



Epiphany of Our Lord

January 3, 2021

10:30 AM

Join us for our livestream at <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnssummit/>

or <https://www.youtube.com/user/StJohnsSummitNJ>

Zoom Coffee Hour: URL: <https://zoom.us/j/753360733>



Everyone is welcome. As people of God, St. John's welcomes all regardless of age, economic status, ethnic background, gender, physical or mental ability, race or sexual orientation. We affirm that in Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female." (Galatians 3:28) This is Christ's church, and Christ has bid you come.

January 3, 2021

The church office is closed December 24–January 5.

Coffee Sale: If you need fair trade coffee, teas, and chocolate, contact Jane Bowman.

Pledge Update: Thus far we have received 77 pledges for a total of \$349,660 towards our goal of \$450,000. If you haven't yet submitted your pledge, please do so today.

Holiday Recipe Book: Even though we can't share in festive snacks out in the narthex this year, we can still share St. John's holiday fare. Click [here](#) to download our recipe book.

Retirement Purse: Pastor Moore is retiring on January 31. To contribute to the Cash Purse we are collecting as part of our retirement gifts, please access the Plumfund site [here](#).

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Please give generously to the emergency fund sponsored by the Summit Interfaith Council to help Summit immigrant neighbors adversely affected by COVID-19. You may make your tax-deductible donation to the Relief Fund [here](#), by check or PayPal. Checks should be made out to and mailed to Beacon UU Congregation in Summit, 4 Waldron Ave., Summit, NJ 07901.

Virtual musicians participating in this service include the Virtual Recorder Ensemble and members of the Solid Brass Quartet: Douglas D. Haislip–trumpet, Charles Bumcrot–trumpet, Carl Della Peruti–trombone, and Hans Muhler–trombone.

Ministers: The People of St. John's

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Gladys G. Moore, Pastor

pastorggmoore@stjohnssummit.org

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor

pastorbcalet@stjohnssummit.org

Donna Garzinsky, Director of Music

dgarzinsky@stjohnssummit.org

Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator

crothman@stjohnssummit.org

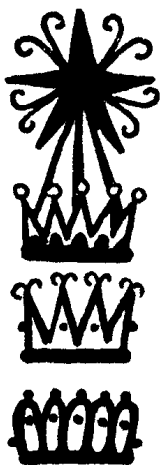
Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation

wk154linda@gmail.com

The Rev. Dr. Harry Kocotos, Visitation Pastor

Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

Anne Ryan Dello Russo, Nursery



Prayer Before Worship

Everlasting God, the radiance of all faithful people, you brought the nations to the brightness of your rising. Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the world through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

From *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

PRELUDE *En Natus est Emanuel*

Michael Praetorius (1571–1621)
Arr. Douglas D. Haislip (b. 20th C.)

Solid Brass Quartet

“The Bells of Christmas”

By Jerry van der Pol (b. 1941)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise, shine; for your light has come!

The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Nations will come to his light,

And kings shall come to the brightness of his rising.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

The light no darkness can overcome.

Let us kneel down before him to give him honor and glory.

Let us offer him all the treasures of our hearts and lives.

Let us pray. God of endless light, you sent a star—rising from darkness, guiding seekers and sages, overwhelming us with joy. Let the splendor of your dawning light grow in us and in all the world until the whole creation shines with your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

O come, let us adore him.

Jesus, the light of the world.

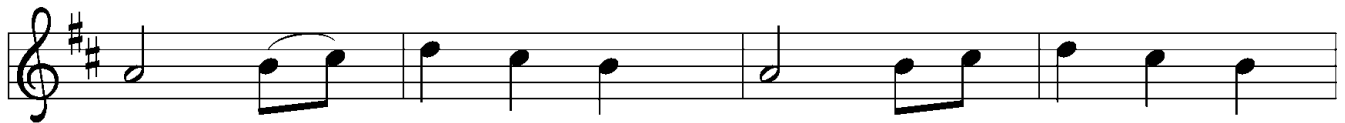
GATHERING HYMN ELW 300 The First Noel



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional



Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

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.**

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING Isaiah 60:1–6

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift 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. ⁵Then 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. ⁶A 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.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 72: 1–4, 6–7, 10–13

Spoken responsively

¹Give 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;**

³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴**Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

⁶Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.

⁷**In his time may the righteous flourish;**

and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁰May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.

¹¹**May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.**

¹²For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.

