



January 3, 2021

Epiphany Sunday

(As the Prelude begins, you are invited to enter a time of prayer and meditation as we prepare to worship God together.)

The Prelude

Promenade on "We Three Kings"
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Jack C. Goode

The Welcome

The Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: God of promise and light,
open our eyes this morning,
that we may see your light in the darkness.

Open our hearts,
that we may perceive your promises
of justice and righteousness
fulfilled in the babe of Bethlehem.

May we, like the Magi,
have a star to guide us on our journey quest
to find the one who will truly set us free.

May this time of worship bring us closer to you,
that the good news of the birth of light and love
will transform our lives. Amen.

The Opening Hymn No. 254

We Three Kings

KINGS OF ORIENT

1. We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

3. Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high. **Refrain**

Refrain

O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. **Refrain**

4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. **Refrain**

5. Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies. **Refrain**

The Scripture Lesson

Ephesians 3:1-12

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Homily

Let the Mystery Be

Dr. Matthew D. Bates

The Invitation

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin
and seek to live in peace with one another.
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

The Confession and Pardon (in unison)

Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

All pray in silence.

Leader: Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love towards us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**
All: **Glory to God. Amen.**

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory Solo

A Carol of the Kings

Eric H. Thiman

They saw Him cradled in His mother's arms,
Those kings so great and fine,
With cattle breathing there among the straw,
Beside the Babe divine.

They took their gifts from pages standing by,
And knelt upon the floor,
To offer them in rev'rence and in love,
To worship and adore.

Then from the shed they slowly rode away
Upon their camels tall,
Within their hearts the mem'ry of a king,
So lovely, yet so small.

Irene Gass

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The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts,

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor gives thanks appropriate to the occasion, remembering God's acts of salvation, and concludes:

And so,
with your people on earth
and with all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Music © 1976 Oxford University Press

The pastor continues the thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes:

And so,
in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

William Mathias

Christ has died, Christ is ris-en, Christ will come a-gain!
Music © 1976 Oxford University Press

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding:
All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

William Mathias

A - men, a - men, a - men.
Music © 1976 Oxford University Press

The Lord's Prayer No. 895

**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 that 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,
forever. Amen.**

The Giving and Receiving of Communion

The Hymn No. 2098

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

THE VIRGIN MARY

1. The virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the virgin Mary had a baby boy,
and they say that his name is Jesus.

Refrain

He come from the glory,
he come from the glorious kingdom.
He come from the glory,
he come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh, yes! believer! Oh, yes! believer!
He come from the glory,
he come from the glorious kingdom.

2. The angels sang when the baby was born,
the angels sang when the baby was born,
the angels sang when the baby was born,
and they say that his name is Jesus. ***Refrain***
3. The shepherds came where the baby was born,
the shepherds came where the baby was born,
the shepherds came where the baby was born,
and they say his name is Jesus. ***Refrain***
4. The Wise Men came where the baby was born,
the Wise Men came where the baby was born,
the Wise Men came where the baby was born,
and they say his name is Jesus. ***Refrain***

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The Benediction

The Postlude

Arise, Shine Out, Your Light Has Come

DUNEDIN

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We thank these persons who helped us in worship this morning.

Senior Pastor:	Rev. Matthew D. Bates
Minister to Young Adults:	Rev. Drew Willson
Director of Music:	Stanley M. Baker
Pianist:	Lee Covington
Singer:	Regan Sprenkle

Scriptures

Ephesians 3:1-12

Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles

3 This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you,³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.⁵ 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:⁶ that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ 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. ⁸ 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, ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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