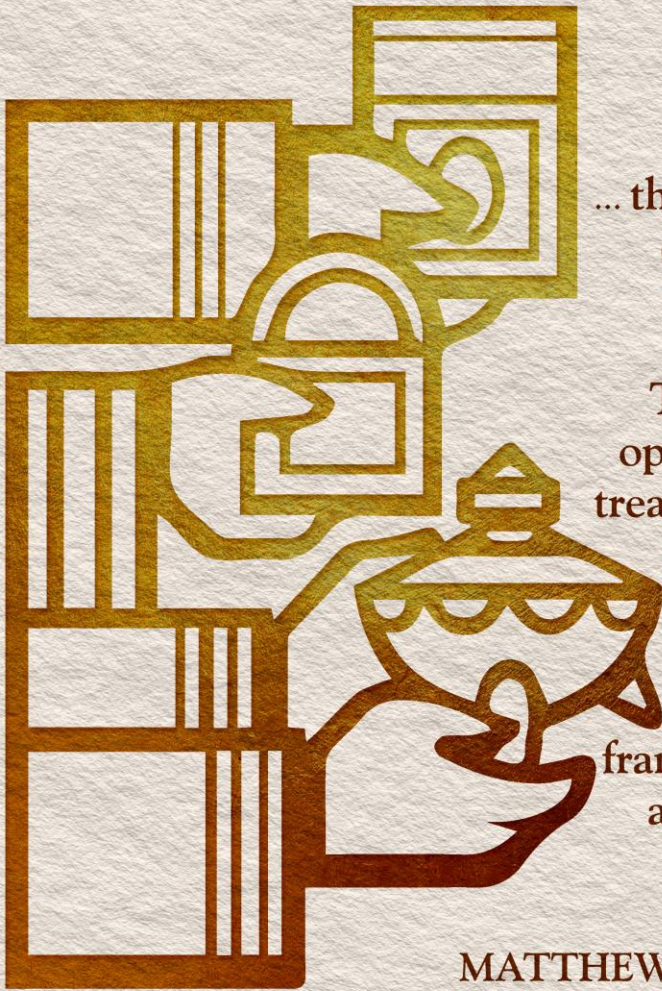


EPIPHANY



... they bowed
down and
worshiped
him.

Then they
opened their
treasures and
presented
him
with gifts
of gold,
frankincense
and myrrh.

MATTHEW 2:11, NIV

January 08, 2023

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
38801 Blacow Road
Fremont, CA 94536
Church: (510) 793-6285

January 08, 2023
10 AM Service – Epiphany Sunday
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

Welcome! Enter with Prayer, Worship in Awe, Leave to Serve.

Our worship services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel and website. If you do not wish to be filmed, please do not sit in the first four pews or the last pew. Children’s Time and communion distribution are not filmed.

All invitations to stand or kneel are for those who are able.

WELCOME TO THE STORY

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.

A Story that Invites Us

SINGING BOWL

During the ringing of the bowl, you are encouraged to center your thoughts on God the Creator, Christ the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Comforter.

PRELUDE: “*Come, Now Is the Time to Worship*”

Chorus:

Come now is the time to worship
Come now is the time to give your heart
Come just as you are to worship
Come just as you are before your God
Come

Verse 1:

One day every tongue
Will confess You are God
One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains
For those who gladly choose You now

Chorus

Verse 1

Final Chorus:

Come now is the time to worship
Come now is the time to give your heart
Come just as you are to worship
Come just as you are before your God
Come...Come...Come
Just as you are come...Come

WELCOME

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: Lift your eyes and look around.

All: The light of the babe of Bethlehem shines from the face of each one of us here.

P: Greet this light in one another, rejoicing in being together, as we pass the peace of Christ, our joy and our hope. The peace of Jesus is with you.

All: And also with you.

Please Stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of God's goodness and grace has risen upon you.

All: We come like the Magi, following the star of the Christ child.

L: Arise, shine, for your moment has come, and the glory of God's love and mercy flows through you into the world.

All: We come like the shepherds, to share the good news that Christ lives among us.

L: Arise, shine, for you are called to be God's people, and to bring good news and great joy to a world that yearns for wholeness and peace.