¹³**He has compassion on the lowly and poor, and preserves the lives of the needy.**

SECOND READING Ephesians 3:1–12

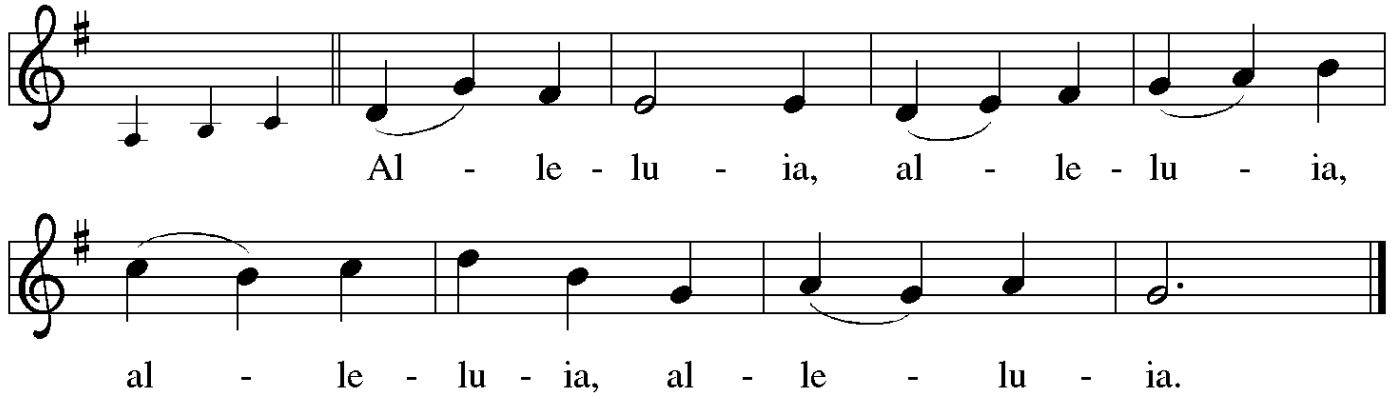
¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In 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: ⁶that 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 me by the working of his power. ⁸Although 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, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so 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. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL Matthew 2:1–12

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

The Gospel is proclaimed, concluding: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

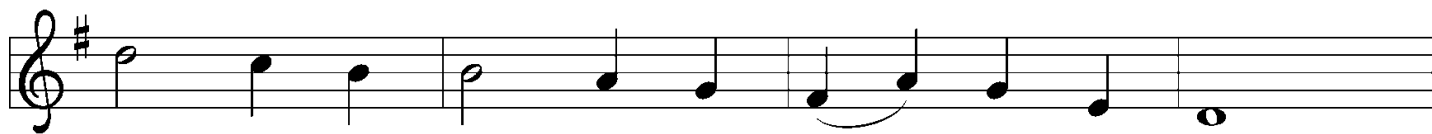
HOMILY

The Rev. Gladys G. Moore

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 303 Brightest and Best of the Stars



1 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;
3 What shall we give him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion?
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,
5 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
Shall we bring in - cense and of - f'rings di - vine,
vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;
dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.



Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,
Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.
mak - er and mon - arch and sav - ior of all.
myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?
dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.

Music: MORNING STAR, James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt.

NICENE CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus 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.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, or want information about mailing checks, you may visit www.stjohnssummit.org/giving. You may also contact the church office for more options.

OFFERING MUSIC Setting of *Wie schön leuchtet*
Virtual Recorder Ensemble

By J. C. Bach (1735–1782)

OFFERING HYMN ELW 308 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!

Verse 5

5. Oh, let the harps break forth in sound!
our joy be all with mu - sic crowned, our
voi - ces gai - ly blend - ing! For Christ goes with us all the way—
to - day, to - mor - row, ev' - ry day! His love is nev - er end - ing!
Sing out! Ring out! Ju - bi - la - tion! Ex - ul - ta - tion! Tell the sto - ry!
Praise to Christ, who reigns in glo - ry!

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. **Holy God, your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

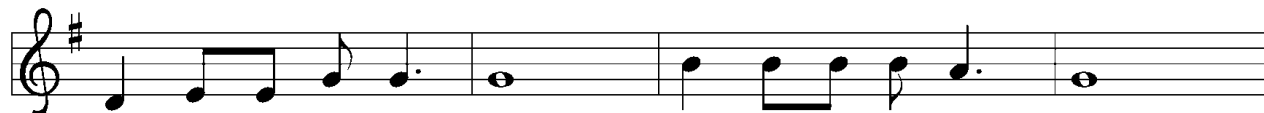
Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

