Hymn 128

We Three Kings of Orient are
EVERYONE VERSES 1 AND 5; SOLOISTS ON VERSES 2, 3 & 4

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing
2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: in - cense
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and

1 gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
2 bring to crown him a - gain, King for ev - er,
3 owns a De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
4 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
5 God and Sac - ri - fice; heaven sings al - le -

1 moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
2 ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
3 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship him, God Most High.
4 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
5 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain

O star of won - der, star of night,

star with roy - al beau - ty bright; west - ward lead - ing,
still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

The stanzas may be sung by three soloists; 1 and 5 by the ensemble; 2-4 by individuals; and the refrain by all.

Words: John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891), alt. Music: *Three Kings of Orient*, John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891)

At the offering of gold the first magi says:

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe: to you be praise and glory for ever! As gold in the furnace is tried and purified seven times in the fire, so purify our hearts and minds that we may be a royal priesthood acceptable in the service of your kingdom.

P: Blessed be God for ever!

At the offering of the incense the second Magi says:

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe: to you be praise and glory for ever! As our prayer rises up in your presence as incense, so may we be presented before you with penitent hearts and uplifted hands to offer ourselves in your priestly service.

P: Blessed be God for ever!

At the offering of the myrrh the third Magi says:

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe: to you be praise and glory for ever! As you give medicine to heal our sickness and the leaves of the tree of life for the healing of the nations, so anoint us with your healing power that we may be the first-fruits of your new creation.

P: Blessed be God for ever!

All Stand

The Peace

Anthem How Brightly Shines the Morning Star

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B

Please stand

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

Celebrant 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.

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

Celebrant and People

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.

Please stand or kneel.

Celebrant 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,

Celebrant and People

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

Celebrant 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,

Celebrant and People 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.*

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Music:

Hymn 119 *all verses*

As of gladness men of old

1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid-ing star be - hold;
 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly man-ger - bed;
 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at that man-ger rude and bare;
 4 Ho - ly Je - sus! ev - ery day keep us in the nar - row way;
 5 In the heaven - ly coun - try bright, need they no cre - a - ted light;

1 as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;
 2 there to bend the knee be - fore him whom heaven and earth a - dore;
 3 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
 4 and, when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
 5 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down:

1 so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led to thee.
 2 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek the mer - cy - seat.
 3 all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ! to thee, our heaven-ly King.
 4 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
 5 there for ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our King.

Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898). Music: Dix, melody Conrad Kocher (1786-1872), arr. William Henry Monk (1823-1889).
 harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People 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, the Light from Light, lead you also, in your pilgrimage, to find the Lord. *Amen.*

Recessional: 616 *verses 1-3* Hail to the Lord's Anointed

1 Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
2 He comes with suc - cor speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
3 He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth,
4 Kings shall bow down be - fore him, and gold and in - cense bring;
5 O'er ev - ery foe vic - to - rious, he on his throne shall rest;

1 Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!
2 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;
3 and love, joy, hope, like flow - ers, spring in his path to birth:
4 all na - tions shall a - dore him, his praise all peo - ple sing;
5 from age to age more glo - rious, all bless - ing and all - blest;

1 He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free;
2 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light,
3 be - fore him on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald, go;
4 to him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows a - scand;
5 the tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;

1 to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
2 whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, were pre - cious in his sight.
3 and right - eous - ness in foun - tains from hill to val - ley flow.
4 his king - dom still in - crea - sing, a king - dom with - out end.
5 his Name shall stand for ev - er, his change - less Name of Love.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854); psalm of Psalm 72
Music: *Es flöß ein kleins Waldvögelein*, German folk song; adapt. and harm. *A Student's Hymnal*, 1923, after Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941)

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.
People *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.*

Those Who Serve - Epiphany:

Celebrant and Homilist: The Rev. Judith W. Comer
Verger: Donna Nolte
Lector: Heather Barnard
Crucifer/Server: Mary Claire McTaggart
Chalice Bearers: Tim McTaggart, Leah McTaggart
Ushers: Tom Walker, Donna Brown
Vestry: Tom Walker

St. Paul's Staff:

The Rev. Thack H. Dyson, *Rector*
The Rev. S. Albert Kennington, *Priest Associate*
The Rev. Judith Comer, *Priest Associate*
Terri McMillan, *Administrative Assistant*
Joan McKnight, *Staff Assistant*
Donna Brown, *Staff Assistant*
Elizabeth Faust, *Christian Education and Preschool Administrator*
Hali Everette, *Youth Leader*
Christopher Conger, *Choirmaster and Church Musician*
David Kielek, *Life Center Sexton*