

Holy Eucharist Rite II: The Epiphany of Our Lord



January 6, 2019

Closing Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #135 Songs of thankfulness and praise

Dismissal

Deacon

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People

Thanks be to God.

Postlude



THEY SAW HIS STAR AND FOLLOWED IT

Prayer List

Let us pray...

...in thanksgiving for the members of our congregation: Marie Goldsmith, Ron Goldsmith, Millie Hamman, Gloria Hampton.

...for those who travel: June and Gary Leyland; Cindy Shoemaker.

...for support and protection for those who serve our country at home and abroad: Mike Busey, Christopher Walker, Steven Mattingly, Sam Gray, Wes Dyson, Michael Petrusic, and Thomas J. Hunt.

...for those in need of God's healing grace: Missy Bowie; Chris Bowie; Wayne Buffalo; Kathy Doyle; Sam Linton; Lindy Lynch; Erin Macri; Bonnie Santora; Jean Santora. *Our continuing prayers are offered for:* Mabel Bowie; Hope Cameron; Conor Doyle; George Dyson; Butch Helwig; Carol Hindle; Dian Lockamy; Buddy Linton; Rhonda McGraw; Jeanne Read; Rose Speake; Joan Shoemaker; Roy Squires; The Rev. Arnold Taylor; Lisa Tuono; Luci Wright.

...for those who have died: David E. Aldridge.

The Diocese of Washington cycle of prayer: Church of the Epiphany, DC; Welcome Table and Street Church, Church of the Epiphany, DC; Epiphany Church, Forestville. **The**

Anglican Communion cycle of prayer: the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia.

Announcements

Don't forget that these announcements can also be found on the church website, OldDurham.org. Look for a button near the top left of the home page. When you read the announcements on line, you can follow the live links to websites mentioned in the announcements.

Adult Forum: Please join us at 9:15am in the Parish Hall on Sunday mornings for coffee, learning, and thought-provoking discussion. On Jan. 13 we will have a session on 'Evil, suffering, and a God of love' from a program called "Living the Questions." On Jan. 20 we will have a session on the polity and organization of The Episcopal Church. If you are interested in serving on the Vestry, you should plan to attend this session if possible.

Worship Committee will meet after church today.

Daughters of the King and the Mens Group will meet on Jan. 7th at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall.

The Ladies Mites will meet Jan. 8th at 1:30pm in the Parish Hall. Contact: Linda Buffalo.

Joe's Place Food Pantry distributions are on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 4:30 to 6pm in the Parish Hall. The next distributions are Jan. 10th and 24th. Volunteers are always welcome to sort and distribute food to our neighbors. Contact: Millie Hamman.

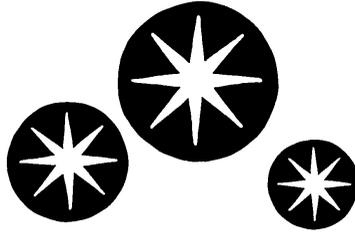
The Pastoral Care Team will meet after church on Jan. 13th. Contact: Rev. Catharine.
The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Jan. 17 at 6pm, and on Jan. 23 at 2:30pm in the parish hall. Contact: Barbara Macri.
Finance Committee will meet after church on Jan. 20th in the Parish Hall.
The Vestry will meet on Jan. 24th at 7pm in the Parish Hall.

YOU HAVE APPEARED, O CHRIST, THE
LIGHT OF LIGHT! TO YOU THE MAGI
BRING GIFTS! ALLELUJA • ALLELUJA!



Vestry Service

Among the outcomes of the parish by-law revisions that we passed in November is a need to replace Vestry members who have served past their term limits and to elect new Vestry members in staggered classes. Going forward, elected Vestry members will serve for three years, with two new members elected each year. In order to transition to this new model, we will be electing two new members every six months (instead of every 12 months) for the next 18 months. The first election will be held at a special Parish Meeting on March 3rd, and the Nominating Committee (to be appointed by the Vestry at their next meeting) will present a slate of candidates on February 3rd. If you are interested in Vestry service, please consider attending the Adult Forum on January 20th.



Chalking the doors of our houses

St. Matthew tells us that when the wise men arrived in Bethlehem to visit Jesus, they found him and his mother in a house, not the stable where they had found their first temporary shelter. This is a cue to us that our Epiphany celebration should focus on our own houses, and it is a very old custom to bless houses on Epiphany.

In the East, in particular, it is the custom for the parish priest to go through the parish blessing houses. This is not the elaborate blessing of a new home, but a special blessing that is also often given at Easter, a renewal of the homes in which the people of God dwell and live out the mystery of faith day by day. In recent years, this custom has been revived in some places in the West. *The Book of Occasional Services* of the Episcopal Church in the U.S. provides forms for this blessing.

However, there is another way of blessing homes at Epiphany that begins in church, but does not require the priest to go from house to house--something that would be quite impossible in many non-geographical parishes in the modern world. This custom involves chalk that is blessed by the priest and taken home by families to mark the doors of their homes. (*Adapted from fullhomelydivinity.org*)

Here is a brief (optional) set of prayers that you can use along with the chalking of your doors:

The Hallowing of Homes

Leader: Peace be to this house.?

People: And to all who enter here.?

Leader: Wise men came to Bethlehem to honor the Savior and offered him gifts.?

People: Gold for a great king.?

Leader: Incense to the true God.?

People: And myrrh for his body, for he would suffer and die.

