EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 9, 2022
10:00 AM

CHURCH LIFE UPDATE Steven Phillips

INTROIT *Star in the East* Appalachian folk song / arr. Phillips

Hail, the blest morn, see the great Mediator,
Down from the region of glory descend!
Shepherds, go worship the babe in the manger,
Lo! for his guard the bright angels attend.

Refrain:
Brightest and best of the sons of the morning!
Dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
Star in the east, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer was laid.

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining;
Low lies his bed, with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore him in slumbers reclining,
Wise men and shepherds before him do fall. (**Refrain)**

What shall we yield him, in costly devotion?
Odors of Eden and offerings divine?
Gems from the mountain and pearls from the ocean?
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine? **(Refrain)**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Isaiah 60: 1-3, 4a, 5b, 6b
Abby Clissold

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;
The wealth of the nations shall come to you.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
And shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

* *Those who are able are invited to stand.*

*** HYMN 151 (vv. 1, 2 & 5)** *We Three Kings* Kings of Orient

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

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

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign. **(Refrain)**

Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sounds through the earth and skies. **(Refrain)**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Margaret LaMotte Torrence

Merciful God,
We move through our days, half-awake:
we avoid troubling questions;
we cling to our routines;
we have forgotten how to live at the edge of our hope.

In this hour, pierce our darkness with your holy love,
that in turning toward your brightness,
we might find a new way home.

(silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*** HYMN OF JOY 145 (v. 3)** *What Child Is This* Greensleeves

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high.
The Virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary!

*** THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Margaret LaMotte Torrence

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON *Light to Guide Us* Margaret LaMotte Torrence

SONG OF WORSHIP *Christmas Offering* Baloche

Verse 1
Over the skies of Bethlehem appeared a star,
While angels sang to lowly shepherds.
Three wise men seeking truth traveled from afar,
Hoping to find the child from heaven.
Falling on their knees
They bowed before the humble Prince of Peace.

Chorus 1
I bring an offering of worship to my King.
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing.
Jesus, may you receive the honor that you're due.
Oh Lord, I bring an offering to you,
. . . I bring an offering to you.

Verse 2
The sun cannot compare to the glory of your love,
There is no shadow in your presence.
No mortal one would dare to stand before your throne,
Before the Holy One of heaven.
Invited by your love, invited by your mercy,
Lord I come.

As the music continues, you are invited to come forward and select a star from the communion table. (If you would prefer to wait until the service has concluded to receive a star, they also will be available then.)

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** From *A Declaration of Faith* Abby Clissold

God has not waited to be discovered.
The Lord has taken the initiative
and addressed God's Word to humankind in many ways.
Through the Word of God the world was created.
The Word became flesh in Jesus Christ.
Through the Word of God the New Creation is being formed.

Jesus is Lord!
He has been Lord from the beginning.
He will be Lord at the end.
Even now he is Lord.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Margaret LaMotte Torrence

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 debts as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory, forever. Amen.

***SONG OF LIGHT 110** *Love Has Come* Bring a Torch

Love has come: a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
What is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.
Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

***EPIPHANY BLESSING** Margaret LaMotte Torrence

May the God who said "Let there be light"—be light in your life.

May the Christ who said not only, "I am the Light of the World,"
but "You are the light of the world"—give you courage to be that light.

And may the Spirit that descended upon the disciples like tongues of fire
be the flame within you.

For the light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.

POSTLUDE *Te Deum* Marc-Antione Charpentier

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