



St. George on Yonge Anglican

December 31, 2023

The Epiphany

10:00 a.m. – Sung Eucharist

Welcome

*Hearing Assistive Devices and Large Print service leaflets are available
Please ask an usher for assistance*



Journey of the Magi -- James Tissot, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN

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The Gathering of the Community

Processional Hymn #118 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" v1-4,5a

Text by John Francis Wade & Étienne-Jean-François;
translation by Frederick Oakley & William T. Brooke

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
come and behold him, born the king of angels;

Refrain: O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

2 God of God, Light of Light,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created:

Refrain

3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest:

Refrain

4 See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;

Refrain

5a Led by the starlight, Magi, Christ adoring,
offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;
we to the Christ-child bring our hearts' oblations.

Refrain

Greeting and Collect for Purity

page 185

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Almighty God,

People **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Glory to God [Hymn #686]

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Celebrant Glory to God in the highest,

People **and peace to his people on earth.**

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

3

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **Eternal God, who by a star led wise men to the worship of your Son, guide by your light the nations of the earth that the whole world may know your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading:

Isaiah 60:1–6

Reader A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. 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. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. 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. 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. 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Reader Psalm 72, selected verses, responsively, beginning with the refrain.

REFRAIN All nations shall serve him.

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;
That he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;

4

That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the little hills bring righteousness.

He shall defend the needy among the people; he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

REFRAIN All nations shall serve him.

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.

In his time shall the righteous flourish; there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.

REFRAIN All nations shall serve him.

All kings shall bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.

For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, and the oppressed who has no helper.

He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

REFRAIN All nations shall serve him.

Second Reading:

Ephesians 3:1–12

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. 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: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. 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. 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, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God

who created all things; 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. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn

Hymn #162 "Sing of God Made Manifest"

Text by Carl P. Daw, Jr.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 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.</p> | <p>3 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.</p> |
| <p>2 Sing of God made manifest when at Jordan John confessed,
"I should be baptized 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."</p> | <p>4 Sing of God made manifest on the cloud-capped mountain's crest,
where both voice and vision 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.</p> |

Holy Gospel:

Matthew 2:1–12

Subdeacon The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Subdeacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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.

6

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.

Subdeacon The Gospel of Christ.

People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily

A time for silent reflection is kept.

The Nicene Creed

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Celebrant Let us confess our faith, as we say,

People **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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He 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.

The Prayers of the People

Leader Hear us, O Lord.

People **Lord, grant us peace.**

Confession and Absolution

page 191

Celebrant Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Celebrant Most merciful God,

People **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

page 192

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn #140 "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" Text by Edmund Hamilton Sears

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, to all good will
from heaven's most gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.</p> | <p>2 Still through the cloven skies they
come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.</p> |
|---|---|

- 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel-strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and we amid our wars hear not
the words of peace they bring;
O listen now, and still your strife
to hear the angels sing.
- 4 And you, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow;
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing.

- 5 For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold:
when the new heaven and earth shall
own
the Prince of Peace their King,
and the whole world send back the
song
which now the angels sing.

The Prayer over the Gifts

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **Gracious God, accept the offering of your Church, the hearts of your people joined in praise and thanksgiving, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer #3

Proper Preface Epiphany

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page 220

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; you have revealed your eternal plan of salvation, and have shown your Son Jesus Christ to be the light of all peoples.

Therefore with angels and archangels we raise our voices in joyful praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

People **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.ⁱ

Celebrant We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, Father, according to his command,

People **we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

People **Our Father in heav'n, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And 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 for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread #6

page 213

Celebrant We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

People **God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

Lamb of God

People **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us your peace, grant us your peace.ⁱⁱ**

The Communion

page 213

Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Celebrant Dear friends, if you are present or elsewhere and are unable to receive the sacrament at this time, I invite you to join me and the whole church in spiritual communion to receive Christ, who is present in this Sacrament of the Altar. Let us pray.

People **Lord Christ, present in the Sacrament of the altar and in your people, gathered in spirit, come and abide in my heart in the fullness of your strength; be my wisdom and guide me in right pathways; transform my life and actions that they may reflect the image of your holiness; and, by the power of your liberating love, overthrow all that threatens or disrupts the justice and truth of the reign of God. In your name I pray. Amen.**

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you would rather not receive the bread and wine, please feel free to come forward for a blessing.

Communion Hymns**Hymn #138 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"**

Text by Charles Wesley

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,

join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

11

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the incarnate deity,
pleased as one of us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Refrain

3 Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth.

Refrain

Hymn #139 "The First Noël"

Text from English tradition

1 The first noël the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields
as they lay.
in fields where they lay keeping their
sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so
deep.

Refrain: Noël, noël, noël, noel,
born is the King of Israel.

2 They lookèd up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

Refrain

3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.

Refrain

4 This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay.

Refrain

5 Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

Refrain

6 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
who has made heaven and earth of
nought,
and with his blood salvation bought.

Refrain

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **God of all the nations of the earth, guide us with your light. Help us to recognize Christ as he comes to us in this eucharist and in our neighbours. May we welcome him with love, for he is Lord now and for ever. Amen.**

12

Doxology

People **Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more, infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever, for ever and ever. Amen, Amen.ⁱⁱⁱ**

Blessing

Recessional Hymn #154 "Joy to the World"

Text by Isaac Watts

- 1 Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
let earth receive the King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and heaven and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns:
let us glad songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let wrongs and sorrows
grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as our sin is found,
far as our sin is found,
far as, far as our sin is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and
grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Dismissal

Subdeacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please join us for coffee hour in the Parish Hall following the service.

Next Sunday's Scripture Readings

The Baptism of the Lord

Genesis 1:1-5;

Psalm 29;

Acts 19:1-7;

Mark 1:4-11

We Remember in Prayer Today and This Week . . .

Congregation Cycle

Egan D & Karen N, Liam and Michael / Berto E / Elizabeth E /
Robin & The Rev. Carol F / Rev. Sr. Constance Joanna G

Celebrant & Preacher	Fr. Ian LaFleur
Subdeacon & Intercessor	Doug Heyes
Reader	Rudy Powell
Music	Michael Leach
Videographer	Egan Done

Usher	Ann-Marie Waithe Powell
Altar Guild	Roshni Sircar
Welcome Desk	Craig Robertson
Coffee Hour Hosts	
	Nancy & Michael Dodsworth
Counters	Lorraine Baillie, tba

Please note: All donations must be received by this morning - December 31st - to be included on your 2023 income tax receipt.

ⁱ Michael Leach

ⁱⁱ Ibid

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid