

January 16, 2022

7 pm

A Candlelight Service of  
Epiphany Readings & Carols



Epiphany © Jan L. Richardson

Loving God. Loving People.  
Growing in Christ Together.

*Presiding:* The Reverend Patrick McManus  
*Assisting:* The Reverend Brian Suggs  
*Assisting:* The Reverend Jennifer Cameron

# A CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF EPIPHANY READINGS and CAROLS

## Gathering of the Community

*Epiphany celebrates the appearance of God's glory in the world through the birth of Jesus, our Emmanuel ("God with us"), and the revelation of the incarnation to the Gentiles, and the whole world. It has been marked since the 3rd century with a Feast Day on the 6th of January and celebrated in both East and West in a rich variety of ways.*

*The Greek word epiphany means literally 'sudden appearance' and refers above all to the manifestation of God. The early Church highlighted three manifestations (or "epiphanies") of God in Jesus Christ at the Feast of The Epiphany: the recognition of the Christ Child by the Magi, the revealing of Jesus in the Spirit as God's beloved child at his baptism in the Jordan, and the first of his signs at the wedding feast of Cana.*

*This is the moment we see that Jesus is so much more than a good human being, a wise teacher and a moral example. In fact, he is the Word become flesh. It is in this sense that Simeon declares him to be 'salvation' and 'a light to lighten the Gentiles.' Later Jesus calls himself 'the light of the World.' Thus, the symbolism of light pervades both this season and this Epiphany Service of Readings and Carols.*

*Christ calls us out of darkness and into light, so that we may recognise his effect on all creation. In this service, we pray that our eyes may be opened to see his glory; for all are made in the image and likeness of God.*

*The service begins with the church in darkness and quietness.*

A Reading:

**John 1:1–14**

*Reader: The Reverend Patrick McManus*

A Reading from the Gospel of John

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*Please light a candle during the singing of the anthem wherever you are sheltering in place and participate in the service as you are able.*

Anthem:

**O Nata Lux**

*Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943)*

*Voces 8*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zAArA36cgWU>

O nata lux de lumine,  
Jesu redemptor saeculi,  
Dignare clemens supplicum  
Laudes preces que sumere.  
Qui carne quondam contegi  
Dignatus es pro perditis.  
Nos membra confer effici,  
Tui beati corporis.

*O Light born of Light,  
Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
In mercy deem worthy and accept  
The praises and prayers of your supplicants.  
Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh  
For the sake of the lost ones,  
Grant us to be made members  
Of your holy body.*

Welcome:

The Bidding Prayer:

*Presider:* My sisters and brothers, we are gathered to celebrate with joy the appearance of God's glory in the world through the birth of Jesus, who is Emmanuel, God with us.

As we rejoice in this, the Word made flesh, who called us out of darkness into light, so we pray that his love and faithfulness may be known in all the world.

We pray for the unity and mission of Christ's Church, and for all who minister the gospel of Christ; we pray for the world, that we may have reverence for the natural order and respect for every person, made in the image and likeness of God; and we pray for those who stand in need, for the lonely, the fearful, the sick and the bereaved, and for all who have no-one to pray for them.

May God our Father take us and use us in his service; may he open our eyes to see his glory and equip us to bless his people, now and at all times.  
**Amen.**

Believing the promises of God, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

The Lord's Prayer;

*People:* **Eternal Spirit  
Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all.  
Loving God, in whom is heaven.  
The hallowing of your name echoes  
through the universe!**

**The way of your justice be followed  
by the peoples of the earth!  
Your heavenly will be done  
by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.  
With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive  
us.  
In times of temptation and test, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is  
love, now and forever. Amen.**

*~ The New Zealand Prayer Book*

A Reading:  
**O Oriens**

*Reader: D. Brainerd Blyden-Taylor*

First light and then first lines along the east  
To touch and brush a sheen of light on water,  
As though behind the sky itself they traced  
The shift and shimmer of another river  
Flowing unbidden from its hidden source;  
The Day-Spring, the eternal Prima Vera.  
Blake saw it too. Dante and Beatrice  
Are bathing in it now, away upstream . . .  
So every trace of light begins a grace  
In me, a beckoning. The smallest gleam  
Is somehow a beginning and a calling:  
'Sleeper awake, the darkness was a dream

For you will see the Dayspring at your waking,  
Beyond your long last line the dawn is breaking.'

