



*For we observed his star at its rising*

Griffith Park Observatory, Los Angeles, California

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## **DOVE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Sunday, January 3, 2021**

The Epiphany of Our Lord (Observed)

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## The Epiphany of Our Lord (Observed)

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

Pastor Stephen Springer

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*The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.*

**PROLOGUE**

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

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*Christum wir sollen loben schon (We should praise Christ beautifully), BWV 611  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

*Christum wir sollen loben schon (We should praise Christ beautifully) is a Christmas hymn by Martin Luther which is based on the traditional Latin hymn *A solis ordis cardine*. Luther retained much of the original chant, including its pre-tonal modality. This setting, taken from Bach's *Orgelbüchlein*, is both highly inventive and unique in the collection, with the melody set in the alto part, and the accompaniment motives derived from the chorale.*



- 1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
- 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
- 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
- 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
- 5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;  
 there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;  
 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,  
 and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last  
 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.  
 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.  
 all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.  
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.  
 there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.  
 Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

## GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6**

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*Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.*

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.

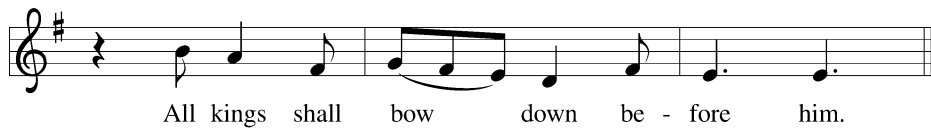
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALMODY (ELW): Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

The refrain is first introduced by the leader, then repeated by the assembly.



Psalm 72:11

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress  
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- <sup>1</sup>Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,  
and your righteousness to | the king's son;  
<sup>2</sup>**that he may rule your | people righteously  
and the | poor with justice;**  
<sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,  
and the | hills, in righteousness.  
<sup>4</sup>**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor. REFRAIN**  
<sup>5</sup>May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,  
from one generation | to another.  
<sup>6</sup>**Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,  
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**  
<sup>7</sup>In his time may the | righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.  
<sup>10</sup>**May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts. REFRAIN**  
<sup>11</sup>May all kings bow | down before him,  
and all the nations | do him service.  
<sup>12</sup>**For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in distress,  
the oppressed, and those who | have no helper.**  
<sup>13</sup>He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor,  
and preserves the lives | of the needy.  
<sup>14</sup>**From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives,  
and precious is their blood | in his sight. REFRAIN**

**SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12**

*What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.*

A reading from Ephesians.

<sup>1</sup>This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>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: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of 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. <sup>8</sup>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, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

ELW #169

*The assembly sings the Alleluia before and after the gospel verse.*

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

Cantor: We have observed his star | at its rising,\*  
and have come to | worship him. (Matthew 2:2)

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12**

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*God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>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." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>"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.'"

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>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." <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

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*Pastor Steve Springer*



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with  
 2 Come, pre - cious dia - mond, light di - vine, and deep with -  
 3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there  
 4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us,



God's own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!  
 in our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!  
 falls from God a - bove a ray of pur - est plea - sure.  
 when not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



Of Ja - cob's line, King Da - vid's son, our Lord and Sav - ior,  
 In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch - es  
 Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls with  
 Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him here



you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly! Low - ly,  
 of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing. Now, though  
 heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure! Let your  
 and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion. Al - le -



ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich  
 dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and  
 mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For life  
 lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing life



in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!  
 dis - tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.  
 you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.  
 for - ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!



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| <p>5 Oh, let the harps break forth in sound!<br/>         Our joy be all with music crowned,<br/>         our voices gaily blending!<br/>         For Christ goes with us all the way—<br/>         today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!<br/>         His love is never ending!<br/>         Sing out! Ring out!<br/>         Jubilation!<br/>         Exultation!<br/>         Tell the story!<br/>         Praise to Christ, who reigns in glory!</p> | <p>6 What joy to know, when life is past,<br/>         the Lord we love is first and last,<br/>         the end and the beginning!<br/>         He will one day, oh, glorious grace,<br/>         transport us to that happy place<br/>         beyond all tears and sinning!<br/>         Amen! Amen!<br/>         Come, Lord Jesus!<br/>         Crown of gladness!<br/>         We are yearning<br/>         for the day of your returning.</p> |
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### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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*After each petition: "Lord in your mercy," the assembly responds "Hear our prayer."*

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray with trust and hope for the world and all people.

Glorious God, fill your church with joy. Let your faithful people live as beacons of your redemption. Give wisdom and courage to your church that it may speak with boldness and confidence. Lead it to represent you effectively, that it may communicate life and truth as rays of your sun even to the scornful.

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

Creation suffers in many ways. Where there is drought, bring rain; where flooding causes destruction, where storms rage, restore order to the chaos. Show us your faithfulness in the rising and setting of the sun. Place wonder into our hearts, that we respect and use wisely the fruits of the earth.

