

The Anglican Church of St. John the Divine

The Epiphany of Our Lord

January 1, 2023

As people of God, we celebrate Christ in the heart of Victoria through joyful worship,
building inclusive community, and putting faith into action.

St. John's acknowledges these ancestral lands of the Lekwungen speaking people.

We are an inclusive and affirming parish; the sacraments of the church (baptism, communion
and marriage) are available to all people on equal terms. Christ welcomes you, and so do we.



Welcome to the Parish Church of St. John the Divine, Victoria. We are a community of faith in the Anglican Tradition, seeking to live lives of faith, hope, and love as part of this community of Downtown Victoria. We are on a journey of learning to be a welcoming, inviting, inclusive, and serving community which is open to all.

Our worship reflects our rootedness in the Anglican tradition, whilst drawing on liturgies that reflect the long history and heritage of our Christian faith. Please join in as you feel able, and enjoy the words, music, and opportunity for prayer and to be a part of our community.

St. John's is open for in-person worship at 10am (Holy Eucharist) and 5:00pm (BCP Evensong) as well as mid-week services (please see our website for times). As we seek to care for one another, masks are encouraged, but at the discretion of the individual. If you can't attend in person we invite you to join us via Zoom (email admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca for the link) or through the livestream on the Website: www.stjohnthedivine.bc.ca

We continue to share daily prayer online with a link on our website.

Contacting Us: Please email us at admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca. or call 250-383-7169. If you wish to receive prayer for yourself or for another, there will be members of our Pastoral Care Team who will offer their prayers. Please contact the church office at the above email address.

You are very welcome here. We don't always get it right; please let us know when we do, and when we don't. Please stay and be a part of our family, for however long you would like.

10:00 am Parish Eucharist

*The congregation is invited to join in the hymns, responses and prayers marked in **bold print**.*

Presider: The Reverend Stephanie Wood

Greeters: Richard Routledge, Ann McLaren

Crucifer: Penny Holt

Sacristan: Terry Needham

Readers: Margaret Walker, Al Lehmann

Gospel: The Reverend Dr. John Thatamanil

Intercessor: Jamie Lawson

Sermon: The Reverend Dr. John Thatamanil

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Patrick Samuel,
Barbara Jenks

Vergers: Chuck Neilson

Streaming Technician: Karen Coverett

Music: The Community Choir
Emily Markwart, Organist

This service is being broadcast live on the Internet. By attending this service, you acknowledge and consent to the fact that video images of you may appear there.

Prelude

Land Acknowledgement and Welcome

The Church Family Prayer

Loving God,
**All: you have called us to be your family
and to celebrate our life together in worship.
We pray now, for all members of our family
as we gather in our church buildings, our homes, and online.
Through your spirit keep us united in love.
Bless each of us with your beloved friendship.
Teach us, gracious God, how to be your church in these times.
Help us to know that we are your people,
that we are your Family, always.
Amen.**



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 forever may we sing
alleluias to our king.

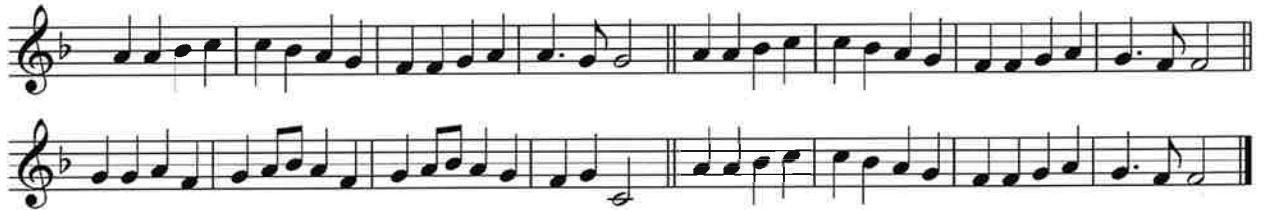
Text: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898), alt.
Music: Konrad Kocher (1786-1872).

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

All: And also with you.

Almighty God,
All: 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.

Gloria



1. Glory be to God in heaven: Peace, goodwill to all the earth.
 Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
 We exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
 Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.
2. Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
 Son of God and gracious Saviour, you have come from heav'n above;
 on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
 Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.
3. Holy One we now acclaim you: Lord alone, to you we call;
 Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
 Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendour bright.
 For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

Text: Gloria, para. *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, no. S204a.
 Music: HYMN TO JOY, L. van Beethoven, arr. E. Hodges (1796-1867).

