

ST. BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR

Deer Isle Maine

Our **Mission** is to **love, praise**, **welcome,** and **serve**:
· to **love** one another as Christ loves us,
· to **praise** God in all things,
· to **welcome** and affirm all persons,
· to **serve** the needs of one another and of those
on the island, the peninsula, and throughout the world.

Elaine Hewes, Priest in Charge and Celebrant
Connie Mayo, Music Director

The Feast of Epiphany
Proclaiming the Light
January 5, 2025

The Gathering of the Community

Celebrant: We honor the Indigenous people everywhere, particularly the Wabanaki Nations, acknowledging that the land we now occupy is their ancestral home. May we always remember, as do the Wabanaki peoples, that the Earth does not belong to us, rather, we belong to the Earth.
Congregation: **May we find the courage to acknowledge the brutality and violence of our forebears who seized these lands, and may we be instruments of justice and peace for all people in today's world, and for all creation.**

The bell is rung three times

Prelude*: Three Kings* Old Flemish Carol

Silence is begun and ended with a ring of the bell

Opening Acclamation
Celebrant: God of proclamation and epiphany,
Congregation: **May we hear the words of the prophets**
to help us discern the possibilities of a different way for the world.

Opening Hymn 117 *Brightest and best of the stars of the morning (vss. 1-4, back of bulletin)*

Celebrant: 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. *Congregation:* **Amen.**

Canticle 20, Glory to God: ***Gloria in excelsis The Hymnal 1982, Service Music,*** #277



Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: May God be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our

lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Congregation: **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

First Lesson: 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.
Congregation: **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.

Second Lesson: Letter to the Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles-- for 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.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn ELW 301 *Bright and glorious is the sky (in back of bulletin)*

The Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Congregation: **Glory to you, O 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. 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.

Celebrant: The Gospel of Christ.

Congregation: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon Pastor Elaine Hewes

Silence will be commenced and ended with the sounding of a bell.

Affirmation *Anonymous Latin American writer*

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the
power of the gospel, born in Bethlehem.
I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a small village,
of whose coming shepherds saw the sign,
and for whom there was no room at the inn.
I believe in the one whose life changed
the course of history, over whom the
rulers of the earth had no power,
and who was not understood by the proud.
I believe in the one to whom the oppressed,
the discouraged, the afflicted, the sick, the blind,
the injured gave welcome and thanksgiving.
I believe in the one who – with love –
changed the heart of the proud and
with his life showed that it is better to
serve than to be served.
I believe in peace, which is not the absence of war,
but justice among all people and nations
and love among all.
I believe in reconciliation, forgiveness, and the
transforming power of the gospel.
I believe that Christmas is strength and power,
and that this world can change if with
humility and faith we kneel before the manger.
I pray for the courage to do so. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Leader: God of light and life, arise and shine in our hearts as we offer our prayers to you in hope and faith.

Leader: Grant to us, the Body of Christ, wisdom to discern the presence of God in our midst.

Congregation: **Give us courage to follow wherever You lead us.**

Leader: Let the light of truth and justice shine forth across our nation.

Congregation: **May we create a place of peace and welcome for all.**

Leader: Be with us today and every day.

Congregation: **May your light show forth in our lives.**

Leader: Instill in us awe and thankfulness for the majesty of your created world.

Congregation: **Kindle in our hearts a sense of urgency to be better stewards of creation.**

Leader: Grant healing to those who suffer from anxiety and depression, from disease and from all manner of things that affect our body, mind and spirit.

Congregation: **Let all your people know wholeness, wellness, and peace.**

Leader: Grant to the faithful departed peace and rest in your eternal love.

Congregation: **Bless the dying with peace and the grieving with comfort.**

Leader: Please add your prayers and thanksgivings.

All are invited to add their own prayers here.

Are there any people on Zoom who would like to add their prayers and thanksgivings?

Leader: God of radiant light, your love illumines our hopes before we know them, and our needs before we ask. Kindle your flame within us, that in our prayers and service, we may know your transforming presence at work in the world around us. All this we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Congregation: **Amen.**

Confession

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and one another.

Congregation:

God of Light,
we confess that we have gone astray and have left Your light.
We follow the dim lights of the world of success and fortune.
We follow the dim lights that call us
to be more religious by following rules.
We follow the fading light of personal salvation
rather than seeking the true Light
of Your love for all the world.
Forgive us for not following the ways of Jesus,
who commanded us to love one another.
Call us to be light-bearers of love, compassion and justice,
in which the Mystery of Your Love is revealed.
In the name of Jesus the Messiah, we pray. Amen.

