

The Feast of the Epiphany

A Valley Forge Deanery Service

The Rev. Dr. Koshy Mathews, Dean

January 6, 2018

The Rev. Beth W. Hixon, Presiding

Rector / Church of the Epiphany, Royersford

The Rev. Stephen Moore, Preaching

Priest in Charge / Trinity, Gulf Mills

The Rev. Robin Robb, Proclaiming

Deacon / Christ Church Pottstown



Welcome to the Church of the Epiphany!

A warm and friendly welcome to all! We are especially pleased to welcome all our brothers and sisters from across the Valley. Please come together in the undercroft following the service to enjoy refreshments and one another. (Rest rooms are located in the undercroft and can be accessed by moving through the double doors beside the lectern, through the sacristy and down the stairs to the right.)

The Entrance Rite

The Procession

Hymn 128



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing
 2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: in - cense
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



1 gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
 2 bring to crown him a - gain, King for ev - er,
 3 owns a De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
 4 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
 5 God and Sac - ri - fice; heaven sings al - le -



1 moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 2 ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 3 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship him, God Most High.
 4 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 5 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain

O star of won - der, star of night,

star with roy - al beau - ty bright; west - ward lead - ing,

still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

The stanzas may be sung by three soloists: 1 and 5 by the ensemble; 2-4 by individuals; and the refrain by all.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

All standing

Presider

Blessed be the One Holy and Living God

People

Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.

The Gloria S278

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
peace to his peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al-
might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo-ry. 3. Lord Je-sus Christ,
on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;
5. you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-
ceive our prayer. 6. For
you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
7. you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the



THE SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray

All

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

THE FIRST READING

ISAIAH 60:1-6

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

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 to the Churches

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;

- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, *
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.
- 11 All kings shall bow down before him, *
and all the nations do him service.
- 12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, *
and the oppressed who has no helper.
- 13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; *
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
- 14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, *
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

THE SECOND READING

EPHESIANS 3:1–12

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Church in Ephesus

This is the reason that I Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—assume that 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 to the Churches
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence

Hymn 124 (verses 1-3)

Unison or harmony

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more beau - teous
2 True spake the pro - phet from a - far who told the
3 The guid - ing star a - bove is bright; with - in them
4 O Je - sus, while the star of grace im - pels us
5 To God the Fa - ther, heaven - ly Light, to Christ, re -

1 than the noon - day light? It shines to her - ald
2 rise of Ja - cob's star; and east - ern sa - ges
3 shines a clear - er light, and leads them on with
4 on to seek thy face, let not our sloth - ful
5 vealed in earth - ly night, to God the Ho - ly

1 forth the King, and Gen - tiles to his crib to bring.
2 with a - maze up - on the won - drous to - ken gaze.
3 power be - nign to seek the Giv - er of the sign.
4 hearts re - fuse the guid - ance of thy light to use.
5 Ghost we raise our e - qual and un - ceas - ing praise.

All stand as they are able

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

THE REV. ROBIN ROBB, PROCLAIMING

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord 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.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE HOMILY

THE REV. STEPHEN MOORE

The Prayers of the People

God's glory has been veiled in flesh. Our flesh has become a glorious epiphany. Let us then present before the Lord of glory our gift of prayer for those who are in need, saying: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who walk in the darkness of violence and oppression, and for all who by their life and preaching cast into that darkness the light of God's peace and justice, let us pray to the Lord.

For all who carry on the teaching of prophets and apostles, and for the full communion in life and worship of those who receive God's word, let us pray to the Lord.

For all who have at their disposal this world's riches, and for all who call out to them, let us pray to the Lord.

For all who raise their eyes to the heavens looking for healing and deliverance [especially N.], let us pray to the Lord.

For the rulers of the earth, and for every child that stands in need of their protection, let us pray to the Lord.

[Here other intercessions may be offered.]

For all who through death have passed into the full epiphany of God's glory [especially N.], let us pray to the Lord.

O God of stars and journeys, you lead us day by day to the joyful vision of your light. Move us by the power of your word that we too might open our gifts for others and so receive in our hearts the child of Bethlehem. So may you be praised and adored through the same Christ our Lord, in the Holy Spirit, this day of your Epiphany, now and

THE OFFERTORY

Bell Choir Anthem: **Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella**

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(The monetary offering will be given to the United Thank Offering of the Episcopal Church)

Sing standing at the Presentation of the Gifts

Hymn 109 (verses 1-3)

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star
 3 And by the light of that same star
 4 This star drew nigh to the north - west,
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
 2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,
 3 three wise men came from coun - try far;
 4 o'er Beth - le - hem it took its rest,
 5 full re - v - erent - ly up - on their knee,

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,
 2 and to the earth it gave great light,
 3 to seek for a king was their in - tent,
 4 and there it did both stop and stay
 5 and of - fered there in his pres - ence

1 on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.
 2 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 3 and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 4 right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 5 their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

Refrain

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

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

Words: English carol, 18th cent. Music: *The First Nowell*, English carol, 17th cent.; harm. John Stainer (1840-1901)

The Liturgy of the Table

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **and also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise**

Presider
 We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us.

