



The Epiphany of Our Lord

January 3, 2021

8:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

"O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" (P. 46)

Johann Pachelbel

OPENING SENTENCES

Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?

We have observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.

He has been born in Bethlehem in the land of Judah.

He will shepherd your people Israel.

We have seen your star and are overwhelmed with joy.

At the treasure before us and the treasure within us.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

"Sweet Was the Song"

John Attey

NARRATIVE READING

Matthew 2:1-12

Today's narrative reading is from Matthew:

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

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

MUSICAL RESPONSE

"Who Has Lit the Stars"

Carola Haggkvist

(sung in Swedish):

Who has lit the star, reflected in your eye?

Who has taken the darkness from the shepherds your first night?

Who has woven the crown of stars surrounding your forehead?

Who has led the magi to the stable, my dear one?

Refrain:

Are you one of a thousand small ones?

Are you the one we've waited for, earth's hidden treasure?

You, my little child, named by an angel,

Earth's dearest treasure, whom I protect this night.

Is it heaven itself that I rock in my arms?

Who has aroused the fear that made your heart weep?

Why does your hand grip your mother's hair so tightly?

Shadows dance around us now that the angels have gone.

You look so much more beautiful than I'd really understood.

Refrain.

Let your days be a joy for others.

Meet others with gentle love and kindness.

I will never forget these words for, whatever happens they

Give us strength and courage.

Refrain.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Guided by the spirit and gathered into one community, let us pray for the church, the world and all God's creation.

(Brief Silence)

Each petition concludes:
God who is with us,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands gracious God we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your promise to hear our prayers.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, let us pray as our Savior taught:

**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.**

BENEDICTION

Almighty God,
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,
proclaimed joy through the angels,
sent the shepherds with good news,
and led the magi by a star,
bless you this day ✠ through the Word made flesh.
Amen.

PEACE

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

POSTLUDE

Variations on a French Noël

Louis-Claude Daquin

PREACHING Pastor Peter Nycklemoe
PRESIDING Pastor Melissa Pohlman
ASSISTING Pastor Stephanie Friesen
ORGANISTS Isaac Drewes, Cantor Mark Sedio
SOLOIST Robin Helgen
VIDEO/SOUND Mark Kieffer

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Prayer of the Day – <http://www.narrativelectionary.org>

Chancel flowers this weekend are given by Miriam Haines and family in loving memory of Don Haines. If you wish to donate flowers, contact Judy Korogi at 612-788-1288.