

Holy Trinity Church
446 Hamilton St. Southbridge, Massachusetts 01550
A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany
Readings for the Feast of the Epiphany [transferred]
January 14, 2024

Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. [Isaiah 43:19]

The Rev Judith Lee, *Celebrant*
Anne Bouvier-Monroe, *Musician*
Jean Frost, *Eucharistic Minister*
Madissyn Segarra, *Reader*
Sam Pieczynski, *Intercessor*
The Family Worship Players: *A Christmas Play*

VIGIL LIGHT

The Vigil Light burns to the Glory of God and for a dear friend Sue, given by Judy

Prelude *The First Noel* Arr. by Brickman

Opening Hymn *Christ, whose glory fills the skies* **Hymnal #7**

Acclamation

Blessed are you, holy and living One.

You come to your people and set them free.

Collect *in unison* *a prayer by Martin Luther King, Jr.*

God grant that we will be participants in this newness and this magnificent development of your purpose. If we will but do it, we will bring about a new day of justice and peace. On that day the morning stars will sing together and the people of God will shout for joy. Amen.

Song of Praise *Gloria* **Hymnal #S280**

Collect of the Day *in unison*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

O God of stars and journeys, You lead us day by day to the joyful vision of your light. Move us by the power of your Word that we too might open our gifts for others and so receive in our hearts the child of Bethlehem. So may you be praised and adored, this season of your Epiphany, now and forever. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

The First Lesson: A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah [60:1-6]

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; But the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 in unison

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, ***
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously * and the poor with justice;**
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, ***
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; ***
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, ***
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, ***
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; ***
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, ***
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.
- 11 All kings shall bow down before him, ***
and all the nations do him service.
- 12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, ***
and the oppressed who has no helper.
- 13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; ***
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
- 14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, ***
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

Sequence Hymn *I want to walk as a Child of the Light v. 1 & Refrain*

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus.

*Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus*

The Gospel: A Christmas Play

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the Family Worship Players*

Act 1

Hymn *The First Nowell vv.3-5* **Hymnal #109**

Act 2

Hymn *What star is this? vv.1-3* **Hymnal #124**

Act Three

Hymn *Earth has many a noble city vv.1-3* **Hymnal #127**

Act 4

Hymn *Away in a Manger vv.1 & 2* **Hymnal 101**

Act 5

Hymn *We Three Kings* **Hymnal #128**

An Affirmation of Faith *From Liturgy for the Whole Church*

We believe in God Who said, "Let there be light," And there was! With that light, God made the world and all the people in whom, and through whom, the Light burns on, strong and true. **We believe!**

We believe in Jesus, the true Light, who went down to darkness to overcome death, and rose again, to unveil our own brightness, in the victory of whose love a path shines home to God's heart Where all will live forever.

We believe!

We believe in the Spirit, blazing with hope, speaking the truth into every darkness, warming out lives with God's gift and call. **We believe!**

We believe in the church, where God's Light is praised, and from where we are sent to love and serve the world. **We believe!**

We ask today that a gentle breath blow from above on the light that is in us, the light that is among us, and enflame us anew with the courage of love. **Enflame us, O God! Amen.**

Prayers of the People: A Litany for Social Justice

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

God commands us through Jesus Christ to love one another. In baptism, we promise to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves, to strive for justice and peace, and to respect the dignity of every human being. Let us now honor those vows and pray for our

nation, for wise and just leaders, and for the needs of others throughout our country and the world.

We pray for continued blessings on all peacemakers, on leaders who value peace, and on everyone who promotes nonviolent solutions to conflict. We pray for a speedy end to all violence and warfare around the world.

