

**An Order of Worship for  
The First Sunday of Epiphany  
January 10, 2021**

**The Gathering**

Three wonders mark this holy day  
as the Church is joined to her heavenly Bridegroom.  
This day a star leads the wise men to the Christ-child.  
*All Alleluia.*

This day water is made wine at the wedding feast.  
*All Alleluia.*

This day Jesus is revealed as the Christ in the waters of baptism.  
*All Alleluia. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Hymn: Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning**

1 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid:  
gem of the East, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

2 Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining,  
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
angels adore him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.

3 Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion  
odours of Edom and offerings divine,  
gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,  
myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?

4 Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
vainly with gifts would his favour secure;  
richer by far is the heart's adoration,  
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

5 Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;  
gem of the East, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you  
*All and also with you.*

*Words of introduction may be said, after which the president prays this opening prayer*

Grant us, Lord, who behold your glory,  
to drink from the waters of the new creation  
flowing from the river of life at your baptism.  
Give us the wings of the Spirit,  
that we may hasten to meet you at your coming,  
and praise you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

### ***I: The King of all the World is Revealed to the Magi***

This day a star leads the wise men to the Christ-child.

Arise, shine out, for your light has come;  
*All* **the glory of the Lord is rising upon you.**

The nations will come to your light,  
*All* **and kings to your dawning brightness.**

They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
*All* **and proclaim the praise of the Lord.**

Your gates will lie open continually,  
*All* **shut neither by day nor by night.**

No more will the sun give you daylight,  
*All* **nor moonlight shine upon you.**

But the Lord will be your everlasting light,  
*All* **your God will be your splendour.**

*cf Isaiah 60*

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:  
you receive our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.  
May our prayer be set forth in your sight as incense,  
and the lifting up of our hands be an evening sacrifice.  
*All* **Blessed be God for ever.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
*All* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Matthew 2.1,2,8-11*

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
*All* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Let us pray.

Eternal God,  
who by the shining of a star  
led the wise men to the worship of your Son:  
guide by his light the nations of the earth,  
that the whole world may behold your glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All Amen.*

### **Hymn: A Star Not Mapped on Human Charts**

1 A star not mapped on human hearts  
disturbed the eastern skies  
and stirred the questioning minds and hearts  
of three kings rich and wise.  
Attracted by the mystic light  
their science did not frame,  
they travelled through the cloud of night  
to learn its holy name.

2 That star which cheered the seeking soul  
announcing Christ was here,  
made Herod plot to keep control  
through violence, lies, and fear.  
The tyrant hid his anxious thought  
and said, "Report to me  
when you have found  
    the child you've sought  
that I may come and see.

3 That star above our shadowed earth  
now arced across the skies  
and marked the place of holy birth  
before the wise men's eyes.  
They offered incense, myrrh, and gold  
while on their knees to pray.  
The through a dream the kings were told  
"Go home another way."

4) That star which pierced the ancient night  
has faded from above,  
yet through the visionary sight  
of faith, and hope, and love  
we like the wise men still may find  
life's animating goal:  
the Christ who prompts the probing mind  
and lights the open soul.

### **A Reading from Genesis 1.1-5**

#### **The Psalm: Psalm 29**

1 Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven, ♦  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

2 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name; ♦  
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;  
the God of glory thunders; ♦  
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

4 The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation; ♦  
the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.

5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; ♦  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf ♦  
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

7 The voice of the Lord splits the flash of lightning;  
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; ♦  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe  
and strips the forests bare; ♦  
in his temple all cry, 'Glory!'

9 The Lord sits enthroned above the water flood; ♦  
the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.

10 The Lord shall give strength to his people; ♦  
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

**Glory to God, Source of all being,  
Eternal Word and Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

## ***II: The New Creation is Revealed in the Water made Wine***

This day water is made wine at the wedding feast.

I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem,  
coming down out of heaven from God,  
**All prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**

And I heard a great voice from the throne, saying,  
**All 'Behold, the dwelling of God is among mortals.**

He will dwell with them and they shall be his peoples,  
**All and God himself will be with them.**

Behold, I make all things new:  
**All I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.**

To the thirsty I will give water as a gift  
**All from the spring of the water of life.'**

*cf Revelation 21*

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:  
for the marriage of the Lamb has come.  
Make your Church ready, and clothe her with the righteous deeds of the saints,  
to join the praises of your new creation.  
**All Blessed be God for ever.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

*John 2.1-11*

*At the end* This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All Praise to you, O Christ.*

Let us pray.