*Malcolm Guite (b. 1957)*  
*Sounding the Seasons: 70 Sonnets for the Christian Year.*  
*Canterbury Press Norwich.*

Hymn 159:  
**Brightest and Best**  
*Tune: Stella Orientis*

**Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid:  
Gem of the East, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

**Cold on his cradle the dew-drops 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.**

**Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,  
Odours of Edom, and offerings divine,  
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,  
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?**

**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.**

**Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid:  
Gem of the East, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

*~The Right Reverend Dr. Reginald Heber (1783-1826)*

A Reading:

**Matthew 1:18-23**

*Reader: Josh Tavares-Pitts*

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'

*Silence is kept for reflection.*



A Reading:  
**O Emmanuel**

*Reader: The Reverend Brian Suggs*

O come, O come, and be our God-with-us,  
O long-sought with-ness for a world without,  
O secret seed, O hidden spring of light.  
Come to us Wisdom, come unspoken Name,  
Come Root, and Key, and King, and holy Flame,  
O quickened little wick so tightly curled,  
Be folded with us into time and place,  
Unfold for us the mystery of grace  
And make a womb of all this wounded world.  
O heart of heaven beating in the earth,  
O tiny hope within our hopelessness,  
Come to be born, to bear us to our birth,  
To touch a dying world with new-made hands  
And make these rags of time our swaddling bands.

*Malcolm Guite (b. 1957)*  
*Sounding the Seasons: 70 Sonnets for the Christian Year.*  
*Canterbury Press Norwich.*

Carol:  
**Puer Nobis (Unto Us a Son is Given)**  
*Richard Rodney Bennett (1936-2012)*

Given, not lent,  
And not withdrawn—once sent,  
This Infant of mankind, this One,  
Is still the little welcome Son.

New every year,  
New born and newly dear,  
He comes with tidings and a song,  
The ages long, the ages long;

Even as the cold  
Keen winter grows not old,  
As childhood is so fresh, foreseen,  
And spring in the familiar green—

Sudden as sweet  
Come the expected feet.  
All joy is young, and new all art,  
And He, too, Whom we have by heart.

*~Alice Meynell (1847-1922)*

A Reading:  
**Luke 2:21–32**

*Reader: Mary Anne Huggins*

### A Reading from the Gospel of Luke

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.'

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

A Reading:  
**Candlemas**

*Reader: The Reverend Patrick McManus*

They came, as called, according to the Law.  
Though they were poor and had to keep things simple,  
They moved in grace, in quietness, in awe,  
For God was coming with them to his temple.  
Amidst the outer court's commercial bustle  
They'd waited hours, enduring shouts and shoves,  
Buyers and sellers, sensing one more hustle,  
Had made a killing on the two young doves.  
They come at last with us to Candlemas  
And keep the day the prophecies came true;

We share with them, amidst our busyness,  
The peace that Simeon and Anna knew.  
For Candlemas still keeps his kindled light:  
Against the dark our Saviour's face is bright.

*Malcolm Guite (b. 1957)*  
*Sounding the Seasons: 70 Sonnets for the Christian Year.*  
*Canterbury Press Norwich.*

Hymn 266:  
**Lord, Let Your Servant Go in Peace**  
*Tune: Song 34*

**Lord, let your servant go in peace:  
Your promises have been fulfilled;  
Your saving power has been displayed  
Before the face of all the world.**

**My eyes have seen salvation's dawn:  
The Sun of life ascending bright;  
Your people's glory evermore,  
The nations' everlasting light.**

*~Song of Simeon (Luke 2:29-32); para. Paul Gibson (b. 1932)*

A Reading:  
**Matthew 2:1–12**  
*Reader: Naomi Suggs*

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew

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.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Reading:  
**The Magi**

*Reader: D. Brainerd Blyden-Taylor*

It might have been just someone else's story;  
Some chosen people get a special king,  
We leave them to their own peculiar glory,  
We don't belong, it doesn't mean a thing.  
But when these three arrive they bring us with them,  
Gentiles like us, their wisdom might be ours;  
A steady step that finds an inner rhythm,  
A pilgrim's eye that sees beyond the stars.  
They did not know his name but still they sought him,  
They came from elsewhere but still they found;  
In palaces, found those who sold and bought him,  
But in the filthy stable, hallowed ground.  
Their courage gives our questing hearts a voice  
To seek, to find, to worship, to rejoice.

*Malcolm Guite (b. 1957)*  
*Sounding the Seasons: 70 Sonnets for the Christian Year.*  
*Canterbury Press Norwich.*

Hymn 160:  
**As with Gladness Men of Old**  
*Tune: Dix*

**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.**

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.

As they offered gifts most rare  
At thy 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.

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.

*~William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)*

A Reading:  
**Matthew 3: 13–17**  
*Reader: Kate Friesen*

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptised by him. John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I

need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?’ But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.’ Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptised, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

A Reading:

**The Baptism of Christ**

*Reader: The Reverend Brian Suggs*

Beginning here we glimpse the Three-in-one;  
The river runs, the clouds are torn apart,  
The Father speaks, the Spirit and the Son  
Reveal to us the single loving heart  
That beats behind the being of all things  
And calls and keeps and kindles us to light.  
The dove descends, the spirit soars and sings,  
‘You are beloved, you are my delight!’  
In that swift light and life, as water spills  
And streams around the Man like quickening rain,  
The voice that made the universe reveals  
The God in Man who makes it new again.  
He calls us too, to step into that river,  
To die and rise and live and love forever.

*Malcolm Guite (b. 1957)*

*Sounding the Seasons: 70 Sonnets for the Christian Year.*

*Canterbury Press Norwich.*



Hymn 45:  
**Down Galilee's Slow Roadways**  
*Tune: Wie Lieblich Ist Der Maien*

**Down Galilee's slow roadways a stranger travelled on  
From Nazareth to Jordan to be baptised by John.  
He went down to the waters with soldier, scribe and slave,  
But there within the river the sign was birth and grave.**

**Arising from the river, he saw the heavens torn;  
It seemed the sky was open to show the Spirit's form.  
The holy dove descended; he heard a glorious voice:  
"You are my own beloved – my child, my heart, my choice."**

**We too have found a roadway; it led us to this place.  
We all have had to travel in search of hope and grace.  
But now beside this water again a voice is heard:  
"You are my own, my chosen, beloved of your Lord."**

*~The Reverend Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993)*

A Reading:  
**John 2: 1-11**  
*Reader: The Reverend Deacon Jennifer Cameron*

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone

water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

A Reading:

**The Miracle at Cana**

*Reader: D. Brainerd Blyden-Taylor*

Here's an epiphany to have and hold,  
A truth that you can taste upon the tongue,  
No distant shrines and canopies of gold  
Or ladders to be clambered rung by rung,  
But here and now, amidst your daily living,  
Where you can taste and touch and feel and see,  
The spring of love, the fount of all forgiving,  
Flows when you need it, rich, abundant, free.  
Better than waters of some outer weeping,  
That leave you still with all your hidden sin,  
Here is a vintage richer for the keeping  
That works its transformation from within.  
'What price?' you ask me, as we raise the glass,

'It cost our Saviour everything he has.'

