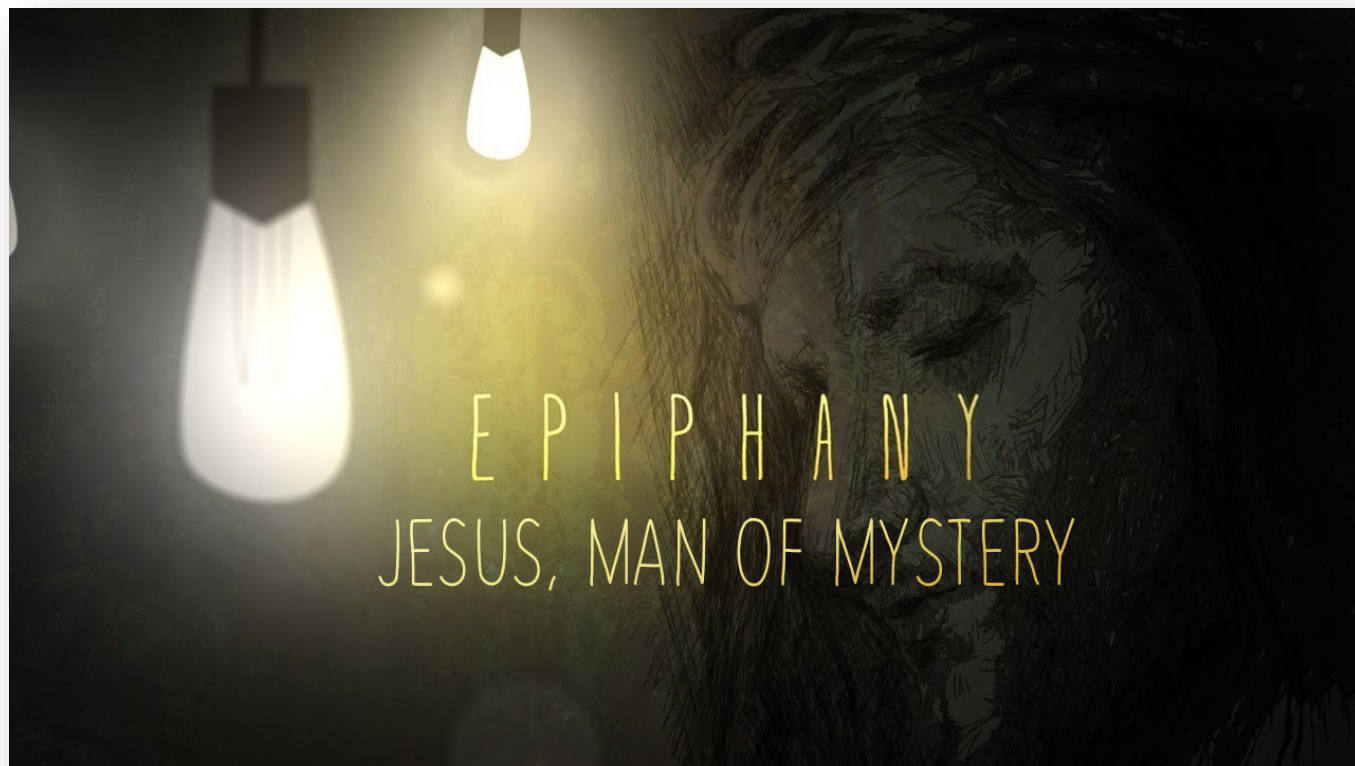


The Season of Epiphany



Advent Lutheran Church

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“Love God, Serve Neighbor”

January 17, 2021

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

“All the Way My Savior Leads Me”

Annette Nolan

Pastoral Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

L: We gather in the name of the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: God, your light shines in the darkness, and we confess that sometimes we prefer to hide under cover of darkness, where we are free to participate in injustice, to hurt others and ourselves, to do whatever it takes to get ahead and to operate only in our comfort zone without challenge. We forget that your light of true freedom will shine, calling us to a more excellent way.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

L: God, you have forgiven us in Christ and freed us by your Spirit. Filled with your life, may our light so shine before others that they may see our good works and glorify you forever.

C: Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Greeting

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray. Gracious God, we are surrounded with people who need to hear the good news of your love for world, people whose lives would be transformed by an introduction to the One from Nazareth, our Lord Jesus. By your Holy Spirit, make our lives places of hospitality and welcome. Let all our words and actions be an invitation to others to "Come and see."

C: Amen.

The First Reading

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Lenore Watson

"Speak, O Lord"

Laura Torrence

Speak, O Lord as we come to You
To receive the food of Your holy word
Take Your truth plant it deep in us
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
That will echo down through eternity.

CCLI Song # 4615235. Keith Getty | Stuart Townend

The Gospel

John 1:35-51

The Message

Pastor Ward Misenheimer



1 “Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 “Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 “Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 “Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
 Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional
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Creed (The creed to be recited will be announced each week.)

Native American Creed

The Rev. Roger Scott is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

*I believe in God, Creator of our unique native languages,
Who gifted us this identity as a distinct people through our
native tongues, so that our native spiritual leaders could
relay God's love to our native people who could not
understand that foreign tongue called English.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, our relative,
Who talked of us when he said, "I have other sheep out
there, besides those I have here."*

*I believe in Jesus Christ who knew the pain of our native
people who were forced from their homeland and had no
place to lay their head.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ as our Chief Cornerstone as we begin
to build a new generation of native spiritual leaders.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ who does not say "goodbye"
in any language, but says "I will come again."*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit as tongues of fire
lighting upon our native people to witness to their people
and to the world, through the native song and dance.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit as our guide and the
driving force for our native people to do a new thing as we
walk a new journey, toward perfection for all humankind.*

Apostles' Creed

Although the Apostles' Creed as we know it did not have the final form until the 8th-9th century AD, it was developed by the early church beginning around 150 AD. Formed around the Holy Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – the Apostles' Creed is commonly used as an affirmation of baptism.

*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.

Affirmation of Faith

This Affirmation of Faith was written by Pastor Andreas Wagner. The image of "light" is woven throughout making it an appropriate affirmation for the Epiphany Season.

*I believe in God, the Creator of the universe,
Who spoke, "Let there be light!"
And there was light,
setting in motion all of creation and blessing it to this day.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ,
the light of the world that shines in the darkness.
The darkness cannot overcome it.
He embodied humanity in the image of God.
In kindness, truthfulness, humility and devotion,
he suffered for the greater good.
He was and is the Son of God.
He died on the cross for us,
God's saving grace!*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the guiding light of God in our world.
Through his Spirit,
God penetrates and reveals the darkness of human sin,
and helps people grow and become the people they are
meant to be.*

*I believe in the power of transformation,
through God's spirit and light,
here in this world and in the world to come.
Amen.*

The Maasai Creed

A beautiful example of a creed is the Maasai Creed. It was written around 1960 by the Congregation of the Holy Ghost ("Spiritans") in East Nigeria. It is designed on a threefold pattern of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*We believe in the one High God,
who out of love created the beautiful world
and everything good in it.
God created man and woman
and wanted them to be happy in the world.
God loves the world and every nation
and tribe on the Earth.
We have known this High God in darkness,
and now we know God in the light.
God promised in the book of His word, the Bible,
that God would save the world
and all the nations and tribes.
We believe that God made good God's promise
by sending the Son, Jesus Christ,
a man in the flesh, a Jew by tribe,
born poor in a little village,
who left his home and was always on safari doing good,
curing people by the power of God,
teaching about God and humans,
showing the meaning of religion is love.
He was rejected by his people,
tortured and nailed hands and feet to a cross and died.
He lay buried in the grave,
but the hyenas did not touch him,
and on the third day, he rose from the grave.
He ascended to the skies. He is the Lord.
We believe that all our sins are forgiven through him.
All who have faith in him must be sorry for their sins,
be baptized in the Holy Spirit of God,
live the rules of love and share the bread together in love,
to announce the Good News to others
until Jesus comes again.
We are waiting for Him. He is alive. He lives.
This we believe. Amen.*

Prayers of the People of God

L: Sisters and brothers, from the waters of baptism, we have received the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Teach us to yield to the Spirit, who shapes us to more closely embody the life of Jesus Christ and empowers us to reveal his love for the world. May our hands and feet be the hands and feet of Christ as we serve all people and strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

A brief silence.

L: God of all peace, in these moments of strife and discord, we pray for our country.

Call us to our better selves, that we may release all anger rooted in self-centeredness. Remind us of our mutual responsibilities to live as a republic, as one people together, grounded on the freedoms and traditions of our constitution. Free us from any desire to be first or foremost – or to get our own way, no matter the cost. Instead, grant us strength and courage to listen wholeheartedly to voices long silenced, work together for justice and peace and govern collaboratively as one nation with others far different from ourselves. Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

L: Lord, we thank you for your church, founded upon your Word, that challenges us to do more than sing and pray, but go out and work as though the very answer to our prayers depended on us and not upon you. Help us to realize that humanity was created to shine like the stars and live on through all eternity. Keep us, we pray, in perfect peace. Help us to walk together, pray together, sing together, and live together until that day when all God's children—Black, White, Red, Brown and Yellow—will rejoice in one common band of humanity in the reign of our Lord and of our God, we pray. *(Prayer by The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.)* Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

L: God of all compassion, you call us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers as dear to us as our own needs. We pray for all of our sisters and brothers who seek comfort, healing, refuge, rest, peace, wholeness, community, acceptance, and unconditional love.

We especially pray for

- Trevor Basilice & Faith Hunt
- Lemont Bell
- Bethann Bluder
- Cannon family – Jennifer, Toney, and Taylor
- Paul Coleman
- Inez Easley
- Eileen Folkerth
- Jennifer Frisina
- Herbert Goerke
- Mary Jo Gouge
- Dick Kuklantz
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Robert Williams Lewis
- Ray Matthews

- Hilda Mertz
- Justin Mertz
- Rick Messina
- The Moser Family – Brad, Heather, and Lily
- JL and Faith Moser
- Anita Ortiz
- Leo Peeler
- Pattie Quigley
- Will Rhynes
- Richard Schulz
- Lee Stephens
- David Townsend
- Pat Townsend
- Herbert Watson
- Jenny Weems
- Beverly Williams
- Lewis Williams
- Renate Wilson

L: We now pray aloud or in the silence of our hearts for those we wish to name (give time for community to pray).

L: We remember and celebrate the lives of those who have died, especially, those we name now:

- Joseph Oboh, friend of Shannon Roberson
- Dick Moser, uncle of Sharon Thrower
- Rev. Edwin Cochran, father of Chris Cochran
- Emma Fettig, mother of Liz Tunnell and grandmother of Emma & Meredith Tunnell

By your Holy Spirit, comfort their families, and all who grieve, give peace to those who mourn, strengthen all through the promise of eternal life in Christ Jesus.

L: We pray for the families of those killed on Wednesday at the US Capitol, especially for Officer Brian Sicknick who died as a result of the injuries he sustained in the line of duty. We pray for all members of law enforcement who are called to protect and serve the places in which they work and the communities in which they live. Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

L: Lord of all healing and care, we pray for all healthcare professionals and relief workers, especially those who find themselves on the frontlines to bring healing, comfort and care to all impacted by the coronavirus. We are grateful for the development of a vaccine and for those who are

assisting in making it available. Strengthen, encourage, and empower us to be people of peace in the midst of anxiety, impatience, worry, and dread, as we hunger for life to be normal again. Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

L: Gracious God, you have called us through the goodness of your grace to be your hands and do your work, to be your voice and share your words, to bring healing to a fallen world and wholeness to broken lives. Let your light shine through us and light the path for others, so that all may experience your love and share in the joy of your Holy Spirit. Amen

The Lord's Prayer (*sung*)

Laura Torrence

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the pow'r and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Epiphany Blessing

P: May the road that Christ walks to bring justice upon the earth, light to those who sit in darkness, and enduring hope to all creation run through our lives. May we be the road Christ takes.

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE

"Nunc Dimittis" (Song of Simeon)

Laura Torrence

Lord, let your servant depart in peace,
according to your word.
For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared
before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles
and the glory of your people
Israel.