

In Celebration of
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
Sunday, January 4, 2026



THE CHURCH OF GOOD SHEPHERD
PARISH OF LANCASTER
Diocese of Fredericton
Anglican Church of Canada

Bishop
Incumbent
Church Wardens
Parish Administrator
Organist & Choir Director
Sexton

Archbishop David Edwards
The Rev'd Christopher Ketch
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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****Introductory Response and Greeting**

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.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.
**From the rising of the sun to its setting
your name is proclaimed in all the world.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

And also with you.

With the voices of heaven,
let us worship the Lord our God.

Processional Hymn “Angels from the realms of glory” CP 143

1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain *Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.*

2 Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant Light: *Refrain*

3 Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar:
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen His natal star: *Refrain*

4 Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear: *Refrain*

5 Though an infant now we view Him,
He shall fill His Father's throne,
gather all the nations to him;
every knee shall then bow down: *Refrain*

Text James Montgomery (1771-1854)

Tune REGENT SQUARE, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879)

Collect for Purity

As we remain standing, as able, let us pray.

Almighty God,
**to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.**
**Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Then directly the following act of praise is sung.

“Glory to God”

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly king,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The presider then continues, saying,

The Collect of the Day

As we remain standing, let us pray,

Eternal God, who by a star
led wise men to the worship of your Son.
Guide by your light the nations of the earth,
that the whole world may know your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE WORD IS READ AND PROCLAIMED

Please be seated for the reading of God's word.

First Reading Isaiah 60:1-6

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

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

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,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.

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.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. [NRSV-A]

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

Gradual Hymn "The Virgin Mary had a Baby Boy" CP 128

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 was 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 born,
The angels sang when the baby born,
The angels sang when the baby born,
And proclaimed Him the Saviour Jesus. *Refrain*

3 The wise men went, where the baby born,
The wise men went, where the baby born,
The wise men went, where the baby born,
And they say that His name was Jesus. *Refrain*

In the Public Domain

Gospel Acclamation

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

Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

¹Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, ²“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.”

³King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. ⁴He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”

⁵“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote:

⁶‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah,
are not least among the ruling cities of Judah,
for a ruler will come from you
who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’”

⁷Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. ⁸Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!”

⁹After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! ¹¹They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹²When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod. *[NLT]*

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon Fr Keith Joyce
The Apostles' Creed

Let us confess the faith of our baptism,
on this Sunday of new beginnings, as we say,

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.**

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

The Prayers of the People

For our intercessions, please kneel or be seated.

Pause – a short silence is held

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: mercifully protect 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

In silence we recall our sins, as we kneel or sit to pray.

Silence is held for a time.

Merciful God,
we have sinned
in what we have thought and said,
in the wrong things we have done
and in the good things we have not done.
We are truly sorry.
We repent and turn to you.
Forgive us, for Jesus Christ's sake,
and may our lives bring glory to your name.
Amen.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself, that you may behold
the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh,
and be cleansed from all your sins,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

The presider then addresses the people, saying,

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there shall be no end

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

THE EUCHARIST IS CELEBRATED

The Preparation of the Gifts

Offertory 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 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 forever may we sing
alleluias to our king.

Text William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)
Tune Dix, Konrad Kocher (1786-1872)

Prayer over the Gifts

As we remain standing, let us pray.

Lord, accept your people's gifts,
not gold, frankincense or myrrh,
but hearts and voices raised in praise
of Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

WE REMAIN STANDING.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth;
you have revealed your eternal plan of salvation, and have
shown your Son Jesus Christ
to be the light of all peoples.
Therefore with angels and archangels
we raise our voices in joyful praise
to proclaim the glory of your name.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

PLEASE KNEEL OR BE SEATED.

Father of all, we give you thanks
for every gift that comes from heaven.

To the darkness Jesus came as your light.
With signs of faith and words of hope
he touched untouchables with love
and washed the guilty clean.

This is his story.
This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

The crowds came out to see your Son,
yet at the end they turned on him.

On the night he was betrayed
he came to table with his friends
to celebrate the freedom of your people.

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food:
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his
disciples, and said, “Take, eat: this is my body
which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;
he took the cup, gave it to them and said:
“Drink this, all of you:
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me.”