The Collect of the Day

The Presider invites all to pray. Silence is kept.

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 for ever.

All: Amen.

The Book of Alternative Services

The Proclamation of the Word

Let us listen to the Word of God in Holy Scripture.

The First Reading

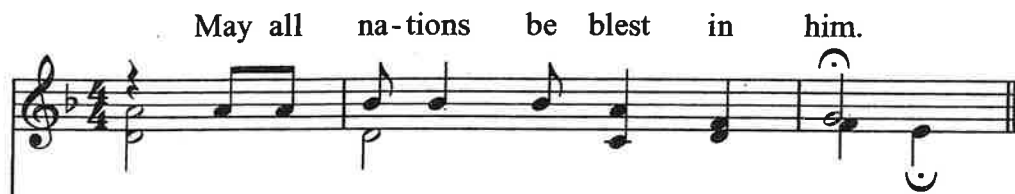
Isaiah 60:1-6

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.
Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

72:1-7



Give the king your judgments, O God, and your righteousness to the son of a king.
Then shall he judge your people righteously and your poor with justice. May
the mountains bring forth peace, and the little hills righteousness for the
people. **Refrain**

May he defend the poor among the people, deliver the children of the needy and crush the oppressor. May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another. **Refrain**

May he come down like rain upon the mown grass, like the showers that water the earth. In his time shall righteousness flourish, and abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more. **Refrain**

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute; the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring gifts. All kings shall fall down before him; all nations shall do him service. **Refrain**

For he shall deliver the poor that cry out, the needy and those who have no helper. He shall have pity on the weak 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. **Refrain**

Sunday Psalms – Musical Settings for Common Worship
Compiled by Andrew Moore
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The Epistle

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 to 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 to 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: Thanks be to God.

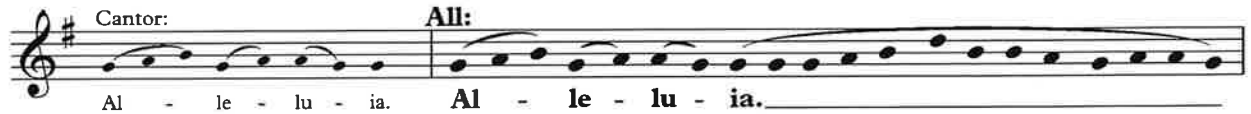


1. **Wise men, they came to look for wisdom,
finding one wiser than they knew;
rich men, they met with one yet richer—
King of the kings, they knelt to you:
Jesus, our wisdom from above,
wealth and redemption, life and love.**
2. **Pilgrims they were, from unknown countries,
searching for one who knows the world;
lost are their names and strange their journeys,
famed is their zeal to find the child:
Jesus, in you the lost are claimed,
aliens are found and known and named.**
3. **Magi, they stooped to see your splendour,
led by a star to light supreme;
promised Messiah, Lord eternal,
glory and peace are in your name.
Joy of each day, our song by night,
shine on our path your holy light.**
4. **Guests of their God, they opened treasures—
incense and gold and solemn myrrh;
welcoming one too young to question
how came these gifts, and what they were.
Gift beyond price of gold or gem,
make among us your Bethlehem.**

Text: Christopher Idle (1938-). © 1982 Hope Publishing Co.

Music: Georg Neumark (1621-1681).

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Before the Gospel

Cantor: A voice came from heaven, saying, “This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased.” Matthew 3:17



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.

God is with you.

All: And also with you.

Hear the good news of Jesus according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Christ.

After the Gospel

The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Following the Sermon there will be a pause for silence.

Affirmation of Faith

We believe and trust in God the Creator.

We believe and trust in Jesus Christ, incarnate Word.

We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit.

We believe and trust in the Three in One.

*(from *Creating Uncommon Worship* by Richard Giles, alt.)*

Prayers of the People

Those who have asked for our prayers are listed at the end of the leaflet.

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

All may offer their neighbour a contactless sign of peace.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn (CP 139)

THE FIRST NOWELL



- 1. The first nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Refrain

**Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel.**

2. They lookèd up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

Refrain

3. And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.

Refrain

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay.

Refrain

5. Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

Refrain

6. Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
who has made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood salvation bought.

Refrain

Text: English trad.

Music: Melody English trad. (17th cent.?), alt; arr. John Stainer (1840-1901), alt.

The Prayer over the Gifts

Gracious God,
accept the offering of your Church,
the hearts of your people
joined in praise and thanksgiving,
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

All: **Amen.**

The Book of Alternative Services

As we prepare to celebrate this Eucharist, we remember that we are the people of God. Near or far we are gathered together by the love of Christ. We remember that we are incorporated into the body of Christ. We join together in this celebration of our union in Christ.

Let us pray.

Thanks be to you,

All: Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given us, and all that you have borne for us. In our sharing in this Eucharist, in Church or at home, we ask you to come spiritually into our hearts. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer II b (The Incarnation)
The Scottish Episcopal Church (amended)

The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker.

Out of nothing, you called all worlds into being,
and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment.

Day and night celebrate your glory, till time shall be no more.

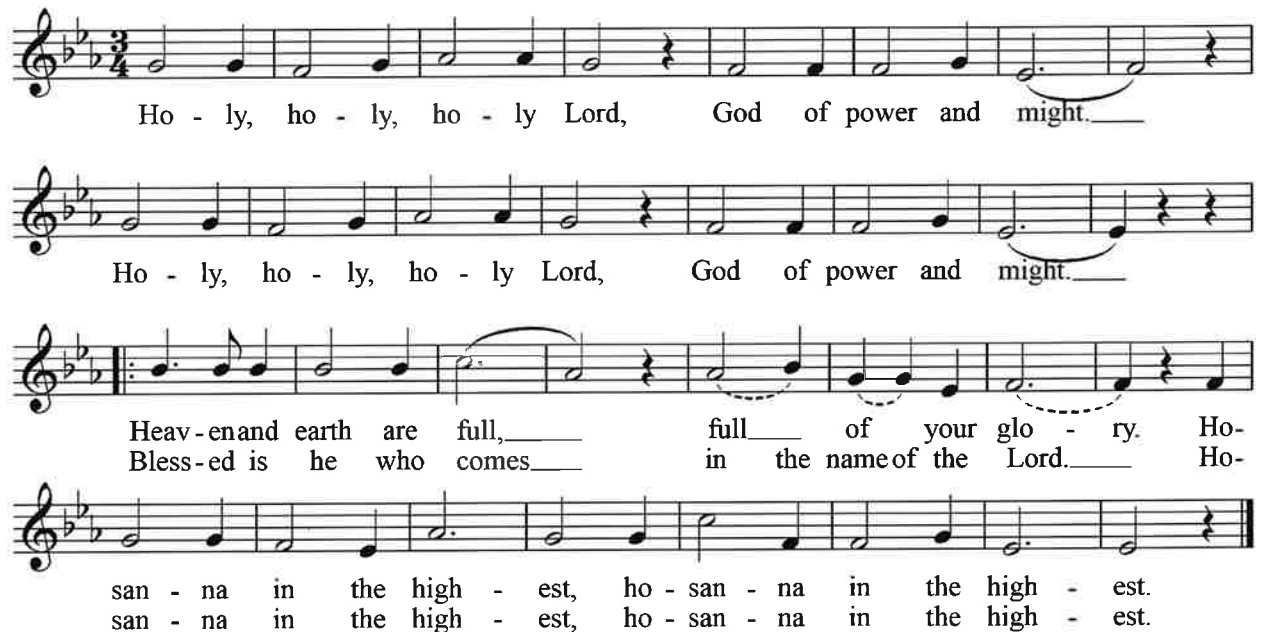
In Christ, your only-begotten Son, you have revealed yourself to the world.
By the guiding of a star, you made him known to the nations
as the son of David and king of Israel; that in following him,
we might be led from darkness and into marvellous light.

Filled with the Spirit,
who descended upon your Son at his Baptism in the Jordan,
we who are baptized strive for God's reign,
in whose radiance we are transfigured
and the earth is transformed.

As children by your loving hand
we offer you our praise,
with angels and archangels
and the whole company of heaven
singing the hymn of your unending glory:

Sanctus (CP 735)

Schubert



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might.

Heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving God.

In Jesus the Messiah you have come to us.

Our hope, in whom you are well pleased.

Having been shown to the world as your beloved Son,
he proclaimed the good news of your coming.

The blind received their sight, the lame walked,
the lepers were cleansed, and the captives set free.

At his word, water became wine, the hungry were filled with bread,
and the dead were raised.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,
and at supper with his disciples
he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread,
and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat.
This is my Body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks,
and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you.
This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all,
that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

We recall his blessed passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension;
and we look for the coming of God's reign.
Made one with God, we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves,
a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful God, and send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon this bread and this wine,
that we may be kindled with the fire of your love
and renewed for the service of your reign.