Almighty God,  
in Christ you make all things new:  
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,  
and in the renewal of our lives  
make known your heavenly glory;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.  
*All Amen.*

**Hymn: Songs of Thankfulness and Praise**

1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,  
Jesu, Lord, to thee we raise,  
manifested by the star  
to the sages from afar;  
branch of royal David's stem  
in thy birth at Bethlehem:  
praises be to thee address,  
God in flesh made manifest.

2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,  
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;  
and at Cana wedding-guest  
in thy Godhead manifest;  
manifest in power divine,  
changing water into wine:  
praises be to thee address,  
God in flesh made manifest.

3 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,  
mirrored in thy holy word;  
may we imitate thee now,  
and be pure, as pure art thou;  
that we like to thee may be  
at thy great Epiphany;  
and may praise thee, ever blest,  
God in flesh made manifest.

**A Reading from Acts 19:1-7**

This is the word of the Lord.

*All Thanks be to God.*

### ***III: The Christ is Revealed in the Waters of Baptism***

This day Jesus is revealed as the Christ in the waters of baptism.

I will take you from the nations,  
**All and gather you from all the countries.**

I will sprinkle clean water upon you,  
**All and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness.**

A new heart I will give you,  
**All and put a new spirit within you.**

You shall be my people,  
**All and I will be your God.** *cf Ezekiel 36*

*As water is brought, this acclamation is made*

Blessed are you,  
Lord our God, King of the universe:  
you bring waters out of the stony rock.  
For with you is the well of life,  
and in your light shall we see light.  
**All Blessed be God for ever.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Mark 1.1-11*

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The president says*

Let us pray.  
Eternal Father,  
who at the baptism of Jesus  
revealed him to be your Son,  
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:  
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,  
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**All Amen.**

*After the Collect, the water is poured out with these or other suitable words*

God in Christ gives us the water welling up for eternal life.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

**All Lord, give us this water, and we shall thirst no more.**

*The president stands before some water and says*

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,  
at all times to give you thanks and praise,  
for today the grace of the Holy Spirit  
in the form of a dove descended upon the waters.

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
accept our sacrifice of praise,  
and by the power of your life-giving Spirit  
sanctify these waters of your new creation,  
that we, with all who have been born anew  
by water and the Spirit,  
may be renewed in your image,  
walk by the light of faith,  
and serve you in newness of life.

Through your anointed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit  
we lift our voices of praise:

**All blessed be God, our strength and our salvation,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

### **Hymn: When Jesus Came to Jordan**

1 When Jesus came to Jordan  
To be baptized by John,  
He did not come for pardon,  
But as his Father's Son.  
He came to share repentance  
With all who mourn their sins,  
To speak the vital sentence  
With which good news begins.

2 He came to share temptation,  
Our utmost woe and loss,  
For us and our salvation  
To die upon the cross.  
So when the Dove descended  
On him, the Son of Man,  
The hidden years had ended,  
The age of grace began.

3 Come, Holy Spirit, aid us  
To keep the vows we make,  
This very day invade us,  
And every bondage break.  
Come, give our lives direction,  
The gift we covet most:  
To share the resurrection  
That leads to Pentecost.

### **Reflection**

#### **Hymn: Wade In the Water**

Refrain: Wade in the water,  
wade in the water, children,  
wade in the water.  
God's gonna trouble the water.

1 See those children all dressed up in white,  
God's gonna trouble the water.  
They must be the children of the Israelite.  
God's gonna trouble the water. [Refrain]

2 See those children all dressed in black,  
They come a long way, ain't turning back.

3 See the children, they're dressed in blue,  
Looks like my people, they're coming on, coming on through.

4 See those children dressed in red,  
It must be the children that Moses led. [Refrain]

5 See those children all dressed in green,  
they're moving down to that Jordan's stream.

6 Some say "Peter", and some say "Paul",  
There ain't but one God made us all.

## **An Intercession.**

### **The Lord's Prayer (Traditional Language)**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has 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,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **Announcements**

### **The Blessing**

May God, who in Christ gives us a spring of water  
welling up to eternal life,  
perfect in you the image of his glory;  
and the blessing of God almighty  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## **Hymn: As With Gladness Men of Old**

1 As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold,  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
Leading onward, beaming bright,  
So, most gracious Lord, may we  
Evermore be lead to thee.

2 As with joyful steps they sped  
To that lowly manger-bed,  
There to bend the knee before  
Him whom heav'n and earth adore;  
So may we with willing feet  
Ever seek the mercy-seat.

3 As they offered gifts most rare  
At that manger crude and bare;  
So may we with holy joy,  
Pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ! to thee, our heav'nly King.

## **The Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*All* **In the name of Christ. Amen.**