Celebrant: Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, hear this good news:
God's mercy is wider than our transgressions.
God's love is deeper than our fear.
God's longing for our wholeness is stronger than our resistance.
We have been freed by grace to be God's people in the world.
Let our lives reflect the light entrusted to us,
in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Congregation: **Amen.**

The Peace
Leader: Peace within yourself.
Peace with Creation.
Peace with you who are with us remotely today.
Peace with one another.
The peace of Christ be always with you.
Congregation: **And also with you.**

The people exchange the peace

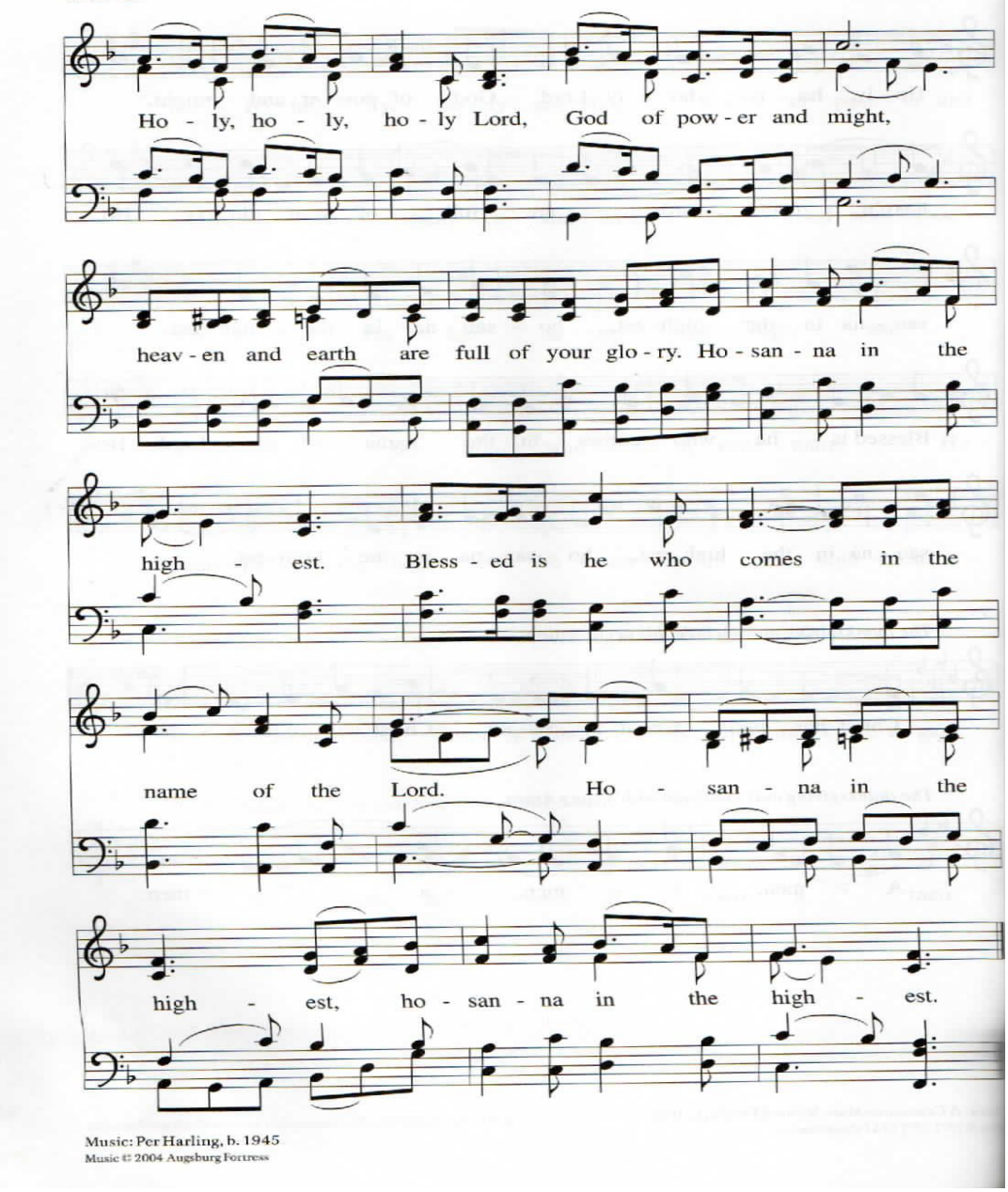
The Holy Eucharist

Offertory Hymn 128 *We three kings of Orient are (in back of bulletin)*

The Great Thanksgiving
Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
Congregation: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
Congregation: **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
Congregation: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We offer you praise, dear God, and hearts lifted high,
for in the communion of your love
Christ comes close to us and we come close to Christ.
Therefore with the whole realm of nature around us,
with earth, sea, and sky, we sing to you.
With the angels of light who envelop us,
with all the saints before and beside us,
with brothers and sisters, east and west,
we sing to you.
And with our loved ones, separate from us now,
who yet in this mystery are close to us,
we join in the song of your unending greatness:

