



ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY – JANUARY 2, 2022

READINGS: JEREMIAH 31:7-11; PSALM 84:1-8; EPHESIANS 1:3-6, 15-19A; MATTHEW 2:1-12

WE WELCOME THE REV. DONNA LOCKHART, DEACON, TO WORSHIP WITH US THIS MORNING.

Organ: From High Heaven I Come – Johann Pachelbel

THE WORD OF GOD

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Alleluia. Unto us a child is born; **Come, let us adore him. Alleluia.**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Hymn 96, Angels We Have Heard on High**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

God of power and life, the glory of all who believe in you, fill the world with your splendor and show the nations the light of your truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who dwells with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Prophet Jeremiah

The Hebrew Bible reading was originally composed as a vision of hope for the restoration of Israel.

For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, 'Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel.' See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.' For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 84 is a song of the pilgrims' happiness as they come to worship in the house of the Lord. We read together:

**How lovely; Is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.**

**Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. As they go through the desolate valley, they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion. O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob!**

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the EPHESIANS

THIS NEW TESTAMENT LESSON OPENS WITH PRAISE TO GOD FOR GOD'S BLESSINGS, TOGETHER WITH THANKSGIVING AND PRAYERS THAT THESE SPIRITUAL GRACES MAY CONTINUE.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn 115, What Child Is This, Who Laid to Rest**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, Lord 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 the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Hymn 115, What Child is This, Who Laid to Rest**

Sermon -- The Rev. Michael L. Bradley, rector

Affirmation of Faith – From the Iona Community

**We believe in God:**

**Whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives,  
Whose love was made human in Jesus of Nazareth,  
Whose love was crucified by the evil that can entrap us.**

**Therefore, though we sometimes are fearful and doubting, we trust in God,  
and in the Name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves:**

**To the service of others, to seek justice, and to live in peace,  
To care for the earth, to share the commonwealth of God's goodness,  
To live in the freedom of forgiveness, the power of the spirit of Love,  
And in the company of the faithful, to be the Church.  
For the glory of God. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Creating God, your Son our Savior was born in human flesh.  
Renew your Church as the Body of Christ. Holy God: **Hear our prayer.**

Your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.  
Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world. Holy God: **hear our prayer.**

The angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.'  
Strengthen our work for peace and justice in all the world. Holy God: **hear our prayer.**

Wise Men were led to the Holy Family and found the baby lying in the manger.  
Bless our homes and all whom we love. Holy God: **hear our prayer.**

Heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven.  
Hold those safely who have passed through death to life. Holy God: **hear our prayer.**

Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth.  
Open our hearts that he may be born in us today. Holy God: **hear our prayer.**

Incarnate God, angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints through him who is your Word made flesh, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

# Holy Communion

Solo: Epiphany - Text by Charles Coffin and Charles Bennett; Music by Robert Chilcott

What star is this, with beams so bright, more lovely than the noonday light, 'tis sent to tell of a newborn King, glad tidings of our God to bring. 'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed, 'From Jacob shall a star proceed.' And lo! The eastern sages stand, to read in heav'n the Lord's command. I think of them tonight: Epiphany, which means that they were right. And when it's dark, it means we have to find the star within our hearts, the star that leads to light.

All things come of thee, O Lord; **And of thine own have we given thee.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing. . . to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.**

*The celebrant continues with the Prayer of Consecration, Memorial Acclamation, and Great Amen.*

*After the breaking of the bread:*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them and rejoice that Christ's light shines in all the world, and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving.

*All are invited to come forward and receive the Body of Christ.*

*Those who desire a blessing, please keep your hands folded as a sign to the celebrant.*

*After all have received Communion, please stand and pray together:*

Lord God, **God of all the nations of the earth, guide us with your light. Help us to recognize Christ as he comes to us in this eucharist and in our neighbors. May we welcome him with love, for he is Lord now and for ever. Amen.**

May Almighty God, who led the Wise Men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, lead you also in your pilgrimage of faith; and the blessing, etc.

Let us go forth in the Name of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn 124, What Star is This, With Beams so Bright**

Organ: Prelude in F major – Johann Sebastian Bach

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Our 75<sup>th</sup> Year!

We share the light of Christ by actively loving and serving our neighbors in the world.

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