

# A Service of Lessons and Carols for Epiphany



St. Peter's Episcopal Church

St. Louis, Missouri

Sunday, January 13, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.



## About Epiphany:

**E**PIPHANY celebrates the appearance of God's glory in the world through the birth of Jesus, our Emmanuel ("God with us"), and the revelation of the incarnation to the Gentiles, and the whole world. It has been marked since the 3rd century with a Feast Day on January 6 and celebrated in both East and West in a rich variety of ways. In the Western Church, the emphasis has been on the nativity itself and the acknowledgment of Christ's sovereignty over all through the visit of the Magi bringing their gifts of frankincense, gold, and myrrh. The revelation of his true nature is echoed by the words of the prophet Simeon, the *Nunc Dimittis*, at the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (observed as a Feast of Our Lord in the Episcopal Church on February 2)

The Greek word epiphany means literally "sudden appearance" and refers above all to the manifestation of God. This is the moment we see that Jesus is so much more than a good human being, a wise teacher, and a moral example. In fact he is the Word become flesh. It is in this sense that Simeon declares him to be "salvation" and "a light to lighten the Gentiles." Later Jesus calls himself "the light of the World." Thus the symbolism of light pervades both this season and this Service of Lessons and Carols for Epiphany.

Christ calls us out of darkness and into light, so that we may recognize his effect on all creation. In this service, we pray that our eyes may be opened to see his glory; for all are made in the image and likeness of God.

*This service and this description are adapted from an order of service held at  
St. John's College, Cambridge, England.*

*The cover art is the Adoration of the Magi (1423) by Gentile da Fabriano (c. 1370–1427).*

*The copies of Coventry Carol by Parker Ramsey have been given to the St. Peter's Choir Library  
by Cynthia Johnson in memory of Marsha Hussung, a former member of the St. Peter's Singers.*

## Upcoming Choral Services and Concert at St. Peter's:

All are most welcome at two upcoming services of **Choral Evensong** which will be held on Sunday, February 10 at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 10 at 5:00 p.m. Evensong is a service of scripture, prayer, and music in the evening. These services are sung by the St. Peter's Singers who have been singing Evensong services in this church for more than a quarter century.

Another choral service, **A Meditation on the Passion of Christ**, will be held on Palm Sunday, April 14 at 5:00 p.m. This service is sung by the St. Peter's Singers.

The St. Peter's Choir will sing a **Choral Concert: "From One Generation to Another"** on Sunday, June 2 at 4:00 p.m. This concert includes the groundbreaking masterwork *In the beginning* by American composer Aaron Copland (1900–1990). The concert is free and everyone is welcome.

### St. Peter's Episcopal Church

110 North Warson Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63124 • (314) 993-2306 • [stpetersepiscope.org](http://stpetersepiscope.org)

## A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR EPIPHANY

Sunday, January 13, 2019

5:00 p.m.

### Organ Music before the Service

Greensleeves

Richard Purvis (1913–1994)

Berceuse Paraphrase

George Baker (b. 1951)

### ORDER OF SERVICE

*The service begins with the Church in darkness.*

#### FIRST LESSON John 1: 1–14

**I**N THE BEGINNING was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

#### ANTHEM

**E**TERNAL LIGHT, shine into our hearts,  
Eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil,  
Eternal Power, be our support,  
Eternal Wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance,  
Eternal Pity, have mercy upon us,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Words: *Alcuin, 8th century*  
Music: *Leo Sowerby (1895–1968)*

*The People stand and sing the hymn. The Procession enters the Church.*

**HYMN 82:** “Of the Father’s love begotten”

*Divinum Mysterium*

## BIDDING PRAYER

*Officiant* Brothers and sisters, we are gathered to celebrate with joy the appearance of God's glory in the world through the birth of Jesus, who is Emmanuel, God with us; to reflect upon the visit of the Magi bringing homage to their King at his birth; and to hear the prophetic words of Anna and Simeon revealing the Christ child as a light to lighten all people.

As we rejoice in this, the Word made flesh, who called us out of darkness into light, so we pray that his love and faithfulness may be known in all the world.

We pray for the unity and mission of Christ's Church, and for all who minister the gospel of Christ; we pray for the world, that we may have reverence for the natural order and respect for every person, made in the image and likeness of God; and we pray for those who stand in need, for the lonely, the fearful, the sick and the bereaved, and for all who have no one to pray for them.

May God our Father take us and use us in his service; may he open our eyes to see his glory and equip us to bless his people, now and at all times. **Amen.**

*Officiant* Believing the promises of God, let us pray with confidence as our Savior has taught us:

*All* **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, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*The People sit.*

## INVITATORY ANTHEM

**A**LLELUIA. We have seen his star in the east and are come to worship him.  
Alleluia. Arise, shine, for thy light is come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. Alleluia.

EPIPHANY ALLELUIAS  
Words: *from the Propers for the Epiphany Season*  
Music: *John Weaver (b. 1937)*

*The People stand.*

## I. The Word Made Flesh

*Priest* The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the shadow of death, upon them has the light shined.

*Priest* Arise, shine, for your light has come:

*People* **And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.**

### COLLECT

**A**LMMIGHTY GOD, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

*The People sit.*

### SECOND LESSON Matthew 1: 18–23

**N**OW THE BIRTH of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”

## CAROL

**I**NFANT HOLY, infant lowly,  
for His bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing,  
noels ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the Babe is Lord of all,  
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping  
vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story,  
tidings of the gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the Babe was born for you.  
Christ the Babe was born for you.