Sanctus ELW 193 *(next page)*



Blessed is our brother Jesus,
who walks with us the road of our world's suffering,
and who is known to us in the breaking of bread.
On the night of his arrest Jesus took bread
and having blessed it he broke the bread
and gave it to his disciples, saying,
This is my body, given to you.
In the same way he took wine
and having given thanks for it, he poured it out
and gave the cup to his disciples, saying,

This cup is the new relationship with God, sealed with my blood.
Take this and share it.

Congregation: **Hear us, O Christ,**
and breathe your Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine.
May they become for us your body, vibrant with your life.
May they heal, renew, and make us whole.
And as the bread and wine
which we now eat and drink are changed into us,
may we be changed again into you,
bone of your bone, flesh of your flesh,
loving and caring in the world. Amen.

Gathered into one body by the Holy Spirit, let us all pray the prayer our Lord taught us to pray:
Congregation:

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.

Fraction Anthem
We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Celebrant: In recognition with those who are worshiping with us remotely we pray.
Celebrant and Congregation: **Gathered in the name of Jesus, whether we are here or on Zoom, we are united by the power of the Holy Spirit. We acknowledge the Holy Sacrament of communion and the fullness of Christ's presence in the gifts of the bread and the wine. Called together as a community of faith from far and wide, we know nothing can separate us from each other as we offer our thanksgiving and praise.**

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God …

Those gathered at St. Brendan receive the bread and wine.

Celebrant: And now may the Presence of Jesus, in whatever form it has come to you this morning, nourish you in grace, comfort you in love, and inspire you to be Christ's presence in the world.

Post Communion Prayer
Celebrant: In thanksgiving for the gifts of grace and mercy that have nourished us at this table, we pray for the courage to bear these gifts to the world, remembering the life to which Jesus calls us.

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

Congregation: **To find the lost,**
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.

The Work of Christmas by Howard Thurman

The Blessing

Sending Hymn 109 *The First Noel (in back of bulletin)*

Postlude: *All my heart this day rejoices* Helmut Walcha

Announcements

Dismissal

All hymns except ELW 301 from RiteSong ©2023 Church Publishing Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission. All hymns and the Sanctus reprinted and streamed with permission under One License #A-715565. All rights reserved.
Prayers of the People adapted from *"Hear our Prayer, Prayers of the People for the RCL"*
Prayer of Confession written by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell http://rev-o-lution.org Used by permission.

Giving our Priorities Shape (GPS) Action
Love in Action

We heard last week from the Gospel of John, "And the Word became Flesh and dwelt among us..." Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe further writes in his Christmas message, "Our hurting and divided world is desperate for the Incarnation."

Please contemplate this week how we, the community of St Brendan, can engage in our broken world, can proclaim God's Incarnation by our actions and work to alleviate suffering, injustice, and loneliness.

Read Bishop Sean's Christmas message and consider registering for the January 14 Maine Council of Churches' first of a series of online "town hall" discussions on the theme "Here We Are. Send Us!" Links for these can be found in the Navigator.

CALENDAR

All services and meetings will be held both in-person and via Zoom unless otherwise designated.

Monday, January 6	4:30 p.m. Meditation/Silent Prayer (Zoom)
Wednesday, January 8	4:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal
Saturday, January 11	9:00 a.m. Women's Breakfast at Stonecutters Kitchen
Sunday, January 12	10:00 a.m. Eucharist with The Rev. Emily Blair Stribling presiding

Looking Ahead

Sunday, January 19	11:15 a.m. Coffee and Tea with Pastor E.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning *The Hymnal 1982,* #117



Words: Reginald Heber (1783-1826), alt. Music: *Morning Star*, James Proctor Harding (1850-1911).

301 Bright and Glorious Is the Sk



Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Jens Christian Aaberg, 1877–1970, alt.
Music: Danish, 19th cent.
Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

DEJLIG ER DEN HIMMEL BL
77887

5 Guided by the star, they found
him whose praise the ages sound.
We too have a star to guide us,
which forever will provide us
with the light to find our Lord,
with the light to find our Lord.

6 And this star, as bright as day,
that will never lead astray
with its message so appealing,
is the word of God, revealing
Christ, the way, the truth, the life,
Christ, the way, the truth, the life.

We three kings of Orient are *The Hymnal 1982,* #128



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

The first Nowell the angel did say *The Hymnal 1982,* #109





6 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

Alternative Refrain