

Facebook Live Worship Outline

Epiphany Sunday - 3 January 2021

GATHERING

GATHERING HYMN ELW #275 *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

- 1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
 wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 once you sang creation's story,
 now proclaim Messiah's birth:
 Come and worship, come and worship,
 worship Christ, the newborn king.

- 2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
 watching o'er your flocks by night,
 God with us is now residing,
 yonder shines the infant light.
 Come and worship, come and worship,
 worship Christ, the newborn king.

- 3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
 brighter visions beam afar;
 seek the great desire of nations,
 you have seen his natal star.
 Come and worship, come and worship,
 worship Christ, the newborn king.

- 4 All creation, join in praising
 God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
 evermore your voices raising
 to the eternal Three in One.
 Come and worship, come and worship,
 worship Christ, the newborn king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4

GREETING

- P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C: **And also with you.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Arise, shine; for your light has come.

C: **Behold the glory of the Lord. Alleluia!**

All: Come let us worship the light of the world!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. God of every nation, by the light of a wondrous star you led wandering magi to the humble infant Jesus, revealing to them your salvation for the world. In the miraculous and the mundane, in union with all who have glimpsed the light of your grace, lead us to Christ, that we may offer our worship and serve him with sincerity of heart; for he lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever.

C: **Amen**

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from Isaiah.

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.

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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL

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. This is the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

Glory to you, O Lord

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.

Matthew 2:1-12

P: The Gospel of the Lord
C: **Praise to you, O Christ**

SERMON

- 1 Bright and glorious is the sky,
 radiant are the heavens high
 where the golden stars are shining.
 All their rays to earth inclining
 beckon us to heav'n above,
 beckon us to heav'n above.
- 3 Sages from the East afar,
 when they saw this wondrous star,
 went to find the king of nations
 and to offer their oblations
 to the child, the newborn king,
 to the child, the newborn king.
- 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.
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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- P: Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the
 world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

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, even when words of mercy are met with scorn. Hear us,
O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Show us your faithfulness in the rising and setting of the sun. Place wonder into the hearts of those who search the skies and explore the heavens. Curb waste and pollution, that all might have clean air to breathe. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bring all nations and rulers to the splendour of your dawn. 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. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. In this season of Epiphany we pray for: Ferolyn, Jordan, Pat, Carol, Beryl, Barb, Elethia, Pat and for all those we name aloud or quietly in our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send travelling 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. Tend to those who have no place to lay their heads. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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 splendour of your glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

C: Amen.

PEACE

MEAL

We now enter that portion of our service that is the Eucharist or Holy Communion. I invite you to have your wine and bread ready and let's begin with prayer.

P: O God, receive these gifts as you receive us; like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: God is with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Come, Emmanuel into our longing hearts.

C: **We lift them up to You.**

P: As we gather at this table.

C: **In anticipation and hope.**

P: Your holy energy flows in animals and plants, makes them move and gives them desire to live. You brought forth the world in love and in your great love creation finds at last its proper end.

Your fill our world with glory and light and yet our mortal eyes cannot behold so bright a truth. Therefore in time you sent us Jesus Christ, your truth made flesh. He lived among us, teaching, healing, and revealing the boundless riches of your grace that everyone might see and know the power of your love for us.

On the night that he last ate with his disciples,
Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying:
Take and eat; this is my body given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

When the meal had finished, Jesus took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new promise of life and love, poured out for all of you,
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering the life and work of Christ, his ministry among the poor and lost, his death upon the cross of human shame, and the victory revealed by the empty tomb, we offer you our lives in thanks and praise, in unity with Christ our friend and Lord.

Send your Holy Spirit on us wherever we gather and on the gifts of bread and wine we have prepared. Make us, who are gathered in love for you, members of the body of our Lord, that we may share the promise of the gospel, one with Christ, and one in ministry to all the world. Through Christ, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

P: And now as our Saviour Jesus has taught us we are bold to pray:.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
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 forever. Amen.**

COMMUNION

The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.

P: Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus.
These are the gifts of God for the Children of God.

After all have communed, the presiding minister may say a table blessing.

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen**

P: Let us pray.
We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with your very self with the body and blood of Christ. Through this mystery, send us forth to proclaim your promise to a world in need, through the same Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

C: **Amen**

CHARGE

P: Go forth into the world.
Proclaim the good news of Christ.
Receive the inheritance of God's promise.
Live in the light of the gospel.

Blessing

P: God, ruler of heaven and earth, dismiss you in peace;
Jesus Christ, ✝ light of the world, uphold you in love;
and the Holy Spirit, revealer of God's mystery, lead you in truth.

C: **Amen**

SENDING SONG

ELW #314 *Arise, Your Light has Come*

- 1 Arise, your light has come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God
which shines on you today.
- 2 Arise, your light has come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty,
good tidings to the poor.
- 3 Arise, your light has come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.
- 4 Arise, your light has come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing,
God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

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DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Readings for the Week:

Monday Psalm 110

Tuesday Proverbs 22:1-9

Wednesday **Epiphany** Matthew 2:1-12

Thursday Exodus 1:22 - 2:10

Friday Hebrews 11:27-28

Saturday John 8:39-59

Baptism of Jesus - 10 January 2021: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11