All: Let us worship the God who calls us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: Living God, your star in the East guided the Magi to Jesus - your Chosen Child, but it was a disturbing and difficult journey.

All: When we lack the courage to venture into unfamiliar territory, O God, forgive us.

P: Your star led the Magi to grapple with Herod, an evil person.

All: When we fail to name a source of evil, or fail to affirm the good, O God, forgive us.

P: Your star came to rest over the birthplace of Jesus Christ, where gifts were given him.

All: When we fail to bring our best gifts, or our most appropriate gifts, to serve you, O God, forgive us.

P: Your star was left behind as the Holy Family fled the anger of Herod to Egypt.

All: When we are not able to see the refugee, or to help the stranger in our neighborhood, O God, forgive us.

Time of silent reflection

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

P: You care about the gifts that are ours, O God, and you want us to recognize them, and to use them well.

All: You will bless us when we confront our lack of courage, and decide to take the rough but right way.

P: God will go with you when you do!

All: And we will rejoice in God's supportive presence.

P: Pardon and peace are ours!

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Shine, Jesus, Shine"

Chorus:

Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word,
Lord, and let there be light

Verse 1:

Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness shining
Jesus Light of the World shine upon us
Set us free by the truth you now bring us
Shine on me, shine on me

Chorus

Verse 3

As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story
Shine on me, shine on me

Chorus

GREETING

P: God of Advent, of waiting and hoping,

All: keep our hearts expectant, ready for your coming among us.

P: God of Christmas, of celebration and rejoicing,

All: make our hearts glad with the joy nothing can take from us.

P: God of Epiphany, of hiding and making known,

All: fill our hearts with wonder at the revelation of your glory that we have seen in Christ, our Lord. Amen.

LITANY FOR EPIPHANY

P: Christmas is over, the presents unwrapped.

L: The darkness of our nights threatens to take over our lives.

All: Light of the world, shine in our hearts.

P: Into the quiet of a tiny country, ruled by a faraway emperor.

L: Magi came from another place to encounter God.

All: Light of the world, shine in our hearts.

P: You have greater gifts yet to share with us;

L: reveal more of your great love for us this day.

All: Light of the world, shine in our hearts.

P: Remind us, that like the Magi, we have seen you

L: and we have gifts from you to open for the world.

All: Light of the world, shine in our hearts, that the world may know your glory and love.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O Star-flinging God, whose light dances across eternity, dazzle us into your presence this new year.

All: Open our hearts to the mystery of your love.

L: Awaken us to your presence, knit to the ordinary.

All: Reveal to us what is possible, but not yet present.

L: Heal us, that we might be healers.

All: Reconcile us to you and to ourselves, that our living might be reconciling.

L: Stop us often, we pray with news that is good, with hope that holds, with truth that transforms with a Word tailored to this trail we're on.

All: May the word of your grace guide our steps like the sun by day and the north star by night, as we travel into the gift of a new year. Amen.

Be Seated

The Story that Shapes and Forms Us

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Reader: Open our hearts and minds to the light of your word, read and preached.

All: We rejoice in the mystery made plain through the good news of the babe of Bethlehem. May this good news transform us and guide us, as we seek to follow the star of love and light.

Reader: A reading from Isaiah, chapter sixty, beginning with the first verse.

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 60:1-6*

“Arise, shine, for your light has come!
the glory of Yahweh is rising upon you!

Though darkness still covers the earth
and dense clouds enshroud the peoples,
upon you Yahweh now dawns,
and God’s glory will be seen among you!

The nations will come to your light
and the leaders to your bright dawn!
Lift up your eyes, and look around:
they’re all gathering and coming to you—
your daughters and your sons
journey from afar, escorted in safety;

you'll see them and beam with joy,
your heart will swell with pride.
The riches of the sea will flow to you,
and the wealth of the nations will come to you—

camel caravans will cover your roads,
the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of Yahweh.

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: tune – *“Angels We Have
Heard on High”*

**All: Lord, to whom else shall we go
Words of deathless life to know?
Not by bread alone we live,
But by ev'ry word You give.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

*P: The holy Gospel according to Matthew the second
chapter.*

All: Glory to you, O God.

GOSPEL: *Matthew 2:1-12*

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.

