***Epiphany***

Thursday, 6 January 2021



The Wise Men (1900)
by JC Leyendecker (1874-1951)

The feast of the Epiphany originated in the Eastern church in the 3rd century where it was a celebration of the baptism of Jesus linked to his nativity. It ranked as one of the three most important feasts of the church's year alongside Easter and Pentecost (the celebration of Christmas as a feast only began in the 3rd century also and was of lesser importance than Epiphany).

The word *epiphany* comes from the Greek meaning ‘to make manifest’, ‘to show forth’, ‘to appear.’ This was associated with the appearance of the Spirit at Jesus' baptism and the voice of God making manifest the identity of Jesus as his Son (cf. Mark 1:1



**Sunday, January 3, 2021**

**Zion’s United Church of Christ of Taborton**

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**Zion’s United Church of Christ of Taborton**

**Service of the Worship of God**

**Sunday, January 3, 2021**

Second Sunday After Christmas

Rev. Hafidha F. Saadiqah, Pastor \* Mr. Robert Bondi, Board Moderator

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PRELUDE Various Carols

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS & CELEBRATIONS

CALL to WORSHIP

 L: Always there is a beginning -

 **P:** **a new day, a new month, a new season, a new year.**

L:The old passes away

 **P:** **and newness emerges from the richness that was.**

L:Yet, nothing is forever lost

 **P: in the many changes and chances that time brings.**

L:What was, in some way, will be,

 **P:** **though changed in form.**

L:Always there is a beginning -

 **P:** **a new day, a new month, a new season, a new year.**

**ALL: Let us rejoice and give thanks for this new year!**

~adpt. From Edward Searl

**\*** HYMN (p.6) *There’s a Spirit in the Air*  ORIENTIS PARTIBUS

**\*** PRAYER OF DISCIPLESHIP

 **O Christ - Your wonderful birth is meaningless unless we are born again.**

 **Your death is meaningless unless we die to what separates us from you and one**

 **another. Your resurrection is meaningless if you only have been raised.**

 **Through your Spirit, raise us also, and create in each of us a love for your**

**Kin-dom that we may reflect your steadfast love and grace all our days. Amen.**

***\* Words of Assurance (*minister*)***

 ***\* Gloria Patri* (spoken)**

**Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit Three in One!**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be;**

 **World without end. Amen. Amen.**

***\*Offering Signs of Peace***

CHILDREN’S TIME

INVITATION to STEWARDSHIP & OFFERING

***Doxology (*spoken)**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,**

 **Praise God all creatures here below.**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host.**

 **Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication***

**Spirit of the Living God: as you empowered the early Christians, empower us**

**today to be your servants of grace and justice. Free our hearts for service,**

**and bless these gifts so that they might bless others. Amen.**

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

SCRIPTURE (pp. 3,4) St. John 1:1-18

SERMON Seeing God

COMMUNION (pp. 4,5)

\* HYMN (p. 7) *Born in the Night* MARY’S CHILD

\* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Various Carols

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**2**

***Today’s Scripture:***

**St. John 1:1-18**

(Common English Bible)

 ﻿1 In the beginning was the Word

 and the Word was with God

 and the Word was God.

2 The Word was with God in the beginning.

3 Everything came into being through the Word,

 and without the Word

 nothing came into being.

What came into being

4 through the Word was life,

 and the life was the light for all people.

5 The light shines in the darkness,

 and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

﻿6 A man named John was sent from God. 7 He came as a witness to testify

 concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light.

8 He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light.

9 The true light that shines on all people

 was coming into the world.

10 The light was in the world,

 and the world came into being through the light,

 but the world didn't recognize the light.

11 The light came to his own people,

 and his own people didn't welcome him.

12 But those who did welcome him,

 those who believed in his name,

 he authorized to become God's children,

13 born not from blood

 nor from human desire or passion,

 but born from God.

**3**

14 The Word became flesh

 and made his home among us.

We have seen his glory,

 glory like that of a father's only son,

﻿ full of grace and truth.

﻿﻿15 John testified about him, crying out, "This is the one of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is greater than me because he existed before me.'"

16 From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace;

17as the Law was given through Moses, so grace and truth came into being through Jesus Christ.

18 No one has ever seen God.

 God the only Son, who is at the Father's side,

 has made God known.

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**COMMUNION LITURGY**

L: Invitation to the Table

 **P: Loving God, we thank you that you are as close to us as breath; that your**

**love is constant and unfailing.**

 **We thank you for all that sustains life, and especially for Jesus Christ,**

 **who teaches us how to live out an ethic of justice and peace,**

 **and for the promise of transformation made manifest in his life, death**

**and resurrection.**

 **Gracious God, we return thanks you’re your son’s blessing of this bread**

**and this cup. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, that we**

**may join with you in promoting the well-being of all creation. Amen.**

L: Communion of the People

**4**

 ***Prayer After Communion***

 **We give thanks, loving God, that you have refreshed us at your table.**

 **Strengthen our faith; increase our love for one another.**

**As we have been feed by the seed that became grain, and then became bread, may we go out into the world to plant seeds of justice, transformation, and peace. Amen.**

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***THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPPING WITH US!***

﻿ ***Join us for Coffee Hour***

***in***

***Fellowship Hall!***

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**5**

***HYMNS FOR THE LORD’S DAY***

**THERE’S A SPIRIT IN THE AIR**

HYMN TUNE: ORIENTIS PARTIBUS

LYRICS: Brian Wren

1. There’s a spirit in the air,

telling Christians everywhere:

“Praise the love that Christ revealed,

living, working, in our world.

1. Lose your shyness, find your tongue;

tell the world what God has done:

God in Christ has come to stay,

live tomorrow’s life today.”

1. When believers bread the bread,

when a hungry child is fed:

Praise the love that Christ revealed,

living, working in our world.

1. When a stranger’s not alone,

when the homeless find a home:

Praise the love that Christ revealed,

living, working in our world.

1. May the Spirit fill your praise,

guide our thoughts and change our ways.

God in Christ has come to stay.

live tomorrow’s life today.

**6**

**BORN IN THE NIGHT**

HYMN TUNE: MARY’S CHILD

LYRICS: Geoffrey Ainger

1. Born in the night, Mary’s Child,

a long way from your home;

Coming in need, Mary’s Child,

born in a borrowed room.

1. Clear shining light, Mary’s Child,

your face lights up our way;

Light of the world, Mary’s child,

dawn of our darkest day.

1. Truth of our life, Mary’s Child,

you tell us God is good;

Yes, it is true, Mary’s Child,

shown on your cross of wood.

1. Hope of the world, Mary’s Child,

you’re coming soon to reign;

Sovereign of earth, Mary’s Child,

walk in our streets again.

**7**

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**Sunday School for Children** is in recess. Classes will begin on **Sunday, January 10, 20201.** See you then!

**Food Pantry 2021:** The Mission Committee is busy making plans to open a Food Pantry for individuals and families who may need assistance. There is much to plan for and do. If you would like to contribute to the organizing efforts of getting this mission off the ground, please leave your donation in the offering plate, or send it to the church office. Also, there is a donation container in Fellowship Hall.

**2021 Calendars** from Perry-Komdat Funeral Chapel are available in the Narthex.

**Bring Your Own Theology Gathering** happens every Wednesday evening, 7:00pm to 8:00pm. We are in conversation with St. John’s UCC in Elmore, OH and Park Church UCC in Toledo, OH. The Meeting ID# is **876 2695 1505** and the Passcode is **764342**.

**8**