**Grace Lutheran Church**

493 Forest Avenue, Glen Ellyn IL 630.469.1555

[www.graceglenellyn.org](http://www.graceglenellyn.org)

**Epiphany of Our Lord January 10, 2021**

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***+ Proclaim Christ + Build Community +***

***+ Serve Our Neighbors +***

**Introduction**

*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.*

**Gathering**

**The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.**

**Prelude**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,*

*as the worship leader begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, **☩** one God,

who was in the beginning,

who makes a dwelling among us,

who covers us with justice and mercy.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of goodness and lovingkindness,

**we confess that we have sinned against you**

**and our neighbors.**

**We have turned away from your invitation to new life.**

**We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden.**

**In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,**

**those we know and those known only to you,**

**for the sake of the one who came to live among us,**

**Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Hear the good news of peace and salvation!

God forgives us all our sins,

not through our own work,

but through **☩** Jesus Christ, made known to all people.

With all who come to the manger,

rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

**Amen.**

**Opening Hymn *(Please mute your mic)*** ELW#303 Brightest and Best; sts. 1, 3, 4

 

***(You may unmute your mic)***

**Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Almighty and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Word**

**God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.**

**First Lesson Isaiah 60:1-6**

*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.*

1Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. 2For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. 3Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

4Lift 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. 5Then 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. 6A 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.**

**The Psalm** *Read responsively by verse* **Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14**

*All kings shall bow down before him. (Ps. 72:11)*

1Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king’s son;
2**that he may rule your people righteously** **and the poor with justice;**
3that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.
4**Let him defend the needy among the people,** **rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
5May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.
6**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,** **like showers that water the earth.**
7In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
10**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,** **and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**
11May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.
12**For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,** **the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**
13He has compassion on the lowly and poor, and preserves the lives of the needy.
14**From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,** **and precious is their blood in his sight.**

**Second Lesson Ephesians 3:1-12**

*What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God’s promised salvation.*

1This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—2for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, 3and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, 4a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. 5In 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: 6that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.
  7Of 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. 8Although 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, 9and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; 10so 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. 11This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

 ***Alleluia.* We have observed his star at its rising, and have come to worship him. *Alleluia.***

The holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel Matthew 2:1-12**

*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.*

1In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2asking, “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.” 3When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:
 6‘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.’ ”
  7Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8Then 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.” 9When 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. 10When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11On 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. 12And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

***(Please mute your mic)***

**Sermon**  The Rev. Melody Eastman

***(You may unmute your mic)***

**Apostles’ Creed**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

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 splendor 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 especially Helen, Sigrid, Dorothy, Chris, Elizabeth, Anita, Evelyn, Carol, Norma, Dorothy and those we name before you now. . . Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send traveling 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.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

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 splendor 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. **Amen.**

 *(If your House Church is celebrating Communion, refer to that liturgy here.)*

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**Sending**

**God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.**

**Blessing**

Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day **☩** through the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn *(Please mute your mic)*** ELW #302 As with Gladness Men of Old; sts. 1, 3, 4

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***(You may unmute your mic)***

**Sent to the World**

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

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**Current Prayer Requests**

**Name Relation to Grace Prayers For**

Helen Sladek, Member, Healing & Strength

Bea Stange, Member, 90th Birthday 1/4

Howard Bruning, Member, 93rd Birthday 1/15

Family of Andy Ross, Former Member, Comfort in Grief

Family of Mary Lou Ruesch, Former Member, Comfort in Grief

Chris Danly, Son of Mark & Pat Danly, Healing & Strength

Sigrid Elliott, Member, Healing & Strength

Dorothy Tracy, Member, Healing & Strength

Elizabeth Amber, Friend of Pr. Melody and Marty, Healing & Strength

**Prayers for our homebound Members**

Anita Blakemore, Evelyn Elson, Carol Petersen, Norma Petersen, Dorothy Stein, Dolores Nosal

**Weekly Announcements**

**Committee and Staff Reports are needed for the Congregational Meeting. Please have all reports to the church office by Tuesday, January 19.**

**All-Church Service of the Word next Sunday morning at 9:30am!** We will celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord together, with a rite of Thanksgiving for Baptism. There will be no communion, but you may prepare your worship space with a small bowl of water as we remember that we are joined to Christ in baptism. Look for the Zoom link in *News from Grace*. Contact Jon & Cathy Milleville (before Sunday!) if you need help learning how to connect via computer or phone.

**Coffee with Council** will take place on **Sunday,** **January 17th at 10:30am** via Zoom. The budget detail for the congregation will be made available via MailChimp or US mail for those without email. The budget will also be shared on the Zoom coffee call by Jon Milleville.

We will have our **annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 31**. During this meeting we will elect new board members and vote on the 2021 budget. Due to the current pandemic situation, we will hold this meeting via Zoom. We will send out Zoom information and additional details in January. If you would like to join either of these sessions but are not comfortable with Zoom or have questions/comments, please contact Jon Milleville for help via email at jmilleville@comcast.net. Zoom does not require a computer as you can join by dialing in on a telephone.

**We are in need of one new Council Member for a term starting in February of 2021. If you would be interested or have questions, please contact Jon Milleville.**

**Commitment Cards for 2021**: Please return yours to the office, or you can submit your commitment on Grace’s website. Your support remains critical; thank you for your prayerful response!

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**Every Member a Minister and Missionary!**

**Phone: 630-469-1555 Emergency Pastoral Contact: 630-674-2887**

**info@graceglenellyn.org**[**www.graceglenellyn.org**](http://www.graceglenellyn.org)

**Pastor**

Rev. Melody Eastman office ext. 14

meastman@graceglenellyn.org

**Minister of Music**

Bradford Thompson 219-718-8879

bradfordmthompson@gmail.com

**Ministry Associate**

Becky Ficarella office ext. 17

bficarella@graceglenellyn.org

**Office Manager**

Barbara Sudds office ext. 10

bsudds@graceglenellyn.org

**Parish Counselor**

Carole LoGalboM.S., LCPC 630-668-4594

carolelogalbo@yahoo.com