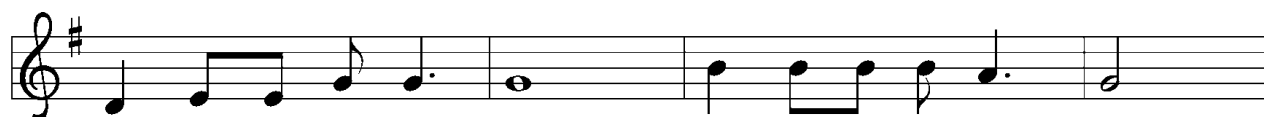
SENDING HYMN ELW 677 This Little Light of Mine



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

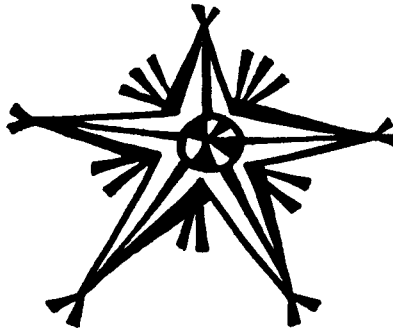
Text: African American spiritual
Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Shine the light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

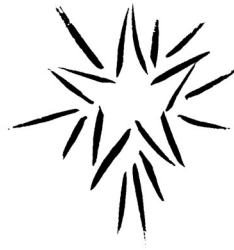
POSTLUDE Setting of *Morning Star*

By Wayne L. Wold (b. 1954)



Upon you the Lord shines
and over you appears his
Glory!

Kids
Celebrate
Epiphany of Our Lord



gather

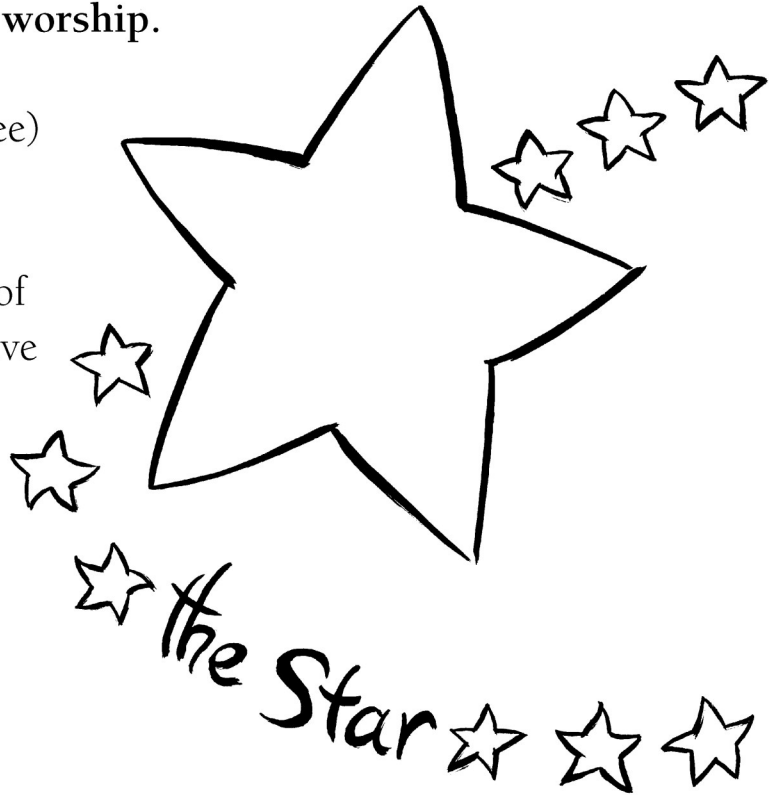
Welcome to worship.

Epiphany
(ee-PIF-ah-nee)

begins today,

January **6**.

The **12** days of
Christmas have
ended.



A  is a symbol for the season Epiphany.

Color and decorate the stars with bright colors.

How many points do they have? _____

hear & celebrate

Matthew 2:1-12

The wise men followed a star to find Jesus.

Trace the dots to make the word *Jesus*.

Draw what you think might have been in Jesus' home long ago. Fold this page on the dotted line when men. At the end of the story, unfold your

Jesus' home long ago. you listen to the gospel page to find Jesus.



to the Light
of the
World,

Jesus



Look for the section of Epiphany hymns or songs in your worship book. Which song will you sing or say at home this week?

story of the wise

Wise men followed



Send

Jesus, our light, shows us how to grow in caring for ourselves, others, and our world.

Color the pictures of the activities you can do during Epiphany.



This week

Make a paper banner that says “20 + C M B + XX” to hang over your door as a new year blessing, but instead of the XX, put the last two numbers of this year. C M B stands for the Latin blessing *Christe mansionem benedica* (Christ bless this house). The letters are surrounded by the new year date. Pray that Christ will be with you throughout the year.