



The Sunday of the Epiphany 2021

Worship at 9:30 AM ✠ Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Welcome to worship for Christ Church. Today we celebrate the Epiphany, which falls on January 6th and brings the Twelve Days of Christmas to a close. Epiphany means to reveal or make known, and remembers the wise Kings -the Magi- coming to honor the newborn Christ. And so we celebrate Christ revealed to the Gentiles—to us, to all people and nations. In many traditions the Epiphany is a day to feast on King's Cake, exchange gifts, and have a family home blessing.

Our gathering on Sundays is the core, the heart of the Church. For these last months we've gathered in our hearts and across virtual means. It has been a challenge, but still we gather, and we are still Christ Church, one in the Lord Jesus, still serving, caring, and worshipping.

Gathering

PRELUDE: a time for preparation

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We gather for worship in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us come to God in humility and confidence,
confessing our sin before God and each other.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

God of truth and light,
we confess that we have sinned against you.
We admit the things that divide us
within the church, among the nations,
and in our own relationships.
We confess we have turned away from your light.
Pour out your healing light upon us.
Through the power and strength of the cross,
heal our brokenness, forgive our foolish ways,
and make your light shine through us. Amen

The boundless riches of Christ
are the gift of God's grace to all people.
As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,
and by his authority, I declare to you
the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father, and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

GATHERING SONG

GREETING

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... *Silence...* Almighty and ever-living God,
you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice
always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your
service, in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



Silence for reflection follows each reading.

The first reading is from Isaiah, the 60th chapter.

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift 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.

⁵Then 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.

⁶all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72 will be read by whole verse.

¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;

²**that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**

³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴**Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

⁶**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

⁷In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁰**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**

¹¹May all kings bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.

¹²**For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**

¹³He has compassion on the lowly and poor,
and preserves the lives of the needy.

¹⁴**From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,
and precious is their blood in his sight. Amen.**

The second reading is from Ephesians, the 3rd chapter.

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In 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: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of 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. ⁸Although 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, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so 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. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!** *Ephesians 3:1-12*

Silence for Reflection

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia! Surely God is my salvation

The word of God is my light and my salvation, Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the second chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “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.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶“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.’”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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.” ⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Matthew 2:1-12

TEACHING THE WORD/SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Silence for reflection. Please stand at Pastor's invitation.

We have heard the Word. Now let us confess our faith.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Let us join our hearts, praying that the Light of Christ will shine with healing on the church, for the world, and upon all those in need.

A brief silence. We pray for the world, our community, and our church.

Glorious God, fill your church with joy. Let your faithful people live as beacons of your redemption. Give wisdom and courage to your church that it may speak with boldness and confidence, even when words of mercy are met with scorn.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Show us your faithfulness in the rising and setting of the sun. Place wonder into the hearts of those who search the skies and explore the heavens. Curb waste and pollution, that all might have clean air to breathe.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be with our country as we prepare for transitions in office. Give us a common heart for the good of our nation and neighbor. Raise up advocates who champion the cause of exploited and vulnerable people. Inspire leaders to be generous with abundance, that all people might live in stability and freedom.

Hear us, Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Shine on those who struggle in sickness and in sorrow, that the warmth of your healing presence will remind them that they are not alone. Come quickly with your Light to all who seek love, support, and restoration.

Hear our prayers for

-all in need of healing care, and those who cannot find the care they need...

-those who are struggling to meet the needs of home and work and family...

-all weary and stressed by trying to make ends meet, by financial fears...

Give us confidence to bring all our prayers, all our needs, all our fears to you.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Shine on those we love who now rest in you –Let your light drive away the darkness of grief, mourning and hopelessness. Keep us united with those who have gone before us, and bring us with them to your light.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your healing grace, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord, our Life, and our Light. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

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

Please offer peace to those with you, whether in person, in your heart, or across social media!

WE BRING OUR OFFERING

We offer our love, obedience and lives in thanksgiving as a response to God's gifts and mercies. Our tithes and offerings may be gathered to be given and mailed, given online at christpipersville.net or using the QR code. We thank you for your faithfulness in giving to our mission and ministry!



OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray: God of life and light:

We bring our tithes and offerings in thanksgiving for what you have given us:

Our lives, our time and all that we have. Bless these gifts, and make them a blessing to others, that Jesus' mercy and love may shine in our world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Silence for reflection

Sending

GOSPEL CANTICLE: *The Benedictus, the Song of Zachariah.*

Blessed are you Lord, the God of Israel;
you have come to your people and set them free.

**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**

Through your holy prophets, you promised of old
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,
to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.

This was the oath you swore to our ancestors Sarah and Abraham:

**to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship you without fear,
holy and righteous in your sight, all the days of our lives.**

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Let us join our hearts in the prayer our Savior taught us:

**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, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

Announcements

Announcements were sent earlier in the week by USPS and email. Pastor may choose to call attention to one or more, or share announcements that were not included.

