

Liturgy for Home Worship

The First Sunday after Epiphany

— January 10, 2021 —

Words for Reflection

Epiphany, which begins on January 6, means “manifestation,” and the season commemorates the appearance of Jesus to the magi, the firstfruits of the gathering of the Gentiles. Epiphany reminds us that Jesus came as the Light of the world, and that we are sent to call the nations to that Light. It reminds us that mission is not a program of the church, but the very essence of the church. Epiphany season is an exhortation to be what we confess ourselves to be, an “apostolic” church, a sent people.

- Peter Leithart

We draw people to Christ not by telling them how right we are, but by showing them a light so lovely that they want to know its source.

- Madeleine L'Engle

Epiphany - noun: a sudden realization--a flash of recognition in which someone or something is seen in a new light

When Christ's appearing was made known
King Herod trembled for his throne;
But He who offers heav'nly birth
Seeks not the kingdoms of this earth.

- Coelius Sedulius, c. 450AD

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered together under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one God and Creator of us all; to whom be dominion and glory, now and forever.

- Book of Common Prayer

The Call to Worship

God invites and calls us into His presence to worship Him. He enters into our busy lives to speak to us.

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;

but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.

And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

—Isaiah 60:1-3 ESV

Hymn of Praise | O Worship the King

We sing praises to God and proclaim through song the good news of what He has done in Jesus' death and resurrection. Some songs might be initially unfamiliar, but we believe the rich, true, beautiful words of these hymns will make their way into your heart.

O worship the King all glorious above,
O gratefully sing his power and his love;
Our shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep
thunderclouds form,
And dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, your pow'r hath founded of old;
Hath 'stablished it fast by a changeless
decree,
And round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Your bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills; it descends to the plain;
And sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
Your mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

O measureless Might! Ineffable Love!
While angels delight to hymn you above,
The humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
With true adoration shall lisp to thy praise.

Words: Based on Psalm 104; Robert Grant; Music: Johann Michael Haydn

Opening Prayer & Lord's Prayer

We ask for God to be present among us and conclude with the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray.

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Confession of Sin

We fight the temptation to hide our sin and instead acknowledge it openly to God, but we do so in light of the grace offered in Jesus.

Almighty and Merciful God,

We confess that we have sinned against You and one another in both our actions and our inactions. We recognize that in Jesus Christ the true light has come, yet often we choose to walk in darkness and ignore the light. Forgive our sins and remove from us the veil of darkness that shrouds our lives. Fill us with Your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may proclaim Your Word to the nations and tell of Your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ, our Lord and our light forever. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

God reminds our forgetful hearts of the grace that is ours in Jesus.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he 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 ESV

Hymn of Response | Jesus, Lover of My Soul

We respond in thanks and praise for God's redemptive work in Christ.

Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
'Til life's storm is past;
Safe into the haven guide;
Receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none,
I, helpless, hang on Thee;
Leave, oh leave me not alone,
Support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed,
All help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head
In the shadow of Thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, are all I want,
Here more than all I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is Thy Name,
I am all unrighteousness;
False and full of sin I am;
Thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound;
Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art,
Let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart;
For all eternity.

Words: Charles Wesley; Music: Greg Thompson

Confession of Faith | The Apostles' Creed

We join the church in history by confessing this basic statement of what Christians believe.

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.*
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there 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.

**While Jesus didn't literally descend to hell, he did endure the torment of hell on the cross and remained under the power of death until his resurrection.*

***universal*

The Offering

In gratitude, we offer our gifts to God. You may give online at www.trinitypresfw.org/give or through the Church Center App.

The Prayers of the People

We lift up our requests to God knowing that He hears us when we pray and conclude with an Advent prayer that focuses on Jesus' coming.

The Reading of the Word

Matthew 2:1-12

God speaks to us through His Word.

2:1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, **2** saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." **3** When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; **4** and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. **5** They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: **6** "'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

7 Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. **8** And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." **9** After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. **11** And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then,

The Celebration of Holy Communion

Communion (also called the Lord's Supper or the Eucharist) is the family meal of baptized Christians. It's not a meal for good people. It's a meal for desperate people who trust in Jesus alone for salvation, who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength and grace to live more faithfully with Jesus. You will be invited to come forward. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal today, we encourage you to spend this time in reflection or prayer.

Children who have not received their first communion are welcome to come forward with their families. We invite children who are ready to make a public profession of faith in Christ to arrange a meeting with the elders, and thus become "communicants" at the Lord's Table.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

Pastor: Let us proclaim the mystery of the faith:

People: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Hallelujah!**

Pastor: Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed for us. Hallelujah!

People: **Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

Pastor: The gifts of God for the people of God.

Hymn for Communion | Come Then, Lord Jesus

The Church has waited long, her absent
Lord to see,
And still in loneliness she waits, a friendless
stranger she.
Age after age has gone, sun after sun has
set,
And still, in weeds of widowhood, she
weeps a mourner yet.

Come then, Lord Jesus, come
Come then, Lord Jesus
Come then, Lord Jesus, come, come, come.

