

St. John the Divine Anglican Church



Sunday January 6th, 2021
The Epiphany of the Lord
Service of the Word

We gather on the unceded territory of the Squamish Nation

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Diocese of New Westminster
ANGELICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

*Take a deep breath.
And again.*

The Gathering of the Community

Blessed are you, David's heir, born to rule,
you received gifts from the magi.

Blessed are you, Son of Man, baptized by John,
you saved us from ourselves.

Blessed are you, Servant Lord, teaching and preaching, healing and
comforting,
you proclaimed God's gracious reign.

With all the voices of heaven and earth, we celebrate your epiphany.
Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

Leader

Dear friends in Christ,
as we turn our hearts and minds
to worship almighty God,
let us confess our sins.

All

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Leader

Merciful God, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace,
that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Leader May the Peace of God be with you.
All **And also with you.**

Act of Praise: Sing of God Made Manifest (CP162)

EPIPHANY

247 Sing of God Made Manifest

1 Sing of God made man-i - fest in a child ro - bust and blest,
 2 Sing of God made man-i - fest when at Jor - dan John con-fessed,
 3 Sing of God made man-i - fest when Christ came as wed - ding guest
 4 Sing of God made man-i - fest on the cloud-capped moun-tain's crest,

to whose home in Beth - le - hem where a star had guid-ed them,
 "I should be bap - tized by you, but your bid - ding I will do."
 and at Ca - na gave a sign, turn - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
 where the law and proph-ets waned so that Christ a - lone re-mained:

Ma - gi came and gifts un-bound, signs mys-te - rious and pro-found:
 Then from heaven a dou - ble sign—dove-like Spir - it, voice di - vine—
 fur - ther still was love re - vealed as he taught, for - gave, and healed,
 glimpse of glo - ry, pledge of grace, given as Je - sus set his face

myrrh and frank-in - cense and gold grave and God and King fore - told.
 hailed the true A - noint-ed One: "This is my be - lov - ed Son."
 bring - ing light and life to all who would lis - ten to God's call.
 towards the wait - ing cross and grave, sign of hope that God would save.

WORDS: Carl P. Daw Jr. (1944-)
 MUSIC: Jakob Hintze (1622-1702); arr. J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

SALZBURG
 7.7.7.D.

The Collect of the Day

Common Worship: Additional Collects (2004) alt.

Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us, so that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah: 60:1-6

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.

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;

That he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;

That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the little hills bring righteousness.

He shall defend the needy among the people;
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.

In his time shall the righteous flourish;
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute,
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.

All kings shall bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.

For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress,
and the oppressed who has no helper.

He shall have pity on the lowly and poor;
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence,
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - for surely 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.

Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

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.

Sermon

The Apostle's Creed

Leader Let us confess our faith 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

Offertory Hymn: 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 light,
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 forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.

*O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshiping God on high.

*O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

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

*O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.

*O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

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squamishanglicanchurch.ca/pages/donatetostjohn-the-divine-squamish

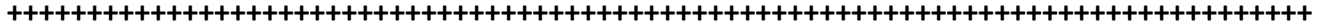
Leader
All

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,
**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**

Leader
All

Glory to God
**whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. Amen**

Leader May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power
of the Holy Spirit.
All **Amen.**



St. John the Divine Prayers for

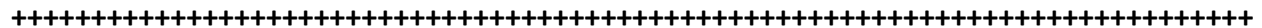
The Church

Church of the Epiphany, Surrey - The Reverend Stephen Rowe
Christ the Redeemer, Surrey – The Venerable Luisito Engnan
St. John the Divine – The Reverend Cameron Gutjahr

Immediate Prayer Requests

Lynne, Ed, Rob, Jessica, Susan, Eleanor, Lori, The Howe Sound Women’s Centre,
the residents of Hilltop House, the residents of Shannon Falls and the patients of
Squamish General Hospital.

In this time of COVID-19, we pray for all who are sick, for all who are grieving, for
health care professionals, researchers and emergency personnel.



Reflection

The Christmas season goes from December 25th to the Epiphany on January 6th (though we are marking it today in Church – the 3rd). This season is a special time, when the Church remembers the birth and infancy of Jesus. To that end, I thought that a new mother might have some special insight for us. A big thank you to Shannon for sharing her reflections and prayers with us as we come to the end of Christmas.

As a new mother this year to our newborn son, Arnold, I can relate to Mary caring for Jesus in many ways. At times I have felt isolated in a year where a pandemic has restricted visits with

loved ones and friends. I can remember feeling particularly isolated while in the hospital waiting for Arnold's arrival, as we were not able to have visitors, or even leave our room, for risk of contracting Covid and spreading it to other families or ourselves. My parents sat outside the hospital in the parking lot looking up at our window and waving. Isolation and fear has impacted me as I realize the importance of community in everything, from raising a child, to feeling love, and even the small but necessary things like grocery shopping. No doubt many of you have experienced this feeling of isolation this year whether you have a newborn or not.

I have tried, like many of you, to exchange in person greetings and hugs for online forums and virtual meetings. These are some things I do not think would have been part of Mary's journey, yet there was no doubt a form of isolation and a sense of "not knowing" that *was* a part of her journey. I wonder how that feeling of the unknown impacted Mary's life in those first days and weeks of baby Jesus' life, and before, during her pregnancy. Did she wonder why she had been chosen to bear the son of God on earth? Did she worry about her son's safety in a world that she must have known would not be easy for him? Surely, she did not have endless faith about raising her son in such a perilous time in history.

Or perhaps this sense of not knowing brought her closer to her faith. Perhaps, at its core, faith is a trust in something that we do not know. It is faith that brings Mary, and myself to an awareness that, despite not knowing what each day will hold, we will be held by the love of God. Perhaps this sense of loneliness pushed her closer to her faith in a way nothing else had before.

My hope for Arnold is that he can know he is loved by God and his family, despite the masks and screens in front of him that he has unfortunately had to know during this pandemic. I hope that Arnold can have faith, and know that behind those masks are peoples' smiles, their blessings, and their love for him, just as Mary had for Jesus. That is my hope for our newborn son and for all of you in this little church.

Shannon