

SERVICE OF THE WORD

EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

JANUARY 10, 2021 † 9:00 A.M.

St. John's Lutheran Church † Northfield, Minnesota

Welcome to worship at St. John's!

We especially welcome all who are listening this morning!

During the season of COVID-19 pandemic, St. John's will continue to follow state and federal guidance for public gatherings. We deeply miss seeing our community in person and eating at the Lord's table together. We hold fast to the knowledge that we are not the first generation to experience fear of deadly disease, and we are not the first community separated unwillingly by circumstances. We know that the resources of our faith can sustain us as we are apart.

Our prayer is that in this broadcast you can hear the Holy Spirit speaking to you through the Word; that you can sing along and join in fervent prayer for our world, and that as we share the peace, you can set an intention to reach out, in whatever ways this moment allows, to share God's love with someone else.

+ + +

St. John's Lutheran Church is a community grounded in the promise of God's grace and called to extend Christ's welcome to all people. Every day, Christ meets us all just as we are, extending love to people of every age, race or ethnicity, physical appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, marital or relationship status, economic circumstance, educational achievement, political affiliation, or religious background.

While we do not always agree, we choose to walk and grow in faith together, believing that God creates diversity, and loves and welcomes us.

We warmly welcome you here.

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude — Three for Epiphany

I. "Mingxing canlan ye wei yang"

Midnight Stars Make Bright the Skies

Marilyn Biery

II. "Dejlig er den himmel blå"

Bright and Glorious Is the Sky

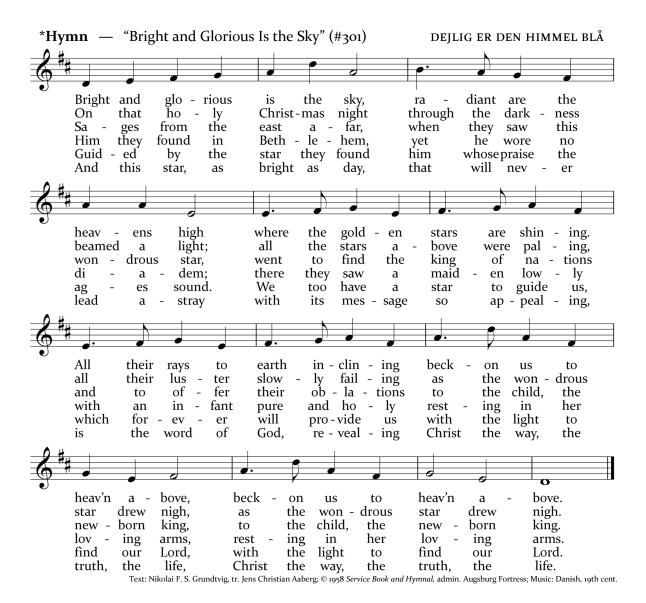
G. Winston Cassler

III. "Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern" How Lovely Shines the Morning Star Mark Sedio

Welcome and Announcements

*Thanksgiving for Baptism

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ♣ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.
- Amen.
- P A reading from Second Corinthians: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!
 - We give you thanks, holy and gracious God, for you created the waters of the earth: wide oceans, rushing streams, clear lakes, mighty rivers, the Cannon and the Mississippi, dew and rain, ice and snow.
- **O** In these saving waters, you shine the light of your promise on us.
- P You led your people through the sea and called them to life in covenant with you. Your Son was baptized in the river Jordan to begin his mission among us. In Christ's death and resurrection you joined your life to ours forever.
- **9** In these saving waters, you shine the light of your promise on us.
- P You pour out your Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth. In baptism we are born again to become your people, one with the body of Christ throughout the world.
- **9** In these saving waters, you shine the light of your promise on us.
- P Through these waters refresh us; renew us in your promise so that we may serve this world in all its need; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- Amen.



*Greeting

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- And also with you.

*Prayer of the Day

- P Almighty and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- **G** Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

First Reading — 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; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

- **L** The word of the Lord.
- **©** Thanks be to God.

Psalmody — Psalm 72:1-4, 10-13

Antiphon: "The First Noel"

Antiphon: Noel! Born is the King of Israel.



¹Give the king your jus- | tice, O God, and your righteousness to | the king's son; ²that he may rule your | people righteously and the | poor with justice;

3that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people, and the | hills, in righteousness.

⁴Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people, rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor. *Antiphon*

May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay tribute, and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts.
 May all kings bow | down before him,

and all the nations | do him service.

¹²For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in distress, the oppressed, and those who | have no helper.

¹³He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor, and preserves the lives | of the needy. *Antiphon*

Second Reading — Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—
²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me
for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a
few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind,
as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the
Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

- **L** The word of the Lord.
- **©** Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel — Matthew 2:1-12

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "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." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 6'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.'"