We long to hear Thy voice, to see Thee face
to face,
To share Thy crown and glory then, as now
we share Thy grace.
Should not the loving bride, the absent
Bridegroom mourn?
Should she not wear the weeds of grief,
until her Lord return?

Come then, Lord Jesus, come
Come then, Lord Jesus
Come then, Lord Jesus, come, come, come.

The whole creation groans, and waits to
hear that voice
That shall restore her comeliness, and make
her wastes rejoice.
Come, Lord, and wipe away, the curse, the
sin, the stain,
And make this blighted world of ours, Thine
own fair world again.

Come then, Lord Jesus, come
Come then, Lord Jesus
Come then, Lord Jesus, come, come, come.

Words: Horatius Bonar, Katy Bowser, Kenny Hutson
Music: Katy Bowser & Kenny Hutson

Life at Trinity

Departing Hymn | The Sands of Time Are Sinking

We respond in faith and song.

The sands of time are sinking,
The dawn of heaven breaks;
The summer morn I've sighed for -
The fair, sweet morn awakes:
Dark, dark had been the midnight
But dayspring is at hand,
And glory, glory dwelleth
In Emmanuel's land.

O Christ, He is the fountain,
The deep, sweet well of love!
The streams on earth I've tasted
More deep I'll drink above:
There to an ocean fullness
His mercy doth expand,
And glory, glory dwelleth
In Emmanuel's land.

The bride eyes not her garment,
But her dear Bridegroom's face;
I will not gaze at glory
But on my King of grace.
Not at the crown He giveth
But on His pierced hand;
The Lamb is all the glory
Of Emmanuel's land.

O I am my Beloved's
And my Beloved is mine!
He brings a poor vile sinner
Into His house of wine
I stand upon His merit -
I know no other stand,
Not e'en where glory dwelleth
In Emmanuel's land.

Words: Anne Ross Cundell Cousin; Music: Phillip
Palmertree

The Benediction

God sends us out with his blessing. A benediction is not a prayer. We don't bow our heads. We lift them up and even lift up our hands to receive his blessing as we are sent out as participants in His mission to Fort Worth.

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

The Sending

The people of God are sent into the world to love God, love people, and love Fort Worth.

Pastor: Let us go forth to serve Fort Worth and the world as those who love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

People: Thanks be to God!

* CCLI #5043663 – all songs used by permission

Announcements

MTW House In Order Seminar

Trinity is hosting a financial seminar on Monday, January 25 with Rev. Bruce Owens, the Director of the Center of Estate Design and Gift Planning at Mission to the World (MTW). The seminar will help families find God's plan for stewardship for their families and estates, and to be wise managers of the resources He has entrusted to us. We will also be led in the service on Sunday, Jan 24 by Dr. Paul Kooistra, former President of Covenant Seminary, and former Coordinator of MTW.

Youth Small Groups Today

Attention parents and students! Our Sunday night youth small groups are back! Middle and high school students, along with volunteer leaders, will gather together on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month from 5:30-6:30pm (after worship) @ Connell to build community and unpack our sermon series together. More details to come. Questions? Contact John (john@trinitypresfw.org) or 615.517.9238.

Five Six Today

We will have Five Six today directly after worship until 6:30. It will be a fun time of songs, teaching, and snacks. Questions? Contact Wade (jewettwade@gmail.com).

Letter from Birmingham Jail: Reading and Discussion Night

Mark your calendars for 7pm on Thursday, January 14 as we read and discuss Dr. Martin Luther King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail." Dr. King wrote this letter while imprisoned for participating in nonviolent protests against racial injustice in 1963, and it eventually became a central text for the Civil Rights movement. It's also essential reading for Christians who want to learn more about race and justice in society and cross-cultural community in the Church. We'll meet at Connell in the Sanctuary and will observe all of the same social distancing guidelines that we do on Sundays. More info to come.

Women's Bible Study

Ladies-please join our spring Bible study on Hebrews! Registration opens January 6. Our study will begin the week of January 17 and end the week of March 28. **If you participated in our fall study and want to continue, there is no need to register.** But, if you want to join or need to switch your group, please use the link below. Books will be available after worship in the lobby, or on Susan's front porch (4000 W. 6th St), or at the church office. We have many small groups during the week--some in person and some on Zoom. For more information, contact Susan (susan@trinitypresfw.org).

Rivertree Parent University

Parent University is a 4-6 week virtual weekly meeting that provides a series of discussions designed to build community among the families, volunteers, and other stakeholders at Rivertree Academy. These discussions are designed to provide a safe place to have conversations, ask questions, and explore what God says about building Godly-influenced relationships with one another.

Rivertree is looking for volunteer co-facilitators to work alongside a Rivertree parent to facilitate these weekly meetings OR other families who want to attend and participate in the discussion, starting in January. Groups typically meet on Tuesday or Thursday evenings and start times can be flexible between 6 to 7:30, based on facilitators' schedules. Course schedules for the spring semester are listed below - all videos are accessed through the school RightNow Media account.

Contact Abbie Pitzer (abbie@rivertreeacademy.org) if you have questions or are interested in attending OR facilitating one of the classes!

