

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Sunday, January 5, 2025



THE CHURCH OF GOOD SHEPHERD

PARISH OF LANCASTER

Diocese of Fredericton

Anglican Church of Canada

Bishop

Interim Priest-in-charge

Church Wardens

Parish Administrator

Organist & Choir Director

Sexton

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We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) and Mi'kmaq Peoples.

The liturgy is according to the *Book of Alternative Services* (adapted).

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO WORSHIP

Welcome

Christmas and Epiphany Introductory Response

Blessed are you, O Christ, Son of God,
you were before time began
and came into the world to save us.
Blessed are you, Sun of righteousness;
you shine with the Father's love
and illumine the whole universe.
Blessed are you, Son of Mary;
born a child, you shared our humanity.

Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

Blessed are you, Son of David;
born to rule,
you received gifts from the wise men.
Blessed are you, Son of Man;
baptized by John,
you saved us from ourselves.
Blessed are you, heavenly King;
teaching and preaching, healing, and comforting,
you proclaimed the kingdom.

Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

With all the voices of heaven
we celebrate the coming of our Saviour.

Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

With all the creatures on earth
we sing and dance at his birth.

**Praise and honour and glory to you,
O Lord most high.**

Processional Hymn "*Angels from the realms of glory*" **CP 143**

Collect for Purity

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Glory to God

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Collect of the Day *as given by the presider*

THE WORD IS READ AND PROCLAIMED

First Reading Isaiah 60:1-6 *Pew Bible p. 602*

A reading from Isaiah.

- ¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
- ² 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.
- ³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- ⁴ 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.
- ⁵ 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.
- ⁶ 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. *[NRSV-A]*

Hear God's word for God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

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- 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.

Second Reading [Ephesians 3:1-12](#)

Pew Bible p. 950

A reading from Ephesians.

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— ²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In 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: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. ⁸Although 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. [NRSV-A]

Hear God's word for God's people.
Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn *“As with Gladness Men of Old”* **CP 160**

- 1 As with gladness men of old
 did the guiding star behold;
 as with joy they hailed its light,
 leading onward, beaming bright;
 So, most gracious Lord, may we
 evermore be led to thee.

- 2 As with joyful steps they sped,
 Saviour, to Thy lowly bed;
 there to bend the knee before
 Thee, whom heaven and earth adore;
 So may we with willing feet
 ever seek Thy mercy seat.

- 3 As they offered gifts most rare
 at that cradle rude and bare;
 so may we with joyful song,
 raising voices, pure and strong,
 all our costliest treasures bring,
 Christ! to Thee, our heavenly King.

- 4 In the heavenly country bright,
 need they no created light;
 Thou its light, its joy, its crown,
 Thou its sun which goes not down;
 there for ever may we sing.
 “Alleluias” to our King.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Christ was revealed in flesh,
proclaimed among the nations
and believed in throughout the world. *cf 1 Timothy 3:16*
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 2:1-12 *Pew Bible p. 783*

Hear the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, ‘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.’

³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

⁵They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶“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.”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.

⁸Then 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.’

⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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.

¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. [NRSV-A]

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon Fr Keith Joyce

Brief quiet time held for reflection

The Nicene Creed

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The Prayers of the People

For our intercessions, I invite you to kneel or be seated.

Today the magi knelt before our Saviour.
Let us humbly worship him with great joy,
and make our prayer to his heavenly Father.

Father, the magi came from the east
to worship your Son:
grant to Christians everywhere a true spirit of adoration.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Father, your Son is the King of kings and Lord of lords:
grant an abundance of peace to your world.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Father, the Holy Family shared the life of the people of
Nazareth: protect in your mercy our neighbours and
families, together with the whole community of which we
are part.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Father, your Son was rich, yet for our sakes he became
poor: show your love for the poor and powerless,
and strengthen and heal those who are ill, remembering
especially and others we would mention, silently or
aloud [*pause*] and all those who suffer.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Father, the magi presented to your Son gold, incense, and myrrh: accept the gifts we bring, and the offering of our hearts at the outset of this new year.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Father, you are the King of heaven, the hope of all who trust in you: we give thanks today for the loving memory of all those who have gone before us and ask that all the faithful departed know the wonders of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of magi, shepherds, and angels, and of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph, we commend ourselves and all Christian people to your unfailing love.

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Confession and Absolution
The Peace

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THE EUCHARIST IS CELEBRATED

Offertory Hymn “*Hail to the Lord’s Anointed*” **CP 101**

Prayer over the Gifts *as given by the presider*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer *as announced*

The Lord’s Prayer

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The Breaking of the Bread (#6)

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The Communion

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While the church receives communion, in silence take this time to reflect or pray or sit in silence and to enable others to do so, and/or at any time to join in the singing of the following music:

“Lamb of God”

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“What Child Is This” CP 137

“Rise Up and Shine” CP 157

Prayer after Communion *as given by the presider*
Closing Acclamation

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.
To you be glory and praise for ever.

From the rising of the sun to its setting
your name is proclaimed in all the world.
To you be glory and praise for ever.

When the time had fully come
you sent the Sun of Righteousness.
In him the fullness of your glory dwells.
To you be glory and praise forever.

