

WORSHIP GUIDE

Sunday, January 10, 2021

10:00 AM

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Matthew 2:1-2

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."

CALL TO WORSHIP

Matthew 2:1-12

HERE I AM TO WORSHIP

2001 Thankyou Music (PRS) 2001 Kingsway's Thankyou Music;
admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing. CCLI #101544

Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness,
opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore you,
hope of a life spent with you.

*Here I am to worship; here I am to bow down;
here I am to say that you're my God.
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
altogether wonderful to me.*

King of all days, oh so highly exalted,
glorious in heaven above.
Humbly You came to the earth You created,
all for love's sake became poor.

SCRIPTURE READING | Isaiah 60:1-4a, 6b, 18-19

ARISE, SHINE, FOR YOUR LIGHT HAS COME

Words and Music by Jered McKenna, 2013. CCLI #101544

Arise, shine for your light has come
and the glory of God is on you.

Arise, see when the earth grows dark
that the Lord will arise upon you,
that the Lord will arise upon you.

*Nations will come to your light;
lift up your eyes and see.
We'll gather together and come to you,
and your love will be all that we know;
and your love will be all that we know.*

Arise, come to the open gates,
for the Father is welcoming you.
Fear not, for the Lord brings peace
and redemption to all who believe,
and redemption to all who believe.

The sun will not shine
'cause you'll be all the light that we need;
and violence will end,
all the wars that we wage will cease.

We will glorify your name;
We will glorify your name.

CONFESSING OUR SIN

The light has come into the world,
and people loved darkness rather than light
because their deeds were evil.

Let us confess our sin to God.

—based on John 3:19, NRSV

God of grace,
you have given us Jesus,
the light of the world,
but we so often choose darkness
and cling to things that hide the brightness of your love.
Immersed in ourselves, we have not risen to new life.
Baptize us with your Spirit,
that, forgiven and renewed,
we may preach your Word to the nations
and tell of your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ,
our Lord and our light forever. **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

—1 John 1:5-7, NRSV

YOU ALONE ARE GOD

Reuben Morgan, Ben Fielding, 2006, Reuben Morgan and Ben Fielding/Hillsong Publishing, CCLI #101544

I confess my hope, in the light of your salvation.
Where I lose myself, I will find you're all I need.
Sing, my soul, of the Savior's love.
Sing, my soul, unto God alone.

I will meet you here, in the life we call surrender.
Let the world I know be the glory of your grace.
Sing, my soul, of the Savior's love.
Sing, my soul, unto God alone.

You alone are God; you alone are God.

We declare the glory of your name.

Reign in all the earth;
Reign in all the earth, Jesus!

WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD

Te Deum Laudamus; 4th century Latin Hymn

We praise you, O God;
we acclaim you as Lord;
all creation worships you,
the Father everlasting.

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.
Throughout the world the holy church acclaims you:
**Father, of majesty unbounded;
your true and only Son, worthy of all praise;
the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.**

You, Christ, are the King of glory,
the eternal Son of the Father.
When you took our flesh to set us free,
you humbly chose the virgin's womb.
You overcame the sting of death
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
**You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
We believe that you will come to be our judge.**

Come, then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood,
and bring us with your saints
to glory everlasting. **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord God of the nations,
we have seen the star of your glory rising in splendor.
The radiance of your incarnate Word
pierces the night that covers the earth
and signals the dawn of justice and peace.
May his brightness illumine our lives
and invite all nations to walk as one in your light
even now as your Word is read and proclaimed.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
your Word made flesh,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit
in the splendor of eternal light,
one God forever and ever. **Amen.**

SERMON

HE WILL HOLD ME FAST

Lyrics vv. 1-2 Ada Habershon (1861-1918), Public Domain; Alt words vv.1-2, lyrics v.3, and music: Matt Merker,
© 2013. CCLI #101544

When I fear my faith will fail,
Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail,
He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold;
He must hold me fast.

*He will hold me fast,
He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so,
He will hold me fast.*

Those He saves are His delight,
Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in his holy sight,
He will hold me fast.

He'll not let my soul be lost;
His promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost,
He will hold me fast.

For my life He bled and died,
Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied;
He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life,
He will hold me fast
'Till our faith is turned to sight,
When He comes at last!

GRACE

Niki Shepherd, Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, 2016. CityAlight.
CCLI #101544

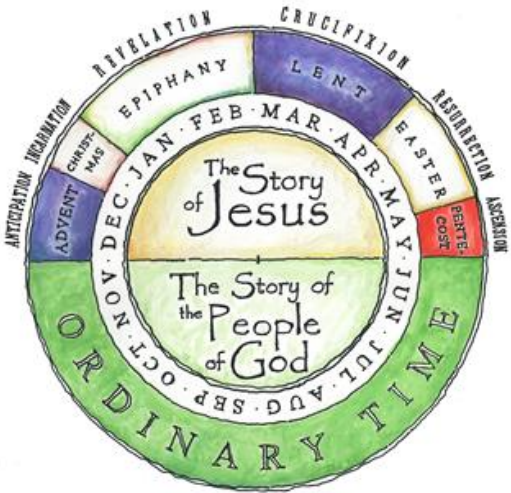
Your grace that leads this sinner home
From death to life forever,
And sings the song of righteousness
By blood and not by merit.

Your grace that reaches far and wide,
To every tribe and nation,
Has called my heart to enter in
The joy of Your salvation.

*By grace I am redeemed,
By grace I am restored,
And now I freely walk into
The arms of Christ, my Lord.*

Your grace that I cannot explain,
Not by my earthly wisdom;
The price of life, without a stain,
Was traded for this sinner.

Let praise rise up and overflow,
My song resound forever;
For grace will see me welcomed home
To walk beside my Savior.



THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY IN THE CHRISTIAN CALENDAR

If you're not very familiar with the Church Calendar, you've probably never heard of this particular season. It's often overlooked, and aspects of it, for better or worse, tend to get lumped into the traditional celebration of Christmas. But, even though it might seem obscure and confusing on the surface, Epiphany proves an essential part of the gospel—the story of Jesus.

Epiphany, which literally means “to show” or “make known,” is about Jesus Christ being revealed as both the divine Son of God and as Savior to the whole world. There are three specific stories within the Scriptures that mark the season of Epiphany. First, though typically connected to the Christmas narrative, the journey of the Magi reminds us that Christ came not just for the Jews but also for the Gentiles, showing God's heart for the nations and the continued fulfillment of His promise to Abraham. The two other events that mark Epiphany are the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist and the miracle at the wedding feast in Cana. Both events, in their own way, reveal the divinity of Jesus Christ.

Focused on the coming of Jesus as the Son of God and the hope of the nations, Epiphany marks a time of celebration, rededication and declaration. It is a season for us to affirm the

truth that Jesus Christ is the second person of the Trinity, the Word who became flesh to dwell among us, who was sent from the Father by the Spirit to reconcile people of all tribes, tongues and nations back to the Father by the Spirit. And, as we affirm the manifestation of Jesus Christ, we are called to renew our faith in Him and to proclaim the good news that Jesus came to save sinners—both Jews and Gentiles. Some even say Epiphany serves as a sort of break between the coming of Christ and the passion of Christ, a season to rest in the promises of God fulfilled.

At the beginning of every year, our culture becomes obsessed with New Year's resolutions and aspirations for the future—if we only looked a certain way or did a certain thing. And as Christians, we often find ourselves caught up in this false story—a story of narcissism, materialism and romanticism—that says we can be better and feel better if we just try harder. But Epiphany offers a counter-story, a different way of starting the new year: By entering the story of Jesus, remembering and rejoicing in the manifestation of Christ as Lord and Savior of the world, we are then compelled to renew our union with Christ and to manifest Christ through the way we live our lives.

From *Seasons: Enter the Story of Jesus*
The Village Church, 2018