Pause

God of peace and gentleness, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the strength of heart and mind to look beyond ourselves and address the needs of all people throughout the world; for the rural and urban poor; for the rebuilding of our communities; and for an end to the cycles of violence that threaten our future. *Pause*

God of generosity and compassion, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all nations, that they may live in unity, peace, and concord; and that all people may know justice and enjoy the perfect freedom that only God can give. *Pause*

God of liberty and freedom, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray that the Holy Spirit may embrace the most vulnerable members of our society, especially the guests of St. Luke's Guesthouse and the families at Mapong Babies Home; we pray for an end to the growing disparity between the rich and poor; and for the grace and courage to strive for economic justice. *Pause*

God of all gifts and blessings, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for an end to prejudice throughout our country and the world; that we will respect all people as precious children of God; and that racism and all forms of discrimination will be forever banished from our hearts, our society, and our laws. *Pause*

God of fellowship and equality, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for a reverence for creation; that we will have the tools and the will to conserve it; that we will use its bountiful resources in the service of others; and that we will become better stewards of all that has been entrusted to us. *Pause*

God of nature and the universe, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all immigrants, refugees, and pilgrims from around the world, especially those at our own borders, that they may be welcomed in our midst and be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect. *Pause*

God of outcasts and wanderers, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the sick, the aged and the infirm; for those with physical or mental disabilities; that all may have access to proper health care; and that God's loving embrace may be felt by all who suffer, especially those we now name, silently or aloud. *Pause*

God of comfort and healing, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all prisoners and captives; that a spirit of forgiveness may replace vengeance and retribution; and that we, with all the destitute, lonely, and oppressed, may be restored to the fullness of God's grace. *Pause*

God of absolution and mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all children and families, and particularly for the orphaned, neglected, abused, and those who live in fear of violence or disease; that they may be relieved and protected. *Pause*

God of children and families, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the reconciliation of all people, and for the Church throughout the world, that it may be an instrument of your healing love. *Pause*

God of outreach and restoration, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have died as a result of violence, war, disease or famine, especially those who have died because of human blindness, neglect, or hardness of heart. *Pause*

God of eternal life and resurrecting love, **Hear our prayer.**

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for the Parish

Merciful God, your creation began with light that you called forth, and declared good. The light from a star led the Wise Men to Bethlehem at the birth of Jesus, your Son. May your light shine in our hearts so that those around us may witness your love in our lives. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen

The Peace

Announcements and Sharing "God Moments"

The Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Instrumental: *Here I Am Lord* Schutte setting by Carter

Presentation Hymn *In the bleak midwinter, v. 4* **Hymnal #112**

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a wise man I would do my part;

Yet what I can I give him—Give my heart

The Eucharistic Prayer B

Sanctus

Fraction Anthem

Communion: *Winter Peace*

BCP, 367

Hymnal #S130

Hymnal #S164

Brickman

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God among us, may we be visited by angels, may we follow stars, may we bring gifts we have to offer. May we embrace the journey and travel in love. May Christ bless our homes and find a home in our hearts throughout the year. Amen.

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn *This Little Light of Mine*

LEVAS #221

Dismissal

Postlude: *Song for a new year*

Martin

Music reprinted and streamed under Onelicense.net #A722242

Announcements

Vestry Highlights: January 10, 2024

Resolved

- ✓ Approved the 2024 budget
- ✓ Send money from the John Dirlam Fund to the Trustees of the Diocese
- ✓ Send money from the Legacy Fund to the Trustees of the Diocese
- ✓ Nominated Ryan Bousquet to be a candidate for Vestry; there will be one open seat on the ballot
- ✓ Nominated John Grant and Lorraine Brumskine to be Delegates to the 2024. Diocesan Convention and Cat Reith-Lowery and Robin Yates to be alternates.
- ✓ Agreed to have the Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 13th
- ✓ Agreed to hold the traditional soupe fundraiser on Souper Sunday (February 11th)
- ✓ Agreed to host coffee hour for the Annual Parish Meeting on January 28th.

Our **Mission Plate for January & February** will go to the Worcester Community Action Fuel Assistance Program. This program aids limited-income homeowners and renters in paying their home heating bills. WCAC's Fuel Assistance Program serves all our local communities (cities and towns) in Central Massachusetts.

Monthly Mission Sponsorship: Mampong Babies Home in Kumasi, Ghana. A sign-up for monthly sponsorships is in the back of the church.

Annual Parish Meeting: January 28th after the service in the Parish Hall. It will also be possible to participate via zoom.

Food Pantry Collection: Our January donations will go to the Bridge Fridge in Southbridge. Our focus will be canned meats and vegetables.

Reading Group: HTEC Reading Group: Richard Roher, *Just This: Prompts and Practices for Contemplation* [SPCK Press, 2018] **Discussion: Thursday, January 25 @ 5 pm**