

WORSHIP AT ST. STEPHEN'S



Epiphany

Welcome to Worship at St. Stephen's!

You will notice that this bulletin indicates moments in the service where it is customary to sit, stand, and kneel. These are only customs, and if you find that you are uncomfortable in any of these postures, please pay attention to your body and change your prayer posture as needed.

If you are visiting for the first time, please fill out one of the welcome cards at the usher's table.

If you parked in the ARPS Parking Garage (Parking Garage B), your parking is free. Simply pick up a parking sticker from one of the ushers.

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, most of our worship services and formation opportunities are currently online. Visit us at ststephens-columbus.org to discover everything that we have to offer, including social justice and charitable activities.

Saint Stephen's is a B.R.E.A.D. church, joining with 40 diverse congregations to act powerfully on local issues of justice and fairness. Learn more at www.breadcolumbus.org.

Saint Stephen's is a founding member of Neighborhood Services, Inc. www.neighborhoodservicesinc.org.

Worship Leaders this Morning

Celebrant: The Rev. Karl Stevens

Lectors: Joe Rutter

Intercessor:

Cyber Sacristans:

Throughout the service, the people's responses are in italics.

The people sing together.

We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain,
moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading,
still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!

Lucernaria

Beloved, kindle within my heart a flame of love for my
neighbor, for my foe, for my friend, for my family;
for the admirable, and those I can't admire, and those I am
tempted to treat with contempt;
For the flame of love must be kindled, nourished, fed, and kept
alive,
and I must be kindled, nourished, fed, and kept alive,
inspired by love, aroused from idleness.
O Son of the loveliest Mary, light of the lowliest living thing,
light of the love that is highest of all.

The Opening Acclamation

Peace be to our homes, and to all who dwell in them.

*I saw water proceeding out of the temple; from the right side it
flowed, alleluia; and all those to whom that water came shall be
saved, and shall say, alleluia, alleluia.*

The Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in you, O God my Savior, *
for you have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

*From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
you, the Almighty, have done great things for me,
and holy is your name.*

*You have mercy on those who fear you *
from generation to generation.*

*You have shown strength with your arm *
and scattered the proud in their conceit,*

*Casting down the mighty from their thrones *
and lifting up the lowly.*

*You have filled the hungry with good things *
and sent the rich away empty.*

*You have come to the help of your servant Israel, *
for you have remembered your promise of mercy,*

*The promise made to our forebears, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.*

Collect for the Day

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The people sit.

A Reading from Isaiah

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 God's people.
Thanks be to God.

Journey of the Magi

by T.S. Eliot

A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter."
And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory,
Lying down in the melting snow.
There were times we regretted
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling
And running away, and wanting their liquor and women,
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:
A hard time we had of it.
At the end we preferred to travel all night,
Sleeping in snatches,
With the voices singing in our ears, saying
That this was all folly.

Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;
With a running stream and a water-mill beating the darkness,
And three trees on the low sky,
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins.
But there was no information, and so we continued
And arriving at evening, not a moment too soon
Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory.

All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.

A Reading from Ephesians

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 God's people.

Thanks be to God.

The people sing together

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King for ever,
ceasing never
over us all to reign.

O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading,
still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!

Frankincense to offer have I:
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising,
gladly raising,
worship him, God Most High.

O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading,
still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing,
bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading,
still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!

The Gospel

The Holy Gospel of Our Savior Jesus Christ According
To Matthew

Glory to You, O 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 Our Savior.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The people sit for the Homily.

The Homily

The Rev. Karl Stevens

The people stand for the Nicene Creed.

An Improvisation on the Nicene Creed

We give our hearts to divine relationship, the One, Holy, and Undivided Trinity.

We give our hearts to the maker of heaven and earth, holiness in all that is, seen and unseen.

We give our hearts to Jesus Christ, holiness within our humanity. He came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and, out of love for us, became truly human. Because holiness does not turn away from suffering, he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, died, and was buried. On the third day he rose again, because holiness rejoices in life. Because holiness is known to us, yet also remains unknown, he ascended into heaven. Because holiness never ceases from working for the repair of the world, He will come again in glory and will lead us into a restored creation that has been made perfect and just.

We give our hearts to the Holy Spirit, the giver of life, who moves through our communities, speaks through the wise, and opens our eyes to see, our ears to hear.

We give our hearts to the community of fellow seekers. We forgive and we seek forgiveness from each other. We look for the restoration of all things lost, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The people stand or kneel.

Epiphany Litany

May it be your will, Holy One, to establish the house of our life, and to restore your Divine Presence to our midst, speedily in our days;

and let us say
amen.

May it be your will, Holy One, to have mercy upon us and upon our community, and to keep destruction and suffering from us and from all your people;

and let us say
amen.

May it be your will, Holy One, to preserve among us the wise ones, the leaders and teachers, whether acknowledged or unacknowledged, in all the places of their habitation:

and let us say
amen.

May it be your will, Holy One, that good tidings of salvation and comfort be proclaimed and heard, and that you gather the lost and disregarded from the four corners of the earth;

and let us say
amen.

May you have mercy upon us, and bring us forth from trouble to respite, from darkness to light, from subjugation to freedom, now, speedily and soon;

and let us say
amen.

Visit, O Holy One, our homes with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live with us with the gift of your love; grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives are touched by us. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us, and preserve us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

The Blessing

May Almighty God, who led the Magi by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light, lead you also in your pilgrimage to find salvation. *Amen.*

May God, who sent the Holy Spirit to rest upon the Only-begotten at his baptism in the Jordan River, pour out that Spirit on you who have come to the waters of new birth. *Amen.*

May God, by the power that turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, transfer your lives and make glad your hearts. *Amen.*

Dismissal

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
heaven sings alleluia:
alleluia the earth replies.

O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading,
still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!