P: The Gospel of the Word Incarnate.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Be seated

PRE-MESSAGE SONG: “*Start a Fire*”

Intro:

Ooo, ooo, Ooo, ooo,
Ooo, ooo, ooo

Verse 1:

This world can be cold and bitter
Feels like we're in the dead of winter
Waiting on something better
But am I really gonna hide forever?

Over and over again
I hear Your voice in my head
Let Your light shine, let Your light shine for all to see

Chorus:

Start a fire in my soul
Fan the flame and make it grow
So there's no doubt or denying
Let it burn so brightly
That everyone around can see
That it's You, that it's You that we need
Start a fire in me

Verse 2:

You only need a spark to start a whole blaze
It only takes a little faith
Let it start right here in this city
So these old walls will never be the same

Over and over again
I hear Your voice in my head
They need to know
I need to go
Spirit won't You fall on my heart now

Chorus

Bridge:

You are the fire You are the flame
You are the light on the darkest day
We have the hope we bear Your name
We carry the news that You have come to save, yeah
Only You can save, yeah

Chorus

Ending:

You are the fire
You are the flame
You are the light on the darkest day
Start a fire on me
Ooo, ooo, Ooo, ooo
Ooo, ooo, ooo

MESSAGE: Pastor Tim

A Story that Feeds Us

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

L: We have seen the light of the world. We have been called to follow the star of promise.

All: Like the magi before us, let us bring our gifts to honor the Christ child; let us bring God's light to all the dark places in our community and in our world.

THANKFUL OFFERING

Please Stand

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *"In the Bleak Midwinter"* vs. 3

All: What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him – give my heart.

OFFERING PRAYER

L: God of light and promise, we bring our gifts to further your work in a dark world.

All: May they bring your light to those who are overwhelmed by darkness, pain, and loneliness.

L: Accept these gifts of money and time—the gifts of our very selves.

All: May they shine for all to see and be brought into the sphere of your love and righteousness.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family. Guide the whole church with your wisdom, revealing God. Nurture ecumenical and interreligious understanding around the globe, especially in places of ethnic and religious strife. We pray for Lutheran World Relief and other organizations that provide humanitarian aid, disaster relief, and health care. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Bring the nations into the way of justice and peace, righteous God. Strengthen those who work for human rights, equality, and the protection of the most vulnerable. We pray for all in public office, that they may serve with honesty and honor. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Help those who have no helper, delivering God. Rescue any who suffer from abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Deliver adults and children who are caught in cycles of poverty. Transform social systems that enable racism and discrimination of any kind. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Accompany the ministries of this congregation in the coming year, abiding God. Inspire those who lead worship, teach, visit, pray, administer, and serve. Keep us mindful of the needs of others in our communities and neighborhoods. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Here now the prayers of our heart said silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

All: Amen.

A CAROL SETTING FOR HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: God is with you.

All: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to our Redeemer.

L: Let us give thanks to our Creator.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: By the leading of a star Christ was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS . . . *tune: "From Heaven Above"*

**All: As light breaks forth, we sing Your praise
To you, Redeemer of our days,
For we have found in Jesus' birth
Good news of peace and human worth.**

THE EUCHARIST

P: God of wisdom, with gratitude and love.

All: we remember your mighty acts.

P: You created a world that was good.

All: You gave us this earth to enjoy.

P: You trusted us to share with you in caring for it.

All: And when we sinned, you still did not abandon us but made covenant with our ancestors.

*P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.*

*In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:*

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

All: Come, Word Incarnate.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

All: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the language or translation of our hearts.

All: 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.

FRACTION RITE

P: We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Come. Be filled with light and life.

All: For this meal we give thanks!

Be Seated

The ushers will invite you to the Lord's Table
after the Lamb of God is sung.

LAMB OF GOD: tune – *"'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"*

**All: O Lamb of God who takes away our sins, have mercy.
O Lamb of God who takes away our sins, have mercy.
O Lamb of God who takes away
the sins of all the earth, we pray:
Jesus, grant us your peace, grant us your peace.
Glory be to God on high.**

Holy Communion is open to all.
Grape juice is white, wine is red.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Let an usher know if you need communion brought to you.

For walking communion:

You may come down the center aisle. Hold out your hand for the pastor to drop the host into, then take a cup of wine (red) or grape juice (white) from the assistant's tray, then return to your seat via the side aisles, depositing your empty cup in the provided bowls.

