



CHURCH OF THE  
**REDEEMER**

# EPIPHANY CELEBRATION!



WEDNESDAY, JAN. 6, 2021

*Officiant: We have seen his star in the East*

**People:** And have come to worship him

Matthew 2:2b

## BRIGHTEST AND BEST

### Verse 1

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid  
Star of the east the horizon adorning  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid

### Verse 2

Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining  
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall  
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining  
Maker and monarch and Saviour of all

### Verse 3

What shall we yield Him in costly devotion  
Incense of Edom and offerings divine  
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean  
Myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine

### Verse 4

Vainly we offer each ample oblation  
Vainly with gifts would His favour secure  
Richer by far is the heart's adoration  
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor

Text: Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

Tune: Paul Calvin, 2009

## ISAIAH 60:1-6

"Arise, Jerusalem! Let your light shine for all to see.

For the glory of the Lord rises to shine on you.

Darkness as black as night covers all the nations of the earth,  
but the glory of the Lord rises and appears over you.

All nations will come to your light;  
mighty kings will come to see your radiance.

"Look and see, for everyone is coming home!

Your sons are coming from distant lands;  
your little daughters will be carried home.

Your eyes will shine, and your heart will thrill with joy,  
for merchants from around the world will come to you.

They will bring you the wealth of many lands.  
Vast caravans of camels will converge on you,  
the camels of Midian and Ephah.

The people of Sheba will bring gold and frankincense  
and will come worshiping the Lord.

The Holy Bible, NLT

*Reader: The Word of the Lord*

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### MATTHEW 2:1-12     *Dramatic Reading*

Jesus 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...

...When 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.

*Reader: The Word of the Lord*

**People: Thanks be to God.**



## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

## BLESSING

*Officiant: May Almighty God, who led the Wise Men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light, lead us also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.*

*May God, who sent the Holy Spirit to rest upon the Only-begotten at His baptism in the Jordan River, pour out that Spirit on us.*

*May God, by the power that turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, transform our lives and make glad our hearts. Amen*

## WORSHIP THE LORD IN THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS

### Verse 1

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness  
Bow down before Him His glory proclaim  
Gold of obedience and incense of lowliness  
Bring and adore Him the Lord is His name

### Verse 2

Low at His feet lay thy burden of carefulness  
High on His heart He will bear it for thee  
Comfort thy sorrows and answer thy prayerfulness  
Guiding thy steps as may best for thee be

### Verse 3

Fear not to enter His courts in the slenderness  
Of the poor wealth thou canst reckon as thine  
Truth in its beauty and love in its tenderness  
These are the offerings to lay on His shrine

### Verse 4

These though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness  
He will accept for the Name that is dear  
Mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness  
Trust for our trembling and hope for our fear

# BREAKOUT GROUPS

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## Table Talk for Adults

- What Epiphany traditions do you keep (if any)? Are there any you would like to keep now?
- Have you ever had the experience of not being recognized? What was that like?
- Can you tell about a time when you had an "ah-ha" moment, or something hidden was revealed to you? How did your life change?
- There was a revelation at Jesus' baptism about his identity. Recall the words spoken about him by his Father. How has your baptism affected your identity? Has the truth of your "belovedness" as a son or a daughter been revealed to you? How?
- Christians talk about Jesus as the "light of the world"? What do we mean? How might you communicate that to someone unfamiliar with that belief?
- Have you ever had the experience of acting on what God had shown, however small, and finding that your action resulted in greater revelation?

## Table Talk with Children

- Who knows the name of the special day on the church calendar we are celebrating today?
- Do you know what the word epiphany means?

When you think of Epiphany, think, "Ah-HA!" It might even help to hold up your finger or nod your head the way people do when they "get" something. Epiphany means something being shown or revealed.

- Here are some examples:

Can you think of a story you've read that didn't reveal a mystery until the end? ("Ah-HA! That explains it!")

Have you ever worked on a tricky math problem and then finally it made sense?

(Ah-HA! Now I get it!)

Have you ever followed clues to find something or someone in a game?

(Ah-HA! There you are!)

- Have you ever seen someone do something you didn't know they could do and it made you think about them differently than you had before?

- Have you ever thought about how people knew Jesus was God? Did he look a special way? Maybe a halo? A special name tag? The New Testament is full of stories of people having "Ah-Ha" moments about Jesus. Can you think of any?

(Read one a child suggests from the bible.)

## Talk About It with Children (Matthew Reading)

- What did God reveal to the Magi? *(King form to the Jews, the way to find him, and when they found him that he was in fact the king they had journeyed so far to find, the evil intentions of Herod in a dream,*
- I wonder why Herod and all Jerusalem were disturbed when the Wise Men came? Wouldn't they have been excited, or at least curious?
- Who do you think would know more about the Messiah: The leaders of God's people or men of another religion from another country? What might Matthew have been trying to show his readers by including this story?
- What did the Wise Men have to "go on" when they went searching? Was that a little risky?
- What can it mean if you give a costly gift to someone?
- If Jesus was in fact the king for all people, and our king, are there things that we can offer to him? *Have children think about what "treasures" they might bring to Jesus.*

## Prayers

Pray together tonight for the revelation of Christ to the world in our day: in our church, through our church, in the places we work and live, in our homes and our lives. Who do you know who needs the Light?

# IDEAS FOR LATER

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## Other Scripture Readings

[Psalm 72](#)

[Ephesians 3:1-6](#)

## Epiphany Treasure Hunt

- Set up a treasure hunt with clues to each location of the next clue. Have the children walk from clue to clue behind a designated adult or child carrying a star. At each station, the group must answer a question before proceeding such as:

Name the star closest to the earth.

Name the town where Jesus was born.

What is the name of the country that used to be called Persia?  
Where is it?

Who was King of the Jews when Jesus was born?

Name the day on the church calendar we are celebrating today.

From which tribe was Jesus descended?

What is the word for something that is predicted, or told before it happens?

Name three gifts that were brought to Jesus.

## Create your own Epiphany Drama from Matthew 2:1-12!

### Chalking the Doors: 20 + C + M + B + 21

Christus Mansionem Benedicat: "May Christ bless this house."

Also, according to tradition, the names of the three wise men:  
Casper, Melchior, and Balthazar.