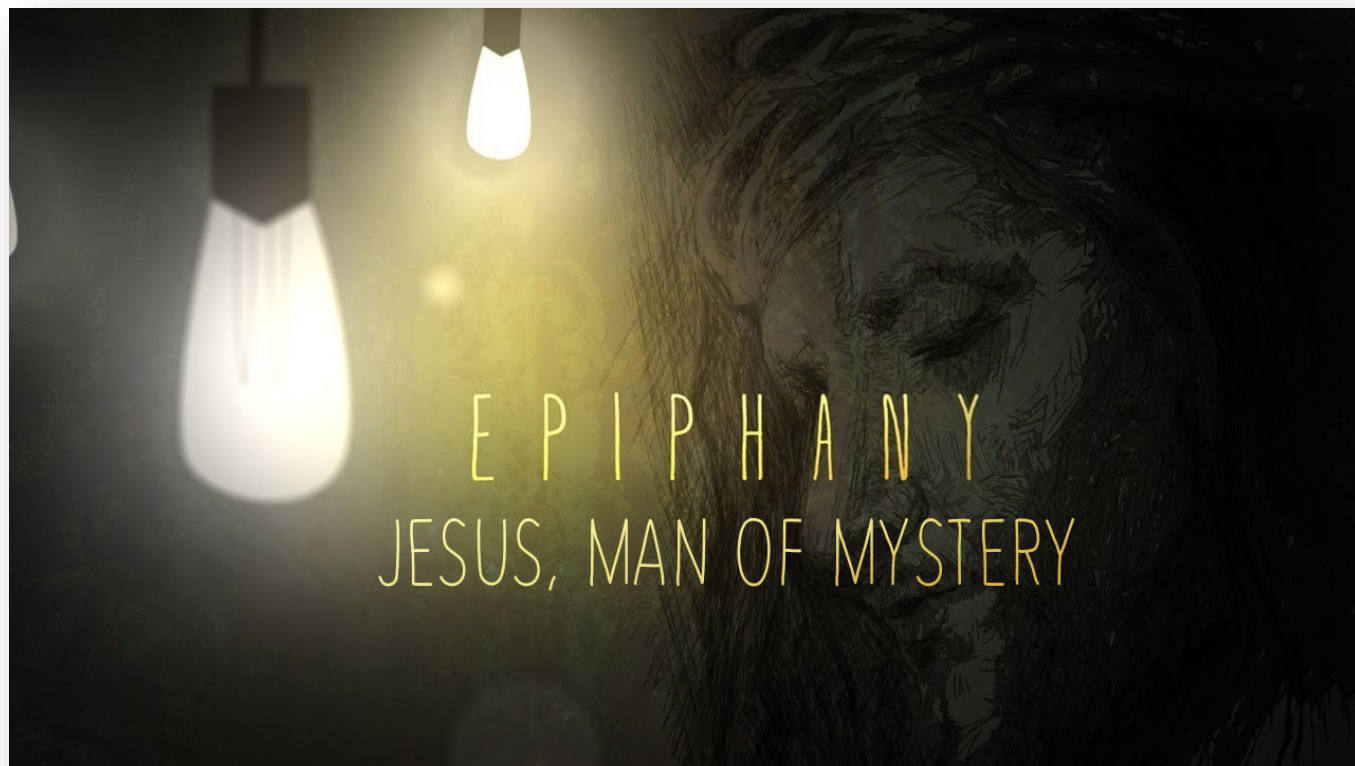


# The Season of Epiphany



## **Advent Lutheran Church**

8840 University City Blvd.  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28213  
Phone: 704-549-1555  
Website: [www.adventlu.org](http://www.adventlu.org)

**“Love God, Serve Neighbor”**

January 31, 2021

---

## GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

---

**Prelude**

“Thy Word”

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. Speak with authority in our lives, Christ.  
Speak to us, and to what is in us, so that we might be whole.  
Speak to us, with love, with hope, and with strength, so that we might  
hear you,  
and know, deep inside, that we are your people, and that you are our  
God.  
Let it be so.\*

\* (written by Richard Bott and posted on Sharing Liturgy.)

**C: Amen.**

**The First Reading**

Deuteronomy 18:15-2

Gerry Osborne

**“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**

Mark 1:21-28

**The Message**

Pastor Ward Misenheimer



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;  
 2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give  
 3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."  
 the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."  
 look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;  
 I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;  
 I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest-ing-place, and he has made me glad.  
 my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.  
 and in that light of life I'll walk till trav-'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889  
 Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

## 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: Gracious God, we pray this day:  
for all who have a song they cannot sing,  
for all who have a burden they cannot bear,  
for all who live in chains they cannot break,  
for all who wander homeless and cannot return,  
for those who are sick and for those who tend them,  
for those who wait for loved ones and wait in vain,  
for those who live in hunger  
and for those who will not share their bread,  
for those who are misunderstood,

and for those who misunderstand,  
for those who are captives  
and for those who are captors,  
for those whose words of love  
are locked within their hearts  
and for those who yearn to hear those words.  
Have mercy upon these, God.  
Have mercy on us all.\*  
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

- Lizzie Akins
- Charles Barrett
- Trevor Basilice
- Lemont Bell
- Bethann Bluder
- Regina Bressler
- Paul Coleman
- Dallas Collins
- Creasy family – Karen,  
Brian & Hannah
- Eileen Folkerth
- Jennifer Frisina
- Herbert Goerke
- Mary Jo Gouge
- Dick Kuklantz
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Robert Williams Lewis
- Pat Logan
- Peggy Merritt
- Ray Matthews
- Hilda Mertz
- Justin Mertz
- Rick Messina
- Joe Moeller
- JL and Faith Moser
- Anita Ortiz
- Pattie Quigley
- Will Rhynes
- Richard Schulz
- David Townsend
- Pat Townsend
- Herbert Watson
- Jenny Weems
- Beverly Williams
- Lewis Williams
- Renate Wilson

---

\* (Source: Ann Weems from "Kneeling in Jerusalem," quoted in "Greeting the Day – Morning Prayers and Meditations from Around the World," edited by Brian Wright)

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:

- Dick Moser, uncle of Sharon Thrower
- Rev. Edwin Cochran, father of Chris Cochran
- Emma Fettig, member and 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. 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)*

Traven Harrington

**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.

©2015 Judas on Straight Street Publications