

Canon Davis Memorial Church
Anglican Church of Canada
Sunday, December 31, 2023 – The Epiphany of the Lord



Worship Service: Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Officiant—Rev'd Jon Forbes — Assisted By — Tom Brown

Organist—Dorothy Miller

380 Russell St. North (at Maxwell St.), Sarnia, Ontario, N7T 6S6

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Prelude
Announcements

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Sentence

We have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.

Matthew 2:2

Processional Hymn # 139

The First Nowell

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

Almighty God, **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. 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.**

Glory to God in the highest, **and peace to his people on earth.**

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Collect of the Day

Eternal God, who by a star led wise men to the worship of your Son. Guide by your light the nations of the earth, that the whole world may know your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

1st Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14 *(to be read responsively)*

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;
That he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;

**That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the little hills
bring righteousness.**

He shall defend the needy among the people; he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor. He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another. He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.

**In his time shall the righteous flourish; there shall be abundance of peace
till the moon shall be no more.**

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts. All kings shall bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.

**For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, and the oppressed
who has no helper.**

He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
**He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, and dear shall
their blood be in his sight.**

2nd Reading: Ephesians 3: 1-12

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn # 385 *Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness*

Gospel

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 2: 1-12

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

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 Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

The Apostles' Creed:

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 the People

(Let us offer our prayers to the source of all love and all life, saying, "Lord, hear our prayer.")

Merciful Lord, we pray for all who call themselves Christians: that we may become a royal priesthood, a holy nation, to the praise of Christ Jesus our Saviour.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for *N* our bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers: that they may remain faithful to their calling and rightly proclaim the word of truth.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for Charles our King, for the leaders of the nations, and all in authority: that your people may lead quiet and peaceable lives.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for *this city* and those who live here, the poor and the rich, the elderly and the young, men and women: that you will show your goodwill to all.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for the victims of our society and those who minister to them: that you will be their help and defence.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those preparing for baptism, (for those recently baptized): that they may be strengthened in the faith.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all the saints who have found favour in your sight from earliest times, prophets, apostles, martyrs, and those whose names are known to you alone: and we pray that we too may be counted among your faithful witnesses.

Lord, hear our prayer.

In our parish cycle of prayer, we pray for...

Prayer for a Renewed Church

Almighty God, give us a new vision of you, of your love, of your grace and power, and then, give us a new vision of what you would have us do as your Church in this nation and at this time, and an awareness that in the strength of your Spirit, we can do it to your glory. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Confession and Absolution: Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

The Confession: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Absolution: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Offertory Hymn # 377

To the Name of Our Salvation

Prayer over the Gifts

Gracious God, accept the offering of your Church, the hearts of your people joined in praise and thanksgiving, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

Eucharist Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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

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

**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.**

We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, Father, according to his command,
**we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;**

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer:

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Creator of All, you gave us golden fields of wheat, whose many grains we have gathered and made into this one bread.

So may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

The Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer after Communion

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 neighbours. May we welcome him with love, for he is Lord now and for ever..

Doxology

Glory to God, **Whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Recessional Hymn # 160

As with Gladness Men of Old

Blessing

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his son Jesus Christ and the blessing of God Almighty the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and those you love for ever more. **Amen.**

Benediction Song

Go Now in Peace

(found in the back of the blue hymn book)

Dismissal

The flowers on the Altar today are given to the Glory of God, a gift of the Chancel Guild.

Please enter names in the **Intercessions Book** each week to be read in the service.

NEWS AND EVENTS

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- Please send all announcements for the bulletin to Karen by **11:00 a.m. Tuesday** of each week email canondavis@gmail.com or call 519-344-9531.
- If you would like to contact Rev'd Jon Forbes or would like a home visit with Communion or know of someone who would, Rev'd Jon may be reached at 1-905-818-9488 or email jonforbes@outlook.com
- **The Church calendars for 2024** are available at the back of the church. Cost: \$6.00. And, there are also cookbooks available for purchase. Please see Ginny Schleihauf or Sheree Hayter.

Upcoming Events

Reminders: