

January 6, 2019 – Epiphany of the Lord – Matthew 2:1-12

What Gifts Do You Bring?

Prelude

Welcome

Today is not only the first Sunday of 2019, but because it is the twelfth day after Christmas, today is also Epiphany Sunday, a day we celebrate that the one born in Bethlehem came as a light to all people.

Epiphany comes from a Greek word, *epiphaneia*, meaning “manifestation or appearance.” It has become closely associated with the revelation of Christ in connection with the visit of the Magi who came from a far-off land following a star after discerning the birth of the Savior. The Magi’s visit demonstrated that God’s blessings flow through Jesus to all nations.

The season of Epiphany, which typically focuses on the growth, life, and teachings of Jesus, extends from today through Transfiguration Sunday which falls this year on 3 March.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Call to Worship: **Read** “Wise Men Came Journeying” CCS 445

* Hymn: “We Three Kings of Orient Are” CCS 438

* Invocation

* Response

Hymn of Rejoicing: “Though the Spirit’s Gifts Are Many” CCS 334

Prayer for Peace

Hymn of Epiphany: “Peace Among Earth’s People” CC 448 (stanzas 1,4,5)

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Communion Scripture: I Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Communion Message

Hymn of Preparation: “Take My Gifts and Let Me Love You” CCS 609

Blessing and Serving of the Bread and Wine

Disciples’ Generous Response

The first Sunday of each month focuses on Abolish Poverty, End Suffering which includes Oblation and World Hunger ministry.

Scripture Reading: Moroni 10:12–14

Stewardship Statement

We do not earn God's grace and generosity nor can we cause God to withdraw them. God's grace and generosity are not dependent on us. Grace and generosity simply are, which is why they are the first of nine Enduring Principles that describe the core of what it means to be Community of Christ.

When we choose to believe that God is continuously pouring out grace and generosity we begin to see God in everything—the good, the bad, and everything between. Of course, this is always easier in the good times but is equally, if not more, important to find God in the between and bad times.

Seeing all of life as a gift from God is a choice of faithful disciples. Whole-life stewardship is an ongoing choice we make in response to the transformation that occurs when God's vision of shalom for the earth captivates us. It is a choice we make when we rise out of the waters of baptism and are confirmed with the Holy Spirit, committing to embrace and embody Christ's mission on Earth. It is a choice we make when we renew our commitment to Christ when joining in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. It is a choice we make when we rise each morning to a new day ready to begin again.

—Stassi Cramm, ed., *Choose Generosity*, (Herald Publishing House, forthcoming).

Receiving of Offerings and Oblation

- * Closing Hymn: "According to the Gifts" CCS 591 (stanzas 1, 3)
- * Closing Prayer
- * Postlude