

EPIPHANY 2021



Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Lord, from the beginning of times,
light made the difference.
Many: **Let your light shine upon us, Lord.**
One: You introduced light by your command
and dispelled darkness.
Many: **Dispel our darkness, Lord.**
One: Your light is a gift to the world and an
answer to our prayer.
Many: **May we receive your gift, O Lord.**

One: We come in our darkness, and prefer
to remain hidden.
Many: **Shine your light upon us, Lord.**
One: Remove our stubborn wills and
penetrate our darkness.
Many: **Come into our lives with light, Lord.**
One: Let our lives be gifts to you and
brightness to others.
Many: **Make us shine with your light, Lord.**
One: Fill this space and this place with light eternal.
Many: **We will shine for you, Lord. Amen.**

Song: O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Prayer of Illumination

Almighty God, as your word is read and heard, may it shine light upon our hearts and remove the darkness of greed, selfishness, and prejudice. We need to hear your word with clarity. But more so, we need to see you on the faces of those who read and hear. Holy Spirit, make clear the message for this day, and grant us grace to receive it. We pray in and through the Light for all ages, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Magi Visit the Messiah: Matthew 2 :2-12

New International Version (NIV)

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

Reflection: Wise Men & Star

Song: Angels we have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high
singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their brave delight.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?
Gloria...

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria...

See Him in a manger laid
whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise.
Gloria...

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.

Song: What child is this?

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
*This, this is Christ, the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary!*

Why lies He in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. *Refrain*

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him. *Refrain*

After they heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

Song: Silent Night

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth. Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Song: We Three Kings

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

*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 for ever, ceasing never
over us all to reign. *Refrain*

Frankincense to offer have I:
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising,
worship him, God Most High. *Refrain*

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

Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
heaven sings alleluia;
alleluia the earth replies. *Refrain*

Reflection Gifts from the Wise Men: Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh

And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Wise Men went out into the world..... We are to go out into the world

Song: Here I am Lord

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin, my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me,

I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them, they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? *REFRAIN*

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? *REFRAIN*

Prayer

Dear God, reveal to us this day what our eyes look for but cannot see; what our ears hear and cannot understand. Shine your light on the pages of our lives. In the places where we share the dark, everyone looks bright and everything looks right. We are not anxious to move out of our darkness where we are fooled. In the darkness, our motives are not clear, our ideas are not voiced, and our relationships are not questioned. But when your light shines, everything is like an open window. We see clearly. Help us to move on with you, Light of lights. We praise you, and pray in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

**ALL: O God, our guide,
who once used a star to lead people to Christ,
we confess our poor sense of direction.
We let ourselves become confused,
easily distracted, and lose our way.**

**We fail to follow the signs you provide.
Forgive our waywardness, O God.
Lead us to the Christ so that we may
follow his way to you. Amen.**

Song: This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!
Let it shine! Let it shine! Let it shine!

Everywhere I go...

Jesus gave it to me...

This little light of mine...

Prayer:

One: The light of God's purposes has shone upon us.
Carry that light into another week.

Many: **The star of God's promises that led us to worship
now leads us to serve in God's world.**

One: When we have met God in the light,
we cannot dwell comfortably in the shadows.

Many: **We cannot enjoy our abundance and wealth
without thanksgiving and generous sharing.**

One: The glory of God shines on you today.
Others will see your radiance and rejoice with you.

Many: **We seek God's peace that we may share it, God's
wisdom that we may live by it, in Christ's name.
Amen.**

Song: I want to walk as a child of the light

I want to walk as a child of the light;
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world;
The star of my life is Jesus.
*In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God;
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father.
In him there is no darkness at all...

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus.
In him there is no darkness at all...

One: As we leave this place tonight and as we seek to take the light of Jesus Christ out into the world, We ask God to watch over each of us. Please take a piece of chalk and write over the doorway of our home. We invite you to write

20 C M B 21

To begin write **20**

Then write a **C M B**

For the names of the Wise Men, **Casper, Melchoir and Balthazar**

Then complete the writings with a **21**

During our coming year, 2021, may we be like the Wise Men..... carrying the message of the Christ Child throughout the world. May our homes be a place where Jesus can be known. Let's take this message out to the world.

Go out into the world, thanking God for the gift of Jesus and for the opportunity to share the love of Jesus throughout the world.

Song: Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our father, brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With every step I take let this be my solemn vow,
to take each moment and live each moment with peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.



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