Words: *Traditional Polish, trans. Edith M.G. Reed*  
Music: *Polish Carol*  
*arr. Gerre Hancock (1934–2012)*

## THIRD LESSON Luke 2: 8-20

**I**N THAT REGION there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## CAROL

SHEPHERDS LEFT their flocks a-straying,  
God's command with joy obeying,  
When they heard the angel saying:  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Quem pastores laudavere,  
Alleluia, alleluia.  
Natus est rex gloriae.

Wise men came from far and saw Him,  
Knelt in homage to adore Him;  
Precious gifts they laid before Him:  
Gold, myrrh, and frankincense.

On that child with Mary gazing,  
Join ye Christians all in raising  
Songs to him whom heaven is praising,  
God incarnate come to us.

Let us now in every nation  
Sing His praise with exultation.  
All the world shall find salvation  
In the birth of Mary's son.

Natus est rex gloriae!

QUEM PASTORES LAUDAVERE  
Words: 14th century Latin, tr. Imogen Holst  
Music: Robert W. Richter (b. 1981)

*The People stand and sing the hymn.*

**HYMN:** "The first Nowell the angel did say"

*All* **The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.**

*Women* They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far,  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.

*All* **Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.**

*Men* And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went.

*All* **Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.**

*Choir* This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.

*Choir* Then entered in those wise men three  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.

*All* **Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood mankind hath bought.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.**

THE FIRST NOWELL

Words: *English traditional, 18th century*

Music: *English carol; st. 1 harm. John Stainer (1840–1901);  
arr. Paul Halley (b. 1952)*

## II. The King of the Nations

*Priest* At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow; in heaven, on earth and under the earth: and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

*Priest* Nations shall come to your light:

*People* **And kings to your dawning brightness.**

### COLLECT

**A**Lmighty FATHER, by the leading of a star you revealed your only-begotten Son to the peoples of the earth: in your mercy grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The People sit.*



## FOURTH LESSON Matthew 2: 1–12

**I**N THE TIME of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

## ANTHEM

*An offering will be received during the singing of this anthem.*

“**W**ho knocks tonight so late?”  
the weary porter said.  
Three kings stood at the gate,  
each with a crown on head.

The serving man bowed down,  
the Inn was full, he knew.  
Said he, “In all this town  
is no fit place for you.”

A light in the manger lit;  
there lay the Mother meek.  
This place is fit.  
Here is the rest we seek.

Come, come. They loosed their latchet strings,  
so stood they all unshod  
“Come in, come in, ye kings,  
and kiss the feet of God.”

THE THREE KINGS  
Words: *Laurence Housman (1865–1959)*  
Music: *Healey Willan (1880–1968)*

## FIFTH LESSON Matthew 2: 13–18

**N**OW AFTER they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

### CAROL

**L**ULLY, LULLA, Thou little tiny Child,  
By, by, lully, lullay.

O sisters too,  
How may we do,  
For to preserve this day  
This poor youngling  
For whom we do sing  
By, by, lully, lullay.

Herod, the king,  
In his raging,  
Charged he hath this day  
His men of might,  
In his own sight,  
All children young to slay.

That woe is me,  
Poor child for Thee!  
And ever morn and day,  
For thy parting  
Neither say nor sing.

Lully, lulla, Thou little tiny Child,  
By, by, lully, lullay.

### COVENTRY CAROL

Words and Music: *from the Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors, 15th century*  
*arr. Parker Ramsey (b. 1992)*

*The People stand and sing the hymn.*

**HYMN 118:** “Brightest and best of the stars of the morning”

*Star in the East*

### III. Light to the World

*Priest* But the hour is coming, and now is,  
when true worshippers will worship in spirit and truth.

*Priest* And the Lord, whom you seek:  
*People* **Shall suddenly come to his temple.**

#### COLLECT

**A**Lmighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was presented in the Temple in substance of our flesh, and was acclaimed the glory of Israel and the light of the nations: grant that in him we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, and in the world may reflect his glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The People sit.*

#### ANTHEM

**C**HRISTUS est Stella Matutina  
qui nocte saecum transacta lucem vitae, luce,  
sans promittit, et pandit aeternum.

Christ is the Morning Star,  
who when the night of this world is past,  
he gives to his saints the promise of the light of life,  
and opens everlasting day.

PRAYER OF THE VENERABLE BEDE

Words: *Found on the wall of Galilee Chapel, Durham Cathedral*

Music: *Richard Proulx (1937–2010)*

#### SIXTH LESSON Luke 2: 21–32

**A**FTER EIGHT DAYS had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

## NUNC DIMITTIS

**L**ORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,  
according to thy word;  
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,  
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people,  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

Words: *Luke 2:29-32; Gloria Patri*

Music: *Magnificat and Nunc dimittis in D, Leo Sowerby (1895–1968)*

*The People stand and sing the hymn.*

**HYMN 496:** “How bright appears the Morning Star”

*Wie schön leuchtet*

## GREETING

## COLLECT

**A**LMMIGHTY GOD, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ’s glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## BLESSING

**M**AY CHRIST, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*The People remain standing until the choir and clergy leave the church.*

**VOLUNTARY:** How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

Paul Manz (1919–2009)

*Bearing in mind that the Organ Voluntary, like the liturgy that precedes it, is an offering to God’s glory, the Congregation is asked to be seated or depart quietly. It is requested that there be no applause.*

*All are invited to a reception downstairs in the undercroft.*

*Officiant* The Rev. Luke Jernagan

*Assisting Clergy* The Rev. Kelly B. Carlson and the Rev. Joseph Wallace-Williams

*Lectors* Jimmy Grimmet and N.N.

The St. Peter’s Singers

*Choirmaster* David Sinden

*Assistant Organist* Jennifer Spohr