For communion at your seat with pre-packaged kit:

You may come down the center aisle, take a communion kit from the assistant, and return to your seat to partake. Or you may remain seated and partake of the kit you picked up at the entrance. The ushers will come around to collect empty kits.

COMMUNION HYMN: “Shine on Us”

Verse 1:

Lord let your light,
light of your face shine on us.

Lord, let your light,
Light of your face shine on us

That we may be saved,
That we may have life;
To find our way in the darkest night,
Let your light shine on us.

Verse 2:

Lord, let your grace,
Grace from your hand fall on us

Lord, let your grace,
Grace from your hand fall on us

That we may be saved,
That we may have life;
To find our way in the darkest night
Let your grace fall on us

Verse 3:

Lord, let your love
Love with no end come over us.

Lord, let your love,
Love with no end, come over us

That we may be saved,
That we may have life;
To find our way in the darkest night
Let your love come over us
Let your light shine on us

COMMUNION HYMN: “*Eat this Bread*”

Eat this Bread, Drink this Cup
Come to me and never be hungry
Eat this Bread, Drink this Cup
Trust in me and you will not thirst

SINGING BOWL

Please Stand

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: We give you thanks, O God, that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life, you give us food for our journey.

All: As you led the magi by a star, as you brought the holy family home again, guide us on the way unfolding before us. Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Great and saving God, you have gathered your scattered people around gifts of grain and wine, the body and blood of our Savior Christ.

All: As we, like the shepherds, return on our way, may we proclaim all we have heard and seen, praising you in word and loving deed for the gift of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Be Seated

A Story that Sends Us Out to Love and Serve

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S TIME: Pastor Tim

Please Stand

CANDLE LIGHTING

The pastor lights candle from the center candle.
Ushers light their candles from the pastor's candle,
then light the candle of the worshiper next to the aisle.

The lit candles should NOT be tipped –
tip the *unlit* candle when lighting from a neighbor's candle.

WORDS FOR THE JOURNEY

L: Jesus said to go into all the world.

All: We will love like Jesus loved.

P: Into the big cities and small towns

All: We will love like Jesus loved.

L: Jesus said, "Feed the hungry"

All: We will love like Jesus loved.

P: Shelter the homeless

All: We will love like Jesus loved.

L: Heal the sick

All: We will love like Jesus loved.

P: Visit the imprisoned.

All: We will love like Jesus loved.

L: And ask for nothing in return.

All: We will love like Jesus loved.

P: Expect nothing in return.

All: We will love like Jesus loved.

L: Love without expectation.

All: We will love like Jesus loved.

P: Love without strings attached.

All: We will love like Jesus loved.

L: Jesus loved for no other reason than to love.

All: We will love like Jesus loved.

P: We will do the same.

All: We will love like Jesus loved. Amen.

LIGHTS OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE GO OUT

P: May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.

All: Amen.

P: May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.

All: Amen.

P: May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.

All: Amen.

P: Go out as Christ's true lights, dispersing darkness, for Christ's grace, power, love and peace go with you.

All: Amen

SENDING HYMN: "Psalm 40"

I will wait for You O Lord
Because You have filled my heart with joy
You lift me higher and higher
You're my one and only desire

Chorus:

You put a new song in my mouth
A hymn of praise to You
All I wanna do when I wake up
Is spend my day with You
You put a new song in my mouth
A hymn of praise to You
You put my feet on the Rock Lord
I put my trust in You
Sing a new song
Sing a new song yeah

Verse 2:

Ev'rybody say I will wait for You O Lord
Sing I will wait for You O Lord
Ev'rybody sing I will wait for You O Lord
Because You have filled my heart with joy
You lift me higher and higher
You're my one and only desire

Chorus

Bridge:

Many will see You and fear You Lord
Put their trust in You
Many will see You and fear You Lord
Put their trust in You yeah
Sing a new song, Sing a new song yeah
Sing a new song, Sing a new song whoa

Chorus 2X

I put my trust in You
Sing a new song yeah yeah
Sing a new song, Oh everybody sing

I will wait, I will wait
I will wait for You
I will wait for You
(repeat 3x)

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Share the light of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