In the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your son Jesus Christ. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

The Sanctus S128

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

The People may stand, kneel or sit

The Presider continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with [_____ and] all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. AMEN.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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 forever. Amen

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

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.

The Invitation to Holy Communion

The Gifts of God for the People of God

This is the Lord's Table, God's feast for all of God's people. There is always Abundance here and a place for you. You are invited and encouraged to join us at the altar rail.

If you wish to receive a blessing instead of the bread or wine, you are welcome; please come forward and cross your arms over your chest.

The Communion

Hymn 117

1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
 2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing,
 3 Shall we then yield him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,
 4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple o - bla - tion,
 5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,

1 dawn on our dark - ness, and lend us thine aid;
 2 low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
 3 o - dors of E - dom, and of - ferings di - vine,
 4 vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure,
 5 dawn on our dark - ness, and lend us thine aid;

1 star of the east, the hor - i - zon a - dorn - ing,
 2 an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
 3 gems of the moun - tain, and pearls of the o - cean,
 4 rich - er by far is the heart's a - dor - a - tion,
 5 star of the east, the hor - i - zon a - dorn - ing,

1 guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.
 2 Ma - ker and Mon - arch and Sa - vior of all.
 3 myrrh from the for - est, and gold from the mine?
 4 dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
 5 guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.

The Prayer after Communion

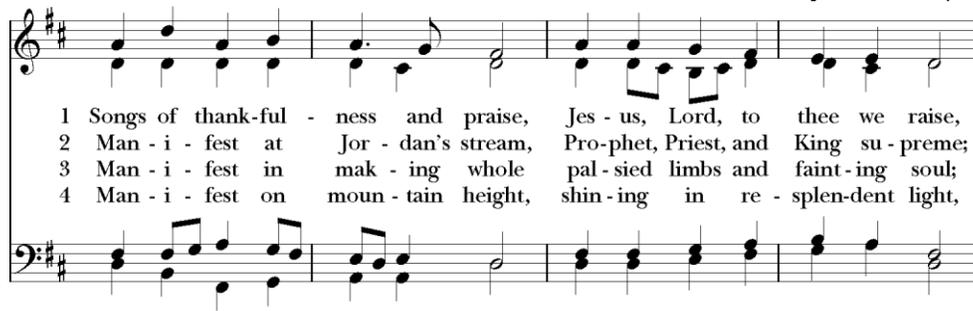
All

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen

The Blessing and the Dismissal

The Sending Procession

Hymn 135 (all verses)



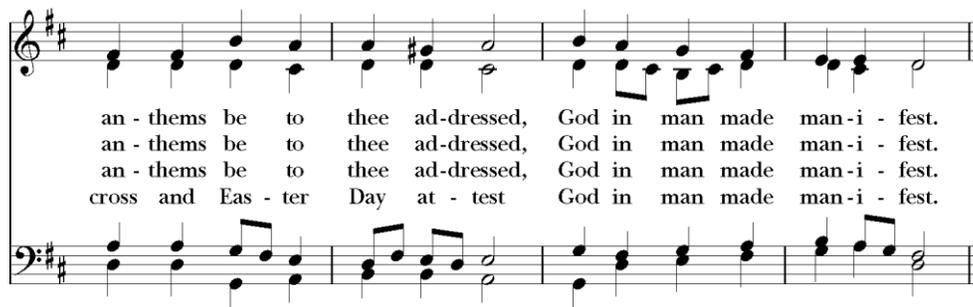
1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Jes - us, Lord, to thee we raise,
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Pro-phet, Priest, and King su - preme;
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;
4 Man - i - fest on moun - tain height, shin - ing in re - splen - dent light,



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far;
and at Ca - na, wed - ding - guest, in thy God - head man - i - fest;
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell - ing all the dev - il's might;
where dis - ci - ples filled with awe thy trans - fi - gured glo - ry saw.



branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem;
man - i - fest in power di - vine, chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring - ing good from ill;
When from there thou led - dest them stead - fast to Je - ru - sa - lem,



an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
cross and Eas - ter Day at - test God in man made man - i - fest.

Refreshments and fellowship are offered in the undercroft following the service.

We hope you'll join together!

***Access the undercroft by moving through the sacristy and down the steps
or by leaving the church via the doors through which you entered and following the sidewalk
to the Third Street breezeway.***

(The breezeway entrance has many fewer steps.)

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

209 S. Third Avenue, Royersford, PA 19468

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WITHIN THE VALLEY FORGE DEANERY OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA

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WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY

8AM HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I (SPOKEN)

10AM HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II (MUSIC)

MIDWEEK HOLY EUCHARIST WITH HEALING LITANY

10:15AM WEDNESDAYS

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