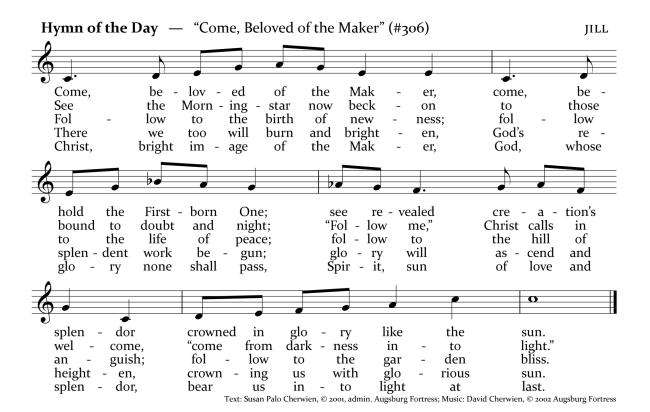
⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Jonathan Davis

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD



*Apostles' Creed

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.

*Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

L Lord, in your mercy, **Q** hear our prayer.

*Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always. • And also with you. You are invited to share God's peace with those around you.

Offering of Our Gifts

Music at the Offering:

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

Wayne Wold

*Thanksgiving for the Word

P Holy God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, wonderful Counselor, at the birth of time your Word brought light into the world, and throughout the ages, you proclaim newness of life.

In the fullness of time, your Word became flesh, to shine in our world's darkness, to speak peace to all peoples, and to welcome us as members of your family.

Grant us now the gift of your Spirit, that held, nourished, and protected by your Word, we may live as your children, bearing your goodness throughout the world. All glory to you, holy God, now and forever.

C Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer

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 power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

*Blessing

Response: C Amen.



*Dismissal

- **L** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- **⚠** Thanks be to God.

Postlude — "There's a Star in the East"

African American Spiritual arr. David Sims

+ + +

SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding Pastor Pam Fickenscher Preaching Pastor Jonathan Davis

Assisting Ministers Vatter Family
Cantor David Sims

Organist Nathan Proctor

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given in honor of Nathan Proctor as our Organist and Director of Woship, Music & Arts by his parents Duane and Jewel Proctor. Sunday services are broadcast on KYMN Radio 1080AM / 95.1FM from 9:00-10:00 a.m. on Sundays. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), please contact the church office. Next available dates: March 28 and April 11, 18 & 25. Video broadcasts can be seen on Northfield Community Television (NTV)-cable channel 187, Mondays at 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 12:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m., and Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

Today's Forum via Zoom

As part of our Global Mission focus this month, please join us for a virtual forum with Mark Rich and Cynthia Holder Rich. St. John's helps to support their work at Tumaini University Makumira, Arusha, Tanzania. As they report in their Advent 2020 newsletter, the majority of their graduates are in education programs. Although Tanzania is making immense efforts to improve its educational system, the country, as of 2018, still had on average one teacher for every 51 students and one textbook for every 10 students. So, there is still much work to be done. Join us to hear about the Riches' ongoing efforts and challenges.

J-Term is Back for Confirmation Students

This is a joint Confirmation Ministry of Bethel, St. John's, St. Peter's Lutheran Churches, and First United Church of Christ. We will be via Zoom, every Wednesday, January 13—February 3, 6:30-7:45 p.m. We'll all be together at the same time and split into small groups, with a different speaker for each of the four nights of class. We have great speakers again this year.

Nathan Proctor Christmas Repertoire

In normal times, every January St. John's Women host a luncheon at the King's Room on the St. Olaf campus, with a program of Christmas carols. This year, because we cannot meet together, the WELCA board chose to bring a concert of Advent/Christmas music to the entire congregation, filming our organist, Nathan Proctor, each Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve. The concert is available on the St. John's website along with a printable program.

Lydia Circle and Paul Circle Bible Study via Zoom Wednesday, January 13, 10:00 a.m.

The Lydia and Paul Circles will meet for the January Bible Study. The next four months study will be "Journey with Angels" and will be led by Rev. Luther Peterson. We encourage all interested men and women to join us for this Bible study. If you are interested in participating please contact Merilyn Calcutt at merilyn.calcutt@gmail.com to receive the Zoom connection information.

Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, & Chocolates and Thistle Farms Hand Soaps

Contact <u>dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com</u> to place your order for contactless delivery.

Announcements (continued)

Message from the Stewardship Board

If you made your 2021 pledge by calling or emailing the office and have a Thrivent account, the Stewardship Board would appreciate if you would let us know. Please contact Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 612-532-6863. Thank you.

January Focus: ELCA Global Mission

ELCA Global Mission walks with more than 80 companion churches in other countries to participate in God's reconciling mission. Participating in these relationships, ELCA members see how people's lives are touched by the gospel, how their lives are transformed and renewed, and how their communities live in hope. We share our gifts and talents to address the root causes of poverty and hunger, meet human needs, fight HIV and AIDS, build communities that coexist in peace, and prepare women and men to preach the good news of Jesus Christ throughout the world. During January, we ask you to consider a special gift to ELCA Global Mission to support this important work. You may donate online or by check, noting Global Mission on the memo line. Thank you!

