



When the song of the angels is
stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are
home,
When the shepherds are back with
their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among all,
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman, from *The Mood of
Christmas*, p. 23
Published and copyrighted by Friends United
Press, 1985

CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY 2020 -2021

St. Francis Lutheran Church
152 Church Street
San Francisco, CA 94114

A Note about Christmas

by Pr. Bea Chun

It's December 25th you might think Christmas is over and it's time to put away the decorations for another year. But in many liturgical traditions, Christmas is only getting started! Maybe you've heard of "The Twelve Days of Christmas?" The title refers to the period between Christmas Day, when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, and Epiphany, when we mark Christ's manifestation. In fact, the word "epiphany" is drawn from the Greek and means "manifestation."



A note about Epiphany

The season of Epiphany begins with the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6. We tell the story of the Magi who followed a star in the East to find the Christ child in Bethlehem and brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The season of Epiphany ends on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. Throughout the season the gospel readings describe various manifestations of the divinity of Jesus. The last Sunday after the Epiphany is always devoted to the Transfiguration of Jesus, when he is dramatically revealed as the Son of God.

During the seasons of Christmas and Epiphany we are invited to contemplate the meaning of the words from John 1:14:
And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, the glory as of the only Son of the Father.



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

As the congregation begins to log in for the Zoom service, the participants have a chance to chat and greet each other.

The time for Meet and Greet is followed by brief technical instructions for the Zoom service. A brief introduction to the day and the season follows.

The worship leaders for the day are introduced.

Prelude

A prerecorded prelude invites us to prepare for worship.

Opening Dialog

P: In the beginning was the Word,

C: **and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

P: In the Word was life,

C: **and the life was the light of all people.**

P: The Word became flesh and lived among us,

C: **and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.**

(John 1)





Gloria – adapted by Janet Morley

- P: Glory be to God on high,
C: **and on earth peace,
peace among those of good will.**
- P: We praise you, we bless you,
we worship you, we glorify you,
C: **we give you thanks for your great glory,
holy God, tender God, God our beloved creator.**

P: Christ our desire,
only embodiment of God,
bone of our bone
and flesh of our flesh,
foolishness of God,
greater than human wisdom,
poverty of God,
stronger than human pride,
emptiness of God,
full of our redemption,

C: have mercy on us.

P: Holy one, bearing away the sin of the world,

C: have mercy upon us.

P: Beloved one, bearing away the sin of the world,

C: receive our prayer.

P: For you alone are holy,

C: you alone are our desire.

**You alone, O Christ,
with the comforter of fire,
are radiant with the grace and glory
of God most high.**



Catherine Simpson

Prayer of the Day

P: Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.



WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Sunday, December 27, 2020

First Sunday of Christmas,
Isaiah 61:10--62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

Sunday, January 3, 2021

Epiphany of Our Lord
Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday, January 10, 2021

Baptism of Our Lord
Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

Sunday, January 17, 2021

Second Sunday after Epiphany
1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

Sunday, January 24, 2021

Third Sunday after Epiphany
Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

Sunday, January 31, 2021

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

Sunday, February 7, 2021

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

Sunday, February 14, 2021

Transfiguration of Our Lord
2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

First Reading:

- L: A reading from _____.
- L: Word of God, word of life.
- C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Second Reading:

- L: A reading from _____.
- L: Word of God, word of life.
- C: **Thanks be to God.**



Gospel Acclamation

A recorded Gospel Acclamation helps us to welcome the Gospel.

Gospel:

- P: The holy gospel according to _____.
- C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

- A: The gospel of the Lord.
- C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Reflection

Hymn of the Day

A recorded hymn helps us to reflect on the Gospel.

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Zoom participants are given the opportunity to offer each other a sign of peace.

Announcements

Congregational announcements are shared. Birthdays, anniversaries, and other milestones are recognized.



Prayers of Intercession

Each Sunday the Assisting Minister prepares prayers based on the themes of the Gospel, the needs of the world and the concerns of the community.

A: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,
let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Each portion of the prayers ends with these or similar words:

A: God, in your mercy,
C: **hear our prayer.**

Concluding Prayer

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
C: **Amen.**



The Prayer of Jesus

A recording of The Prayer of Jesus as chanted at St. Francis Lutheran Church follows.

SENDING

Blessing

- P: God the creator strengthen you;
Jesus the beloved fill you;
and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✝ keep you in peace.
- C: Amen.

Concluding Fellowship

Zoom Participants may chat with each other and exchange news and updates or simply log out.

*This liturgy has been adapted
from the Order of the Service of the Word by Pr. Bea Chun
to be used for the Zoom services
during the Covid-19 shelter-in-place ordinance,
Christmas and Epiphany 2020-2021*