*Malcolm Guite (b. 1957)*  
*Sounding the Seasons: 70 Sonnets for the Christian Year.*  
*Canterbury Press Norwich.*

Hymn 162:  
**Sing of God Made Manifest**  
*Tune: Salzburg*

**Sing of God made manifest  
In a child robust and blest,  
To whose home in Bethlehem  
Where a star had guided them,  
Magi came and gifts unbound,  
Signs mysterious and profound:  
Myrrh and frankincense and gold  
Grave and God and king foretold.**

**Sing of God made manifest  
When at Jordan John confessed,  
"I should be baptised by you,  
But your bidding I will do."  
Then from heaven a double sign –  
Dove-like Spirit, voice divine –  
Hailed the true Anointed One:  
"This is my beloved Son."**

**Sing of God made manifest  
When Christ came as wedding guest  
And at Cana gave a sign,  
Turning water into wine;**

**Further still was love revealed  
As he taught, forgave, and healed,  
Bringing light and life to all  
Who would listen to God's call.**

**Sing of God made manifest  
On the cloud-capped mountain's crest,  
Where the law and prophets waned  
Until Christ alone remained:  
Glimpse of glory, pledge of grace,  
Given as Jesus set his face  
Towards the waiting cross and grave,  
Sign of hope that God would save.**

*The Reverend Dr. Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944)*

### Litany for Epiphany:

*Presider:* In joy and humility let us pray to the creator of the  
Universe.

(Loving God, in this Epiphanytide),  
we are still the people walking.  
We are still people in the dark,  
and the darkness looms large around us,  
beset as we are by fear, anxiety,  
brutality, violence, loss —  
a dozen alienations that we cannot manage.

We are — we could be — people of your light.  
So we pray for the light of your glorious presence  
as we wait for your appearing;  
we pray for the light of your wondrous grace

as we exhaust our coping capacity;  
we pray for your gift of newness that  
will override our weariness;  
we pray that we may see and know and hear  
and trust in your good rule.

That we may have energy, courage,  
and freedom to enact your rule  
all through the demands of this (year).  
We submit our (year) to you and to your rule,  
with deep joy and high hope. **Amen**

~Walter Brueggemann (b. 1933)  
*Prayers for a Privileged People. Abingdon Press Nashville*

### Collect of the Day:

*Presider:* Almighty God, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
is the light of the world: Grant that your people,  
illuminated by your Word and Sacraments, may  
shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he  
may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends  
of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who  
with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one  
God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn 560:  
**God, Whose Almighty Word**  
*Tune: Moscow*

**God, whose almighty word  
Chaos and darkness heard,**

And took their flight:  
Hear us, we humbly pray,  
And where the gospel-day  
Sheds not its glorious ray,  
Let there be light!

Saviour, who came to bring  
On your redeeming wing  
Healing and sight,  
Health to the sick in mind,  
Sight to the inly blind:  
Now for all humankind  
Let there be light!

Spirit of truth and love,  
Life-giving, holy dove,  
Speed on your flight!  
Move on the water's face  
Bearing the lamp of grace  
And in earth's darkest place  
Let there be light!

Gracious and holy Three,  
Glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, Love, Might,  
Boundless as ocean's tide  
Rolling in fullest pride:  
Through the world far and wide  
Let there be light!

*~The Reverend John Marriott (1780-1825)*

## The Epiphany Blessing:

*Presider:* May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Production:* ASK Tech Team  
*Incumbent:* The Reverend Patrick McManus  
*Associate Priest:* The Reverend Brian Suggs  
*Deacon Associate:* The Reverend Deacon Jennifer Cameron  
*Associate Minister for Children and Youth:* Naomi Suggs  
*Student Intern:* Julia Lee  
*Director of Music:* D. Brainerd Blyden-Taylor  
*Organists:* Wade Bray & Peter Mayers  
*Office Administrator:* Kerisha Barnes Drummond  
*Sextons:* John Oliver and Phuntsok Rabten  
*Contributions Secretary:* Della Wilkie  
*Churchwardens:* Barbara Jenkins, Peace Rukundo, Jacquie Burkhardt, Michael Friesen

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