This is our story.

This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate the cross
on which he died to set us free.
Defying death he rose again
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.
Send your Spirit on us now
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.

May we and all who share this food
offer ourselves to live for you
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven
where all creation worships you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours forever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in the presence of God here amongst us,
let us pray as our Saviour has taught us, saying,

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name ...
... For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Silence is kept for a time.

The Breaking of the Bread

The presider breaks the consecrated bread, and says:

We break this the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

**God here amongst us, light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

Invitation to Receive Communion

The presider invites the people to share in communion, saying,

Christ is the true bread
which has come down from heaven.
Lord, give us this bread always.

Eat and drink with faith and thanksgiving.
God's holy food for God's holy people.
Thanks be to God.

The Communion

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”

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.

“Twas in the moon of Wintertime” CP 146

“Rise Up and Shine” CP 157

AFTER COMMUNION

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.

The Blessing

May God the Father, who led the wise men by the shining
of a star to find the Christ, the Light from light, lead you in
your pilgrimage to find the Lord. **Amen.**

May God, who has delivered us from the dominion of
darkness, give us a place with the saints in light in the
kingdom of his beloved Son. **Amen.**

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ shine
in our hearts and fill our lives
with his joy and peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of this same great and mighty God,
Abba, Son, and Sacred Spirit, be amongst you,
rest upon you, and remain with you,
now and forevermore. **Amen.**

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
o'er 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*
- 4 He still comes to people
His life moves through the lands;
He uses us for speaking,
He touches with our hands:

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

“*Go, tell it on the mountain*”
Text and Music trad. African American spiritual
an early publisher John W. Work Jr.
in the Public Domain CCLI Licence # 2319023

Postlude

Those serving today's worship and learning:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Bulletin preparation</i> | Lori Maker (Parish Office) |
| <i>Altar Guild</i> | Marilyn Galbraith & Sherry D. |
| <i>Sunday School</i> | Laura Janes |
| <i>Sound system</i> | Chris Titus |
| <i>Greeter</i> | Bill Sherriff & Judy Galbraith |
| <i>Layreader & First Reader</i> | Brenda Clayton |
| <i>Second Reader</i> | Ngaire Nelson |
| <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> | Susan Jack |

Those serving in our outreach this week:

| | |
|---|--|
| Sun, Jan 04, 11:45 am HVHS Lunch Programme preparation (Large Hall kitchen) | Lori McGovern Art VanWart Susan VanWart Ann Stone |
| Mon, Jan 05, 11:30 am HVHS Lunch Programme delivery (from Large Hall) | Bruce MacLeod Robert Green |

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 presider and preacher; 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 to 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 mistaken church tradition called the wise men kings.

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Next Sunday – January 11 *The Baptism of the Lord*

Scripture readings Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

NOTICES

Happy Birthday this Week to:

January 4-Andrew Aalund, Rudolph Stephen

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, Diane Cormier, Frances Finley, Ann Hoben, Ruth Northeast, Elizabeth Parks, Elsie Rusling, Arlene Trask

Prayer for those in hospital or sick at home

Andrew Aalund, Diane Basque, Margaret Boyer, Edith Chilton, Shelly Clark Collins, Linda Cunningham, Jo-Ann Diamond, Bonnie Dean, Wendy DeWitt, Ernest Ellingwood, Barb Ellis, Debbie Green, Kaye Mallory, Pam Melanson, Michael Penchoff, Susan Penchoff, Carol Price, Margaret Ann Reid, Lois Shaw, Bob Sherwood, Mykayla Spinney, Norm Toole, Dennis Totton, Joe Totton, Eric Vaughan, Robbie Wong.

Parish Cycle of Prayer for Week of January 4-10, 2026

Mon: Shayne and Dawn Galbraith

Tue: Judy Mae Gallant

Wed: Doug and Leonie Goss

Thur: Robert Green

Fri: Mission and Financial Action Plan Committee

Please pray for these parishioners and ministry this week.

An
Illuminating
EPIPHANY
to All!



And a Happy and Blessed
NEW YEAR to Everyone!