*The initials of the legendary names of the wise men are written with blessed chalk on the door or the lintel of the house, framed by the numbers of the new year, in this way: 20 C + M + B
+ 19*



THE WAY OF LOVE
Practices for Jesus-Centered Life

The Way of Love

Here's a spiritual New Year's resolution for you: adopt a 'Rule of Life.' In a couple of weeks we will begin to follow the Episcopal Church's special 'Way of Love' lectionary to guide us through sermon reflections on the essential practices of a Jesus-centered life. Then in Lent we will offer practical resources for constructing your very own rule of life. The Diocese of Washington has a great collection of 'Way of Love' resources here: <https://www.edow.org/congregational-vitality/the-way-of-love>

The Mystery of Our Baptism

By Presiding Bishop Frank T. Griswold, January 4, 2004:

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased. Luke 3:21-22

On the first Sunday after the Feast of the Epiphany we observe the Baptism of Jesus. The gospel lesson vividly brings us back to that moment when the Spirit in bodily form, like a dove, bears down upon Jesus. In that moment Jesus is praying, we are told, and his unique relationship to the Father is brought into full consciousness.

The Baptism of Jesus is one of the four days in the Church year – along with the Easter Vigil, the Day of Pentecost and All Saints – when the celebration of baptism and the renewal of our baptismal covenant is deemed particularly appropriate. On this feast we are given an

invitation to ponder the deep meaning of our own baptism in relationship to Jesus' baptism. His baptism set his ministry in motion; and, as we have been baptized into Christ, it sets our ministries in motion as well.

The invitation to reflect anew on the ministry we have each been given through baptism seems particularly timely, as we begin a new calendar year: a milestone that often calls forth from each of us thoughts about how we are living the lives that are no longer our own but have been taken up into the life of Christ.

So, looking again at Jesus' baptism: we can see that as he emerges from the waters of the Jordan, Jesus experiences a deep and all-embracing oneness with God, and an overwhelming sense of being the beloved. The love which passes between Jesus and the Father in the Holy Spirit becomes the animating force of his life, and expresses itself in a self-giving ministry of reconciliation. This baptismal awareness is expressed with passionate urgency in his words and actions.

Jesus' baptism was the experience of being encountered by love, which is a profoundly personal experience. However, love by its very nature must give itself away. Jesus' baptism opened his heart to the world around him, and impelled him to move about teaching and preaching. God's reign is embodied in the person of Jesus, who does the work of the Father in seeking to draw all to himself. Ultimately, it is this passionate desire to bring all things together and to break down all walls of division that drives him to the cross.

And what have our baptisms done to us? Through baptism we are bound together with others and declared limbs – body parts – of the risen Lord who lives his life of reconciling love in and through us. God's love becomes embodied in us. Baptism, therefore, is God's act before it is our own. God draws us to himself and takes us out of our presumed separateness into a new web of relationship that unites us with others beyond personal affinity. Questions of whether we like someone or not, whether we agree or not, are no longer relevant. Something far more fundamental has happened: God has knit us together in a body not of our own making, and Christ is the head and consciousness of this body.

The mystery of our baptism is that in Christ we have all been made irrevocably one – beyond all imagining or desire. And, strange as it may seem at times, our lives are ordered in Christ such that we are instruments of one another's salvation. The very angularities and unsettling points of view of another may be exactly the way in which the risen Christ is seeking to deepen and broaden our experience of his truth. It is important to remember this when strains occur within the body and one limb begins to question whether another body part properly belongs.

This deep and demanding understanding of the mystery of our baptism is desperately needed in our highly polarized world. All about us we see that life is viewed in terms of

absolutes which admit no modification. Rather than listening to the other with an undefended heart and a spirit of graced curiosity, people feel obliged to defend their points of view.

As well, within our own community of faith, we are being called to a radical encounter with Christ in one another which is not easy when "the other" holds views very different from our own. Here the gifts of patience and a willingness to go beyond our fears and opinions to allow Christ to accost us in strange and unfamiliar ways are very much needed. Only as we engage one another in this self-sacrificial way will we be able to encounter the fullness of the risen Christ.

This is not an easy season in the life of our church, and yet it is in precisely times such as these that a deeper, and more costly, understanding of what it means to be limbs and members of Christ's body is literally pulled out of us by the very circumstances we are called to live as a community of faith.

May a renewed awareness and appropriation of who we are in Christ, in virtue of our baptism, ground and sustain us as we look ahead to the new year.

Ministers in Today's Service

Crucifer and Acolyte: Carl Lockamy; **Readers:** Roy Squires and Patrice Rohde; **Preacher and Presider:** The Rev. Catharine T. Gibson; **Intercessor:** Linda Buffalo; **Chalicists:** Carl Lockamy and Linda Buffalo; **Altar Guild:** Ruth White; **Flower Contact for January:** Sue Hunt.

Christ Church, Durham Parish

8700 Ironsides Road
Nanjemoy, MD 20662

www.OldDurham.org

Office email: ChristChurchDurhamParish@gmail.com

Office voicemail: 301-743-7099

Rector: The Rev. Catharine T. Gibson

RectorDurhamParish@icloud.com

Mobile: (703) 283-4962

Deacon: The Rev. Susan Fritz

Deacon.Susan.Fritz@gmail.com

Mobile: (301) 643-4233

Director of Music: Kathryn D. Doyle

Millie Hamman - Senior Warden

Bernard Torreyson - Junior Warden

Roy Squires - Secretary of the Vestry

Members of the Vestry:

George Chisholm, Bill White, Tom Saxton, Rick Posey

Carl Lockamy - Parish Treasurer

The Rev. Arnold Taylor - Rector Emeritus

The Rt Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde, Bishop of Washington

Established 1661 - Chartered 1692