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

Lord, now let your servant go in peace
according to Your word.

**For mine eyes have seen Your salvation;
Which you have prepared before the face of all people;**

A light to reveal You to the nations,
And the glory of Your people Israel.
**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.**

Benediction

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus;
and the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

DISMISSAL

Let your light shine! Dwell in peace,
go forth to serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



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The Announcements

REMEMBER TO CHECK the church web site (www.christpipersville.net) for worship and meeting updates and worship videos and resources or contact the church office.

NO IN-PERSON WORSHIP is currently being held. Watch your email for links to the live-streamed service and the recorded service to be posted to Facebook and our website.

OUR WEB SITE THIS MONTH is sponsored to the Glory of God and in Honor of their loving family by The Campbells.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS – The prayer list is printed in today’s bulletin, the newsletter and is posted on the bulletin board. Please contact the church office, 215-766-8730 or e-mail, with any prayer needs. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month unless a new request is made.

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES are now available. They are located on a table just inside the parking lot doors. If you did not receive a box of envelopes, but would like one, please contact the church office. For those without a church key, Cindy is in the office most mornings (Monday through Thursday) from 7:30 - 10:30, but please call first to be sure. Arrangements can be made for contact free pickup. Thank you to all for your faithful stewardship and continued support of the Lord's work through Christ Church.

FEBRUARY/MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE is next Sunday, January 10th. Please place all news items for the next edition of *Christ's Call* in Cindy's mailbox or email them to the church office. Thank you.

SOMETHING NEW! You may now sponsor the Sunday bulletin or the church website in honor or memory of a loved one similar to the way altar flowers had been sponsored and we'll list your gift in the bulletin as well as social media and our website. The requested donation is \$20/week for the bulletin and \$25/month for the website. Please contact the church office to arrange your sponsorship.

ANNUAL REPORTS for all committees and organizations were due in the church office by January 1st. Deadline for financial reports is January 7th. Thank you.

Week of January 3rd at a Glance

- Sun. 01/03 Epiphany Sunday
9:30AM Live-Streamed Worship (NO in-person worship)
- Mon. 01/04 10:00AM Worship & Music Committee
7:30PM Property Committee
- Tues. 01/05 Happy Birthday, Nate Cron!
- Wed. 01/06 The Epiphany of Our Lord
- Thur. 01/07 8:30AM Morning Prayer; 9:00AM Bible Study
Annual Financial Report Deadline
- Fri. 01/08 New Year's Day, Office Closed, Pastor's Day Off
Happy Birthday, Debra Moench and Barbara Polaneczky!
- Sat. 01/09 Happy Birthday, Russ Snyder!
- Sun. 01/10 9:30AM Live-Streamed Worship (NO in-person worship)
February/March Newsletter Deadline
Happy Birthday, Paul Gruver and Kaitlynn Pownall!

CIRCLE OF PRAYER

In January 2021, let us pray for...

Joseph Apgar (AF), Janet Banks (P,St), Jarrod Bodine (St,P), Pr. Caron & Family (Pr/C), Cory Cox (AF), Brandon Cree (AF), Bishop Patricia Davenport (Pr/C), Melody Maddux Farren (H,St), Pr. Ginny Goodwin (Pr/C), Cody Harmon (AF), Mary Hurley (Pr/C), Jenny (H,R,St), Katherine (St,P), Kinder Family (H), Sharon M. (H,St,P), Tom Macri (AF), Jennifer Marko (H,R,St), Corrine Monesmith (HB), Anita Nathans (H,R,St), Barbara Polaneczky (H,R), Jay & Lisa Roberson Family (H,St), Mike and Mary Trees (St), Rich Weidner (AF), Norm & Jan Wrase (H,R), and Zachary (St,Hope,Happiness).

Thanksgiving for the birth of Zoe Arlo Gearhart.

Those who mourn:

The family and friends of Marian (Gruver) Mellen, Dave Kinder, Norma Cole (esp. Cole & Allison families), Ray Reinard Sr., Russ Blakely (esp. Daria Chase), Amanda Gallagher, Phyllis Winterberg, Rose Riegel (esp. Riegel family), and Constance "Connie" Decker Snavelly (esp. Snavelly & Decker families).

**AF: Armed Forces, H: Healing, P: Peace/Patience,
R: Recovery, St: Strength, M: Mourning, W: Wisdom
T: Thanksgiving, NH: Nursing Home,
HB: Home Bound, Pr/C: Pastors/Church Professionals**

Please consider visiting, writing or calling these people who need the support of this faith community. If you know of others for whom you would like the congregation to pray, please notify the church office, 215-766-8730. Let us pray also for anyone besides the ones listed above, who may have some special need or desire.

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers* 