



**The Festival of the Epiphany of Our Lord**

**The purpose of our Community is:**

**❧ “Building Committed Followers of Jesus Christ” ❧**

**Prelude**

**Pianist:** *Aretta Engelhardt or Shirlene Everhart*

**The Invocation**

**Pastor:** *In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**People:** **Amen.**

**The Confession of Sins and Absolution**

**Pastor:** *Arise, shine; For your light has come!*

**People:** **And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.**

**Pastor:** *For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth,*

**People:** **And deep darkness the people;**

**Pastor:** *But the LORD will arise over you,*

**People:** **Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for.**

**Pastor:** *As this Christmas Season comes to a close this week, we remember with thankfulness, Christ’s first coming to save us,*

**People:** **We confess our sins for which He came to forgive, for the Lord is gracious, compassionate, and rich in mercy.**

*(A moment of silence is observed for personal confession)*

**Pastor:** *Let us then confess our sins together unto our gracious Lord. We confess together:*

**People:** **Lord, we have been blessed so that, once again this Christmas, we have observed and celebrated Your first coming into our world. You have also blessed us with another year of grace as 2020 has come to a close and a new year begins. Forgive us our impatience at times, when we have not trusted You enough to wait without undue anxiety for Your will to take place in our lives. Forgive us our sins this past year and strengthen our faith for the new year. We have not always trusted You enough. Increase our faith. Forgive our sins.**



cordance with his pleasure and will—<sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.<sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace<sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding,<sup>9</sup> he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,<sup>10</sup> to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.<sup>11</sup> In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,<sup>12</sup> in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.<sup>13</sup> And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,<sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

*Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Everyone: THANKS BE TO GOD.**

(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)

## **Gospel Lesson**

*Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV)*

*Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.*

**Everyone: GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.**

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem<sup>2</sup> 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.”<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup> “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: <sup>6</sup>“‘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.’”<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.<sup>8</sup> 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.”<sup>9</sup> After they had 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.<sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.<sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

*Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.*

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## ***We Respond to God's Word by Confessing Our Faith***

*As we recite together the words of the Apostles' Creed, we join the worldwide chorus of followers of Jesus, who, for centuries, have confessed their faith through this simple declaration.*

**(Everyone) I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;**

**And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***Sermon Hymn***    *Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning, #58*

***Sermon***

*"The Twelfth Day of Christmas"*  
*Pastor Beryl Droegemueller*

Message Notes:

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## **General Prayer**

## **Communion Hymn**

*What Child Is This?, #26*

## **We Worship at the table of the Lord's Supper**

*Communion — If you prefer grape juice instead of wine, please hold up 2 fingers when you reach the person with the cups.*

*Everyone who confesses Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior is welcome and invited to join us. Together we receive anew the love and grace that God pours out to us through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Come hold in your hands and taste on your lips the love He poured out for you.*

*Pastor: The Words of Our Lord...(Consecration of the Elements)*

**(Everyone) 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, forever and ever. Amen!**

Distribution

## **Benediction**

*A blessing we receive to send us out into the world once again.*

## **Sending Hymn**

*O God, Our Help In Ages Past, #50*

*Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord.*

**(Everyone): Thanks be to God**

## **Postlude**

## **Things going on during the week:**

Please pick up Food Bags today to use or to distribute to others.

**Monday-Friday: 7:15 am to 5 pm** Little Blessings Christian Preschool:  
Theme: Good health/Wintertime!; Letters: Oo; Bible: Simeon & Ana thanked  
& praise God

**Wednesdays: Choir, 5 pm; No other meetings** until further notice.

**Thursdays: Until further notice, NO other meetings**

## **Birdhouse = Building Fund Donations**

Please place all and any donations for the Building Fund in the Birdhouse. This fund is needed to replace 'The Shack' and build for the future of this church. Being more visible to Mission Avenue we hope to attract Christians looking for a new home and non-Christians looking for what is missing in their life.

## **Mark Your Calendars!**

**January 16, Saturday - Free Food Distribution**--At the Shack from 9 to 10 am. If you know of someone who could benefit from the free food distribution, please let them know. Also, if you can help with set-up, please come at 8:30 am. If you can come later and stay until about 11:00 am to help with putting away leftover food, tables and chairs, your help will be greatly appreciated. Join us in thanking God for the continuation of this ministry! The Blue bin on the North wall of the Church is for the collection of can goods for the Food Distribution.

**February 6, Saturday - Normally Women's Bible Study, 10 am.**

### **February 7, Sunday - Love Offering ... for Missions**

Once a quarter, we will be collecting a special offering in the 'Missions Giving Box' on your way out of the Sanctuary for our Missionaries. This offering is above and beyond our regular giving. In planning ahead, we will repeat the Love Offerings in 2020 on the first Sunday in February, May, August & November.







# How brightly beams the Morning Star

How brightly beams the Morning Star!  
What sudden radiance from afar  
Doth cheer us with its shining?  
Brightness of God that breaks our night  
And fills the darkened souls with light  
Who long for truth were pining!  
Newly, truly, God's Word feeds us,  
Rightly leads us,  
Life bestowing;  
Praise, O praise such love o'erflowing.

Through Thee alone can we be blest,  
Then deep be on our hearts impressed  
The love that Thou hast borne us;  
So make us ready to fulfil  
With ardent zeal Thy holy will,  
Though men may vex or scorn us;  
Hold us, fold us, lest we fail thee,  
Lo, we hail Thee,  
Long to know Thee;  
All we are and have we owe Thee!

All praise to Him who come to save,  
Who conquered death and scorned the  
grave;  
Each day new praise resoundeth  
To Him, the Life who once was slain,  
The Friend whom none shall trust in vain,  
Whose grace for aye aboundeth;  
Sing then, ring then, tell the story  
Of His glory,  
Till His praises  
Flood with light Earth's darkest mazes.

# Brightest and best of the stars of the morning

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid;  
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining;  
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;  
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all!

Shall we not yield Him, in costly devotion,  
Fragrance of Edom and offerings divine?  
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,  
Myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
Vainly with gifts would His favor secure;  
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,  
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid;  
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

# 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.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The babe, the Son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, peasant, king 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!

# O God, Our Help in Ages Past

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home!

Before the hills in order stood,  
Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God,  
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like an evening gone;  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while life shall last,  
And our eternal home.