

News of the Church

Epiphany Sunday is today, the Sunday closest to January 6.

“Epiphany” means “manifestation” and the church has traditionally focused on the coming of the Magi to Jerusalem, the baptism of Jesus, and the marriage feast at Cana as key manifestations that Jesus of Nazareth was the Savior of the nations. Let us rejoice that the mystery long hidden has been revealed: in Christ both Jew and Gentile may find salvation from sin and receive eternal life.

Evening Service at 6:30 today: Epiphany emphasis continues as Pastor Jeff preaches from the great Messianic Psalm 72.

Regular ministries resume: Tuesday evening outreach in West Dallas and Thursday evening home Bible studies.

Pray for Pastor Mark as he prepares to teach two courses at Southern Bible Institute.

The Christian churches in Gaza and Israel: let us remember to pray for our fellow believers in difficult situations.

Country focus: Pray for the growth of the Christian church in Iran and for the receiving of the gospel by Iranians in the U.S.

Fellowship Lunch will immediately follow our morning service. You are warmly invited to stay and eat with us.

The Lord's Table today: wine will be served in the cup. If you prefer drinking from the individual cups, the ones in the middle of the tray are wine and those on the outer edge are grape juice. If you are ill today, we ask you to drink from an individual cup.

Epiphany Sunday Jan-4-09

Good Shepherd / Faith Community Church

O come let us adore him!

God's Greeting

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

Call to Worship:

O come, let us worship the Lord

and consider what wondrous things God has done:

The Magi who study the heavens follow a guiding star!

O come, let us worship the Lord

and consider what wondrous things God has done:

The peoples who live in the shadows see a glorious light!

O come, let us worship the Lord,

for God has done wondrous things!

Hymn- Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Arise, Shine 106C

Invocation

Pastor Jeff Gregory

Call to Repentance and Confession

The Light has come into the world and people love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil. Let us confess our sin to God.

Prayer of Confession:

Our Spoken Prayer of Confession:

All: Father, teach us not to sin with such abandon.

We do it all so easily:

Pretend, lie, envy, lust,

criticize, brood, ignore, deny,

consume, hoard, defame, distort,

make excuses,

and then expect an easy forgiveness for the asking.

God, forgive us for our negligence of your holy character. Let us not misinterpret your patience with our sin as though it were permissiveness.

Loving Father, astonish us with a wholesome, godly fear which will not drive us to despair, but cause us to number our days and give us hearts of wisdom. In Jesus' name. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:10-11). He was given the name Jesus because he will save his people from their sin(Mt. 1:21). Amen.

We Sing the Story of Our God's Revelation

Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

The First Noel 108H

Wise Men They Came to Look 388P

Arise, Your Light is Come (Festal Song)

Collect Prayer

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen.**

We Read the Holy Scripture

Your word is a lamp unto my feet; a light upon my path.

Hebrew Bible- Isaiah 60:1-6

Reading from Psalm 138

New Testament – Ephesians 3:1-12

New Testament – Matthew 2:1-12

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

We Pray and Give Offerings

“On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Mt. 2:11

Prayers of the People

Dedication of Offerings

Hymn- Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness

We Hear the Word Expounded

Sermon Text: Isaiah 60:1-6

“...the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you....”

Sermon: “ Arise, Shine” by Pastor Mark Bahr

Hymn- “Shine” (Tune: Darwall)

Let us confess our common Christian faith: **Apostle's Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty ...

Epiphany Communion Service led by Jeff Gregory

Invitation to Table – We come to the Table of the Lord

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution- Matthew 26: 26-29

Minister: Christ is the Bread of Life whose blood purchased us.

The Proclamation – *He has come and we rejoice!*

Prayer of Consecration

Invitation to the Table- We come with gladness. **Thanks be to God!**

Distribution of Bread/ communion

Communion Hymn- O God, Your Mercy, Moved 655P (Winchester New)

Pouring and Sharing of the Cup

Charge to the People

Dispersal into the World

Closing Song- As with Gladness Men of Old 114H/386P

Doxology:

*Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel,
who alone does marvelous deeds.*

Praise be to his glorious name forever;

may the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen.

Benediction- Ps. 67:1-2

God be gracious to us and bless us and make your face shine upon us, that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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.