Blessing *as given by the presider*

THE CHURCH DEPARTS TO WITNESS AND TO SERVE

Dismissal

Go forth in the glory and light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn *“Go, tell it on the mountain”*

Refrain *Go, tell it on the mountain;*
over the hills and everywhere!
Go, tell it on the mountain:
that Jesus Christ is born!

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching
 over silent flocks by night,
 behold throughout the heavens,
 there shone a holy light: *Refrain*
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled
 when lo above the earth

rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Saviour's birth: *Refrain*

3 Down by a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born
and God sent our salvation,
that blessed Christmas morn! *Refrain*

"Go, tell it on the mountain"

Text and Music trad. African American spiritual
an early publisher John W. Work Jr.

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Postlude

Those serving today's worship and learning:

<i>Bulletin preparation</i>	Lori Maker (Parish Office)
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Carol Patterson & Patti Vaughan
<i>Sunday School</i>	Laura Janes
<i>Sound system</i>	Chris Titus
<i>Greeter</i>	Margaret Penchoff & Susan Dole
<i>Layreader & First Reader</i>	Heather Masson
<i>Second Reader</i>	Lori McGovern
<i>Prayer Leader</i>	Layreader
<i>Organist & Choir Director</i>	David Mitchell
<i>Presider & preacher</i>	Keith Joyce
<i>Counters</i>	Terry Ricketts & Janet Brown
<i>Building care</i>	Janet Brown

Those serving in our outreach this week:

Sun, Jan 05, 11:45 am HVHS Lunch Programme preparation (Large Hall kitchen)	School Closed for Christmas Break
Mon, Jan 06, 11:30 am HVHS Lunch Programme delivery (from Large Hall)	School Closed for Christmas Break

Who's serving next week is on the Narthex bulletin board.

In deep gratitude

Sincere appreciation and gratitude are extended to all those who contributed so significantly to our Christmas celebrations, with extra work, time, and care. Thank you to the decorators of nave, chancel, sanctuary, and narthex; to the choir, soloists, organist and other instrumentalists; to readers; to officiant and preacher, and guest musician, in the absence of priest and organist; to workers in the parish office; to those who set up and take down and clean; to those giving extra care for the building; to altar guild members; and to others unknown in their contributions. Thanks all!

THIS WEEK

- Wed, Jan 8, 10:00 am** Saint John and District Senior's Shuffleboard (Large Hall) For more info contact Pauline Wilson at 506 738-8677
- Wed, Jan 8, 7:00 pm** Choir practice (Small Hall) For more info contact David Mitchell at 506 738-2798
- Thurs, Jan 9, 2:00 pm** L.I.F.T. [Ladies in Fellowship Together] (Small Hall) For more info contact Janet Brown at 506 657-7707

FOR OUR WORSHIP AND LEARNING

Notes on Today's Scripture Readings

Isaiah 60:1-6 Darius, King of Persia, has permitted the people of Israel to return to Jerusalem. The prophet tells the people to arise, for joy, prosperity and salvation are now in the city; God is with them; they will reflect the presence and power of God.

Ephesians 3:1-12 It is part of God's plan that both Jews and Gentiles are called to share in Christ's saving activity. This is the "mystery of Christ". Paul's insistence on Gentiles being full and equal members of the church has led to his imprisonment.

Matthew 2:1-12 "Wise men" (in Latin: magi) were members of a Persian caste of astrologers and interpreters of dreams. Astrology was widely accepted then. A star was associated with each person; the way the star rose told the wise men that a king had been born. A later church tradition called the wise men kings. © 1996-2022 Chris Haslam

Next Sunday – January 12 *The Baptism of the Lord*

Scripture readings Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29:1-4, 10-11; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

NOTICES

Happy Birthday this Week to:

January 7 - Susan Roy
January 8 - Lillian Atkins
January 10 - Laura Brown, Jean MacLeod,



PRAYER

Prayer for folks in nursing or special care homes

Ginny Abbott, Lillian Atkins, Diane Cormier, Frances Finley, Ruth Northeast, Elsie Rusling, Kay Upton.

Prayer for those in hospital or sick at home

Andrew Aalund, Paula Baldwin, Diane Basque, Margaret Boyer, Edith Chilton, Shelly Clark Collins, Bea Conley, Linda Cunningham, Jo-Ann Diamond, Bonnie Dean, Wendy DeWitt, Ernest Ellingwood, Barb Ellis, Debbie Green, Ann Hoben, David Maxwell, Pam Melanson, Gordon Morrell, Michael Penchoff, Susan Penchoff, Carol Price, Margaret Ann Reid, Lois Shaw, Bob Sherwood, Mykayla Spinney, Norm Toole, Joe Totton, Robbie Wong.

Parish Cycle of Prayer for Week of January 5-11, 2025

Mon: Art and Dorothy Shephard
Tue: John and Melody Sheriff and Family
Wed: Doug Simpson and Family
Thur: Bowen and Goldie Smith and Family
Fri: Out Of the Cold Shelter

Please pray for these parishioners and ministry this week.

**An Illuminating Epiphany to All!
And a Happy and Blessed New
Year to Everyone!**