

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Diocese of Ottawa



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 5th, 2019 at 10.15 am

PRELUDE

The Star Proclaims the King is Here (Flor Peeters)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 160

As With Gladness

GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Dear friends, we gather this morning on the traditional territory of the Algonquin Nation, and we recognize the continuing presence of First Nations, Métis and Inuit in this region.

May we dwell on this land with respect and peace.

Here let heaven and earth embrace;
here may God's people find home.

THE COLLECT

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

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 FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

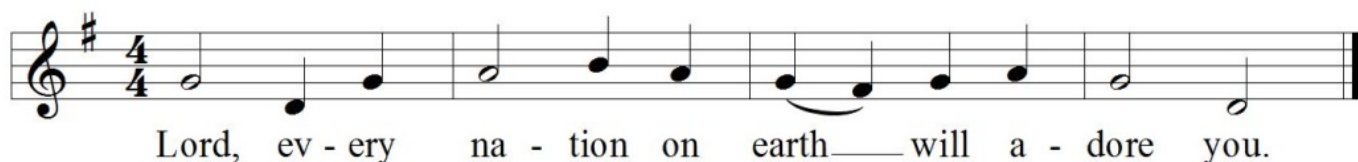
Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift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

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14



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;
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.
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.
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.

THE SECOND READING

Ephesians 3:1-12

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 158

Earth Has Many a Noble City

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

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. 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.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God,
in whom is power and compassion.

**We believe in the Creator who gave birth to the universe,
set solar systems dancing into space, shaped molecules and mountains,
and conceived beauty beyond our imagining.**

**God's power topples tyrants, and brings down walls of separation;
God's love embodies the tenderness of a mother and father,
encouraging and caring for each one of us.**

**We believe in Jesus, born in obscurity in an occupied land;
a human being, vulnerable to hunger, thirst, persecution and grief.
He understood the power of love and confronted the powers of evil,
spoke the truth with courage and clarity,
forgave his enemies and changed lives.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit who sustains, comforts and empowers us,
opens the scriptures, opens our minds, and illuminates earth's darkness.
Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE PEACE

Peace be with you.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN 159

Brightest and Best

THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

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.**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

May God be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We love you, Holy God. We love you for the feast that is life: friendships and laughter, intimacy and trust, moments of discovering deep truth, hidden potentials we never

knew we had, and beauty – serene beauty and rugged beauty, the world you have crafted and the words, the sounds, the colours with which people reflect and explore life.

We love you, holy God, for not leaving us alone, because in Jesus you became tangible: hands touched him, tears touched him, generosity touched him. And he has touched us. That is why we are here.

That is why across time and eternity we sing because we cannot keep silent:

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might. Heav'n__ and earth__ are
full__ of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est, ho-san-na in the high-est. Blest is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san -na in the high-est, ho -san-na in the high-est.

God, we have been gathered by you, caught in your net, summoned to your table.

It was on a night when old, familiar stories were retold, that Jesus and his friends engaged in the sacred meal which Jews call Passover.

During that meal, rich in food and in memory, Jesus took a piece of bread. After he had blessed it, he broke it and said, 'This is my body. It is given for you. Do this to remember me.'

Later in the meal, he took a cup of wine, and having given thanks over it, he gave it to his disciples with the words, 'In this cup is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Drink it, all of you, to remember me.'

As we open ourselves to your generous hospitality, God, let your Spirit move among us ✕ and be present in the food we share so that this bread and wine become for us the living presence of Jesus.

Open our eyes to see him, our ears to hear him, our hands to hold him, our hearts to receive him, our souls to cherish him. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name, your king - dom come, your
will be done on earth as in heav - en. Give us this day our dai - ly bread.
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us
from the time of trial, and de - liv - er us from e - vil, for the king - dom, the
pow - er and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Silence is kept.

As Jesus broke bread,
we break this bread.

As Jesus took wine,
we take this cup.

As his first disciples shared communion in an upstairs room,
we share these gifts and feed on them in our hearts with love and gratitude.

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

Please request a gluten-free wafer if required or a blessing if desired.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

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.**

Generous God,
**in our world some hunger for food, and others for meaning;
you have blessed this place and time, where we have been fed in many ways;
bless us now, as we go on – sharing food for the journey,
finding companions on the way. Amen.**

BLESSING

Now go from here – may the Creator go with you, Christ companion you, the Spirit enliven you, and the Trinity bless you, ✠ so that you may know God’s presence today and every day. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN 148

See Amid the Winter’s Snow

DISMISSAL

Go, in love and light!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Fanfare (Jacques Lemmens)

<i>Presider & Preacher</i>	The Reverend Canon Beth Bretzlaff
<i>Deacon</i>	The Reverend Dr Caroline Ducros
<i>Organist & Choirmaster</i>	Dr Gordon Johnston

Prayers of the Day: *The Book of Alternative Services* © 1985 by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. Readings: *New Revised Standard Version Bible (NRSV) Anglicized Edition*, © 1989, 1995, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Psalm Music by Gordon Johnston © 2011. Eucharistic Liturgy: *Iona Abbey Worship Book* © 2016 The Iona Community, published by Wild Goose Publications (Permission for use given by the Bishop of Ottawa, January 2019).

To find out what is happening in the parish, please see This Week at St John’s (TWSJ) on our website (www.stjohnsottawa.ca) or pick up a hard copy on the table at the Elgin Street entrance.

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