Help us, who are baptized into the fellowship of Christ's Body
to live and work to your praise and glory;
may we grow together in unity and love
until at last, in your new creation,
we enter into our heritage in the company of Mary,
the apostles, and prophets,
and of all peoples, living and departed.

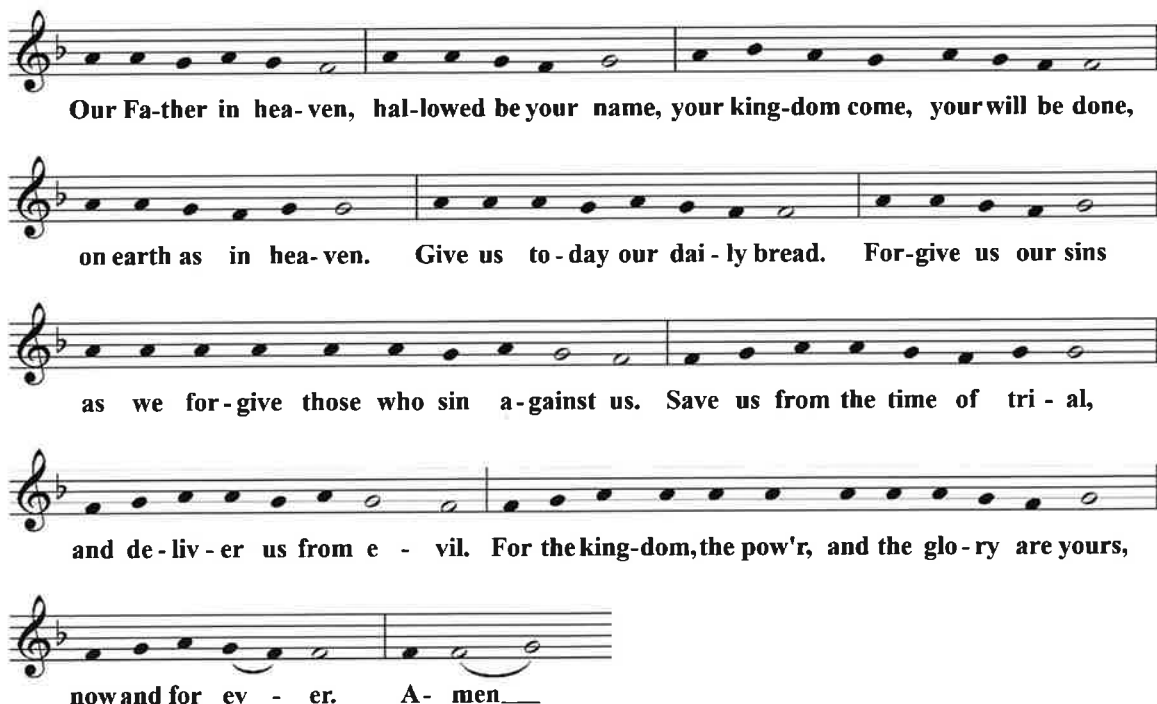
Through Jesus Christ, with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be to you,
God of all ages, world without end.



The Lord's Prayer

Ambrosian Chant

Priest: As our saviour Christ has taught us, we now pray:



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The Breaking of the Bread

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

**All: God is here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

The Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

All are welcome to receive communion. If you are sitting on the left hand side of the church (the North side) please go to the back of the Church. If you are seated on the right hand side OR require gluten free wafers please come to the front of the Church. You are welcome to receive bread and wine or just bread, both are full communion, as you are comfortable.

Agnus Dei



Music: *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx, © 1971, 1977, GIA Publications, Inc.

Music during Communion

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 night,
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 for ever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign.

O star of wonder...

Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice!
Heaven sings, 'Alleluia!'
'Alleluia!' the Earth replies.

O star of wonder...

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr. (1820-1891).

The Commissioning of the Community

One body are we.

**All: For, though we are in many places,
we spiritually share one bread.**

Prayer after Communion

God of all the nations of the earth,
guide us with your light.
Help us to recognize Christ as he comes to us
in this eucharist and in our neighbours.
May we welcome him with love,
for he is Lord now and for ever.

All: Amen.

The Book of Alternative Services

One body are we.

**All: For, though we are in many places,
we spiritually share one bread.**

Closing Blessing (Chalking the Door)

During Epiphany-tide (following 6th January or the Sunday nearest) family and friends may gather at the main entrances to homes/places of work/places of worship and ask God's blessing on their dwellings and on all who live or visit there.

Peace be to this house of God and to all who enter here.

Deacon: A reading from Proverbs:

“By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established;
through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures.”

Presider: Let us pray:

Gracious God,
as a shining star once guided the magi
to the birthplace of the infant Jesus,
so enable those who meet here to be your light in the world;
through Jesus Christ we pray.

All: Amen.

Using chalk (hence, “Chalking the Door”), people are invited to inscribe the lintel of their home (the horizontal frame above the door) with the inscription shown below. The letters C M B come from the traditional (9th century) names for the “three sages” – Caspar, Melchior & Balthazar. Some also suggest “Christus Mansionem Benedicat” which means “May Christ bless this dwelling!” We will do the same to our Church door:

20 + C + M + B + 23

Let us pray:

Sovereign God, we pray that you will bless this church and all who visit here with your gracious presence, that in this year ahead this may be a place where our community may come together, that your love may be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction; through Jesus Christ we pray.

All: Amen.

All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of their baptism.

May the Lord watch over our going out and our coming in,
from this time forth and forevermore.

All: Amen.

Blessing

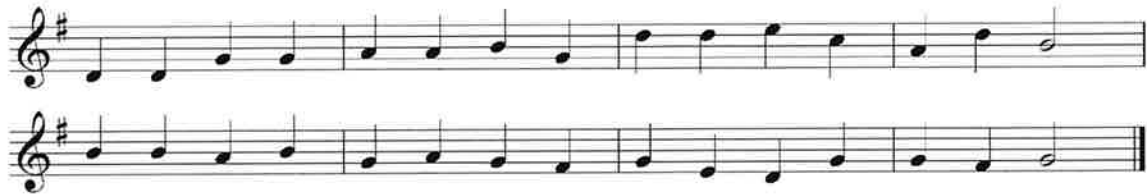
Dismissal

Let us go in peace to love and serve our living God!

All: Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn (CP 158)

STUTTGART



1. Earth has many a noble city;
Bethlehem, thou dost all excel:
out of thee the Lord from heaven
came to rule his Israel.
2. Fairer than the sun at morning
was the star that told his birth,
to the world its God announcing
seen in fleshly form on earth.
3. Eastern sages at his cradle
make oblation rich and rare;
see them give, in deep devotion,
gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.
4. Sacred gifts of mystic meaning:
incense doth their God disclose,
gold the King of kings proclaimeth,
myrrh his sepulchre foreshows.
5. Jesus, whom the Gentiles worshipped
at thy glad epiphany,
unto thee, with God the Father
and the Spirit, glory be.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-413?); tr. Edward Caswall (1814-1878).
Music: Melody Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715; adapt. Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876).

Please join us on Zoom or at the back of the church for refreshments.

Readings for January 8th – The Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9 In the form of a public proclamation with Yahweh as speaker, the prophet proclaims the mission of God's beloved servant to restore justice.

Psalms 29 The voice of the Lord breaks through the natural order.

Acts 10:34-43 With reference to Jesus' baptism, Peter proclaims the cosmic nature of God's plan in Jesus.

Matthew 3:13-17 Jesus is baptized by John in the Jordan and a voice from heaven reveals Jesus' identity.

The following people have asked for our prayers.

Please keep them in your heart and mind as you go through your week.

Charlotte
Justin
Pat
Chris & Meghan
Jeffrey
Alan
Carol-Ann

John & Jean
Joe and family
Nancy
Ethan
Jenna
Chris
Mae, Lorraine & family

Richard
Paul
Tony
Bruno
RR & family
Doug



The Anglican Church of St. John the Divine

Stewards

People's Warden: Joan Huzar
Associate Warden: Lorraine Gates
Envelope Secretary: Jim Harlick

Rector's Warden: Karen Coverett
Associate Warden: Carol Anne Harper
Treasurer: David Buckman

Parish Council

Carol Denton, Daniel Fraikin, Marguerite Heppell,
Erin Kelly, Miles Motture, Terry Needham, Judith Reid

Synod Delegates

Nancy Baal, Karen Coverett, Bill Huzar, Joan Huzar

Staff Supporting the Ministry of St. John's

Incumbent: The Ven. Alastair Singh-McCollum
Priest Associate: The Rev'd Stephanie Wood
Volunteer Curate: The Rev'd Dr. John Thatamanil

Director of Music: David Stratkauskas
Family Ministry Coordinator: Ruth MacIntosh
Parish Administrator: Carol-Ann Zenger

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