



Grace Episcopal Church  
The Feast of Epiphany: The Feast of Lights  
January 6, 2023  
7:00 p.m.

*Through the ages light has been the symbol of progress and truth. The Feast of Lights, depicting the spread of the Christian gospel, had its origin in the Eastern Church very early, much earlier than the observance of Christmas by the Western Church. This service inaugurates the great missionary season of the Church.*

*Presider:* Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people, saith your God.  
The Gentiles shall come to thy Light and Kings to the brightness of thy rising.

The Lord has manifested forth His glory;

*People:* **O come, let us adore Him.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #117 (vv. 1-2, 4-5)

*Brightest and best of the stars of the morning*

### OPENING SENTENCES

O Lord, open thou our lips.

**And our mouth shall show forth thy praise:**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### RESPONSIVE READING

O Thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into a high mountain

**O Thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift thy voice with strength.**

Lift up thy voice with strength.

**Say unto the cities of Judah, behold your God.**

Arise; shine for thy light is come.

**And the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.**

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a son is given.

**And the government shall be upon his shoulders.**

What shall his name be called?

**His Name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace.**

*Presider:* The Lord has manifested forth His glory;

*People:* **O come, let us adore Him.**

HYMN #100 (vv. 1-2, 4)

*Joy to the world! the Lord is come*

THE LESSON (*seated*)

*Luke 2:1-20*

HYMN #111 (*kneeling*)

*Silent night, holy night*

## A MODERN AFFIRMATION (*standing*)

*source: UMC Hymnal -- # 885, The United Methodist  
Publishing House, Nashville, TENN.*

*Presider:* Where the Spirit of the Lord is,  
there is the one true church, apostolic and universal,  
whose holy faith let us now declare:

*Presider and People:*

**We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power, and love,  
whose mercy is over all his works,  
and whose will is ever directed to his children's good.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man,  
the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope,  
and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives,  
whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ,  
and find strength and help in time of need.**

**We believe that this faith should manifest itself  
in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord,  
to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy Spirit.**

Let us pray.

## A PRAYER FOR LIGHT

Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## COLLECT FOR THE EPIPHANY

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, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** (*The congregation may be seated.*)

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*The Star Carol - A. Burt*

## THE MANIFESTATION OF CHRIST TO THE GENTILES

SCRIPTURE

*John 1:1-5, 9-14*

### THE CHRIST CANDLE IS LIGHTED

HYMN #102 (vv. 1, 2, 5, 6)

*Once in royal David's city*

SCRIPTURE (*seated*)

*Matthew 2:1-11*

*(The congregation will remain seated during the following two hymns.)*

HYMN #128 (congregation vv. 1&5 - choir vv. 2-4, all sing the refrain)

*We three kings*

### THE MAGI RECEIVE THE LIGHT

HYMN #119

*As with gladness men of old*

*(Following the departure of the Magi, members of the congregation are invited to bring their offerings of canned good, dry goods, and new clothing forward and place them at the base of the Christ Candle.)*

SCRIPTURE

*Matthew 10:2-14*

### THE APOSTLES CANDLES ARE LIGHTED

Since the days of the twelve Apostles, the apostolic light has been passed down through succeeding generations of Christians through the ministry of lay persons, bishops, priests, deacons, and other ministers.

*(Peter, Andrew, James & John, the sons of Zebedee, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James, son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon, the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.*

### THE LAYPERSONS', BISHOPS', PRIESTS', AND DEACONS' CANDLES ARE LIGHTED

AT THIS TIME THE RECTOR, THE WARDENS AND MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY COME FORWARD WITH  
THEIR CANDLES TO RECEIVE THE LIGHT FROM THE CHRIST CANDLE

## THE GREAT COMMISSION

*The Rector then says:*

“Go ye therefore into all the world, and carry the Gospel to every creature.”

### THE PEOPLE RECEIVE THE LIGHT

*(As the Anthem/organ voluntary plays The Vestry carries the Light to the people.)*

#### ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*All Glory Be To God On High – J.S. Bach*

#### EPIPHANY BLESSINGS *(standing)*

May Almighty God, who led the Wise Men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light, lead you also in your pilgrimage, to find the Lord. **Amen.**

May Christ’s bright star in heaven bring you to humility and worship, bring you to look upon God at work. **Amen.**

May Christ’s bright star enlighten your mind and heart as you strive for equality, justice and kindness in the world. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us for ever. **Amen.**



1. In a world where people walk in dark - ness,      Let us turn our fa - ces to the  
 2. In the world where suf - fer - ing of the help - less      casts a sha - dow all a - long the  
 3. Let us light a can - dle in the dark - ness,      In the face of death, a sign of



light,      To the light of God re - vealed in Je - sus,      To the Day - star scat - ter - ing our  
 way,      let us bear the cross of Christ with glad - ness      and pro - claim the dawn - ing of the  
 life;      As a sign of hope where all seems hope - less,      As a sign of peace in place of



night.  
 day.      For the light is strong - er than the dark - ness      and the day will o - ver - come the  
 strife.



night,      Though the sha - dows lin - ger all a - round us,      Let us turn our fa - ces to the light.

**DISMISSAL**      As you leave this place may you carry the Light of Christ into the world.  
 Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**POSTLUDE**

*God Rest Ye Merry - W. Held*

## WELCOME GUESTS AND NEWCOMERS!

We are delighted to have you worship with us on the Feast of the Epiphany, and we would welcome the opportunity to get acquainted. We invite you to sign the Guestbook in the narthex, on the table to your right.

### LECTORS

Mary Matthews  
Melissa Thayer  
Barry Wardle  
Kathie Goodman

### MAGI

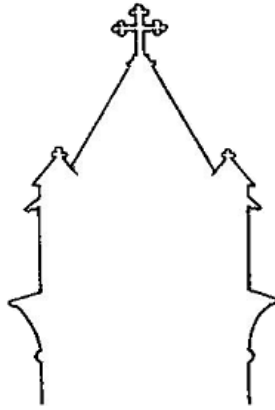
Wes Allred  
John Burke  
David Inabinett

### ACOLYTES

Kate Inabinett  
Anderson Carter  
Merritt Carter

### USHERS

Doug Hartzog  
Art Burkhardt



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The Most Reverend Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop  
The Right Reverend Samuel Rodman, Diocesan Bishop  
The Right Reverend Jennifer Brooke-Davidson, Assistant Bishop

The Reverend Edward T. Kelaher, Rector  
Joan Clodfelter, Minister of Music  
Kathy Johnson, Christian Education Director  
Maureen Tinchler, Parish Administrator  
John Taylor, Facilities Manager

### THE VESTRY

2023

Walter Beeker  
David Jones Jr. Warden  
Cathy Riggan  
Robin Sink

2024

Lynn Meeks Treasurer  
Logan Sheets  
Susan Terrell Clerk  
Kathy Young

2025

Wes Allred Sr. Warden  
Thompson Miller Asst. Treasurer  
Marjorie Parker Asst. Clerk  
Marilyn Taylor

Vestry Person of the Month for January is Lynn Meeks.