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

We are aware of earth's deep sadness on many levels. Bring your truth and light to nations in conflict. Break the power of Satan's influence over the leaders of the nations. Where there is injustice reveal its cause and its cure; where there is bigotry and intolerance, teach love. Raise up advocates who champion the cause of exploited and vulnerable people. Inspire leaders to be generous with abundance, that all people might live in stability and freedom.

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

Come quickly with your healing power to all who seek love, support, and restoration. Dispel fears and shadows. Restore broken relationships and mend broken hearts. Bring relief to those who are sick or struggling, especially those we name in our daily prayers. Comfort us when we are unable to see your will or purpose in the tragedies we face.

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

Shed the light of your healing over all the earth in this new year. End the pandemic, provide food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless, hope for the despairing, and comfort for the grieving. Send traveling mercies upon all who journey home by other roads. Guard refugees, immigrants, and asylum seekers. Protect families fleeing conflict in their homelands or abuse in their homes.

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

We, the people of Dove of Peace, claim you, Lord, as our light, our joy, our confidence, and our dearest treasure. May we always seek your face. Keep us strong in believing you are with us, and you will never lead us astray. You have blessed the few of us who gather each week with the task of bringing worship to a scattered congregation. We long for and pray for the day we may all gather again around your banquet table.

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

According to the boundless riches of Christ, you draw all your saints, from the least to the greatest, to your heavenly places. As you created all things, make all things new again in the splendor of your glory. We yearn for the day of Christ's returning when you usher in that new day of grace and we will see you face to face.

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

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**MEDITATION**

Members of the Dove of Peace Chancel Choir

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*Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light (from Christmas Oratorio)*

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

*The Christmas Oratorio is comprised of six cantatas, each one designated for the major events of the Christmas period: Jesus's Birth, Annunciation to the Shepherds, Adoration of the Shepherds, Circumcision and Naming of Jesus, Journey of the Magi and Adoration of the Magi, otherwise known as Epiphany, which we observe today.*

**COMMISSION**

Pastor Stephen Springer

**BLESSING**

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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.**



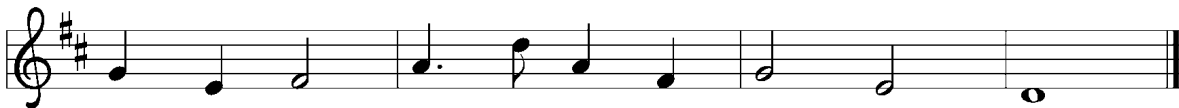
1 Bright and glo - rious is the sky, ra - diant are the  
 2 On that ho - ly Christ - mas night through the dark - ness  
 3 Sa - ges from the east a - far, when they saw this  
 4 Him they found in Beth - le - hem, yet he wore no



heav - ens high where the gold - en stars are shin - ing.  
 beamed a light; all the stars a - bove were pal - ing,  
 won - drous star, went to find the king of na - tions  
 di - a - dem; there they saw a maid - en low - ly



All their rays to earth in - clin - ing beck - on us to  
 all their lus - ter slow - ly fail - ing as the won - drous  
 and to of - fer their ob - la - tions to the child, the  
 with an in - fant pure and ho - ly rest - ing in her



heav'n a - bove, beck - on us to heav'n a - bove.  
 star drew nigh, as the won - drous star drew nigh.  
 new - born king, to the child, the new - born king.  
 lov - ing arms, rest - ing in her lov - ing arms.

5 Guided by the star, they found  
 him whose praise the ages sound.  
 We too have a star to guide us,  
 which forever will provide us  
 with the light to find our Lord,  
 with the light to find our Lord.

6 And this star, as bright as day,  
 that will never lead astray  
 with its message so appealing,  
 is the word of God, revealing  
 Christ, the way, the truth, the life,  
 Christ, the way, the truth, the life.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Jens Christian Aaberg, 1877–1970, alt.

Music: DEJLIG ER DEN HIMMEL BLÅ, Danish, 19th cent.

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**EPILOGUE**

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

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*Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern (O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright), P. 46*  
Johann Pachelbel (1653-1707)

*Wie Schön leuchtet is THE Lutheran Epiphany chorale. It was written by Phillippe Nicolai in the late 1500s and is often referred to as the "Queen" of chorales (Wachet auf-Wake, Awake-is referred to as the "King" of chorales). It has been set by many composers as the basis for both organ and vocal music. Johann Pachelbel's setting is typical of the composer, featuring the tune in the pedals on long notes, and a fugal texture in the manuals.*

**DISMISSAL**

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Go in peace. Your light has come.

**Thanks be to God.**

Assisting Minister: Dianne Huston

Lector: John Hoelter

Cantor: Eric Holtan