

EPIPHANY 00

Prelude

Announcements

CALL TO WORSHIP

A new day has dawned, a new year begins

Lord, call us so we may hear Your voice

The world turns to hopes and dreams of the future

O Lord, keep us in Your ways and on Your path

We enter this new year with hope and excitement

O Lord, remind us that it is you who leads us.

Let the darkness lift,

to welcome a dawn of plenty, with enough for everyone and people ready to share.

Let the day begin,

with new energy for the struggle to protect our children and to care for the vulnerable.

Let the light shine,

to open a path to safety for all who are seeking home and longing for life.

Let the sun rise

on new talks and new resolve to find solutions too peace that will last.

At the dawn of a new year

we come to declare our hope, to welcome a new world and to praise God.

GATHERING HYMN (As of Gladness Men of Old)

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GREETING

May the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the joy of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you

KYRIE

155

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The coming of your son, Jesus broke open the heavens and prepared a way for all of your children to come home to you. Give us eye to see your miraculous spirit moving in this church and in this world. Teach us to be proclaimers of your love to the nations for the sake of the one whose name is redemption for the peoples, Jesus Christ, our salvation.

Amen

Gospel Acclamation

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The Holy Gospel according to the 2nd chapter of Luke and the 2nd chapter of Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL: Luke 2:21-38

Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

- 21 Eight days later, when the baby was circumcised, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel even before he was conceived.
- 22 Then it was time for their purification offering, as required by the law of Moses after the birth of a child; so his parents took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.
- 23 The law of the Lord says, “If a woman’s first child is a boy, he must be dedicated to the Lord.”
- 24 So they offered the sacrifice required in the law of the Lord—“either a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

- 25 At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him
- 26 and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah.
- 27 That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required,
- 28 Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying,
- 29 "Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace, as you have promised.
- 30 I have seen your salvation,
- 31 which you have prepared for all people.
- 32 He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!"
- 33 Jesus' parents were amazed at what was being said about him.
- 34 Then Simeon blessed them, and he said to Mary, the baby's mother, "This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, and many others to rise. He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him.
- 35 As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul."
- 36 Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. Her husband died when they had been married only seven years.

- 37 Then she lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer.
- 38 She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God. She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem.

HYMN (Arise Your Light Has Come)

314

Matthew 2:1-12

Visitors from the East

- 1 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,
- 2 “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.”
- 3 King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem.
- 4 He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”
- 5 “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote:
- 6 ‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’”
- 7 Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared.

- 8 Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!”
- 9 After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was.
- 10 When they saw the star, they were filled with joy!
- 11 They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
- 12 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.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

GOSPEL HYMN (O Lord, Now Let Your Servants)

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Sermon

Searching for the Messiah

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are not alone,

We live in God's world. We believe in God; who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church, to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our Judge and our Hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS

God of new beginnings – **fill our world with new hope**

Lord's Prayer

See Insert

PEACE and OFFERING *(May be left on the plate at the back)*

The light and hope of Christ lives in each of us. The Peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you

Let us greet each other as a sign of God's peace, love forgiveness and grace. *(Please share a gesture of peace with those around you)*

OFFERTORY (Take My Life)

583

OFFERING PRAYER

Giver of all good things, as we offer these gifts to you, open our eyes to see more clearly all that we have been given and all that we have to give. Stretch our capacity to give of ourselves: our love, our companionship, and our material resources, wherever they are needed.

Amen

NEW YEAR'S LITANY

A new year coming and God is with us;
In loving, in caring, in hoping and expecting,
God is with us and never lets us go.

God live in us, God live with us, God live through us

God keep us faithful through the days that lie ahead;
God keep us caring as we see the pain that fills your world; God keep us
serving as we seek to do your will.

God live in us, God live with us, God live through us

God keep us loving toward neighbours near and far;
God keep us trusting through the uncertainties of life;
God keep us sharing from your generous abundance.

God live in us, God live with us, God live through us. Amen.

BLESSING

Depart now in peace, for your eyes have seen the salvation which God has prepared for all people. Grow in strength and wisdom and bring forth a harvest of righteousness and praise. And may God smile upon you and make you strong and wise; May Christ Jesus share his inheritance with you freely; And may the Holy Spirit open your eyes to the presence of God's Messiah. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN (This Little Light of Mine)

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace, joy, love
and hope to serve the
Lord

**In the name of Christ
Emmanuel. Amen.**

*Please remain seated for
the Postlude*