The Plague: Book Discussion with Charlie Wilson via Zoom Thursdays, January 21, 28, and February 4 from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

For this class, please purchase Stewart Gilbert's translation of this book, which will be available at Content Bookstore. Charlie Wilson, St. Olaf Religion Professor and member of St. John's, has taught Albert Camus' book *The Plague* for decades now. But this past semester, understandably, it had a deeper resonance with college students. Join Professor Wilson for a three-session class on this classic, yet still timely, book. Throughout his life, Camus struggled with the meaning of evil in the world and challenged Christians to think better about their faith. *The Plague* tells the story of a plague sweeping through a French community. The novel is told from the point of view of a narrator not revealed until the last chapter.

Reading schedule:

- January 21 Part 1
- January 28 Parts 2 and 3
- February 4 Parts 4 and 5

Please sign up by January 14 via an email to Pastor Jonathan at idavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Interested in putting your faith into action at the state and local level?

Learn about opportunities to build the beloved community at ISAIAH's We Make Minnesota Virtual Launch on Sunday, January 24, from 2:00-5:00 p.m. ISAIAH is a nonpartisan, multi-faith, multi-racial, statewide group of congregations, clergy, and people of faith working collectively towards racial and economic equity in Minnesota. Contact Rod Christensen (chris719@charter.net) or Christy Hall-Holt (connect@StJohnsNorthfield.org) for more information.

Prayer Requests

We are called to remember one another in prayer. The church office has been made aware of the following persons for whom we pray today. This list is also for your use this week.

Healing and Support

Those in the hospital or in need of healing

Verna Krause (grandmother of Keke Judge)

Those with ongoing health concerns

Marlene Engstrom, Mary Ingbritsen, Donna James, Delores Nelson, Becky Ness, Susan Nissen, John Quam, Jim Thompson, Julie Westerback, Laila Burns Hedstrom

All who are homebound, including

Virley Brown, Elouise Quinnell, Lester Gunderson

Involved in the mission of the church who have ties to St. John's

The Savior (El Salvador) Lutheran Church in El Cocuy, Colombia;

lambi Lutheran Church in lambi, Tanzania;

Mark Rich and Cynthia Holder Rich, ELCA missionaries in Tanzania

Prayer Requests / Stephen Ministry Requests

Stephen Ministry Requests

Call one of the pastors at 507-645-4429.

Prayer Chain Requests

Contact Mary Cisar at 507-663-1097 or macisar@gmail.com, or contact a pastor.

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (January 17):

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Samuel 3:1-10 + Psalm 139:1-6 + 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 + John 1:43-51

This Week At-a-Glance

The full calendar of events and building usage can be accessed on our website at www.StjohnsNorthfield.org.

Our radio worship schedule will continue with broadcasts on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. (www.kymnradio.net).

Monday, Jan. 11 12:00 p.m. Virtual Manna and Mercy Text Study via Zoom

7:00 p.m. Peace & Justice Group via Zoom

Tuesday, Jan. 12 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting via Zoom

1:00 p.m. Worship Planning for Staff via Zoom

7:00 p.m. Stewardship Board via Zoom

Wednesday, Jan. 13 10:00 a.m. Wednesday Zoom Coffee Break

Lydia Circle and Paul Circle Bible Study via Zoom

6:00 p.m. Confirmation J-Term for Grades 6-9 via Zoom

Thursday, Jan. 14 1:30 p.m. Elizabeth Circle via Zoom

Friday, Jan. 15 No Scheduled Activities

Saturday, Jan. 16 No Scheduled Activities

Sunday, Jan. 17 9:00 a.m. Worship via Radio Broadcast and Livestream

10:00 a.m. Virtual Sunday School via Zoom

Virtual Youth Group via Zoom

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour via Zoom

Worship with Us on Sundays via Livestream

Worship at 9:00 a.m. is livestreamed via our website. We hope you'll join us via livestream or radio on KYMN.

Video of the service will still be available on the website later in the week.





500 Third Street West Northfield, MN 55057 507-645-4429 office@StJohnsNorthfield.org www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Pam Fickenscher, Senior Pastor
Jonathan Davis, Associate Pastor
Carol Benson, Director of Jubilate Choir
Julie Brehmer, Director of Children's Ministry
Tim Byers, Facility Manager
Leah H. Garlie, Office Manager / Finance Manager
Angie Gehring, Shared Ministry Coordinator
Christy Hall-Holt, Welcome Ministry Coordinator
Emmanuel Kaghondi, Director of Ministry with Youth & Families
Sally Lindell, Parish Nurse
Arielle Loy, Director of Alleluia Choir
Zachery Pelletier, Director of Rejoice Ringers
Jaida Gehring / Marvin Perez, Security and Custodial Assistants
Nathan Proctor, Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts

Call the church office or check the website for a complete listing of staff emails.