



ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

JENSEN BEACH, FLORIDA

Wednesday Devotional Time

January 6, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.

The Feast of the Epiphany

Officiant: Father Tony Holder, Rector

Mission Statement:

The Community of All Saints' accepts the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship of God, service to His people and stewardship of His gifts.

*The people are invited to read the parts in **bold**.*

Prelude Music

“Epiphany” (Piano Instrumental)

Opening Sentence

The Officiant begins with the following words:

“Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.” (Isaiah 60:3)

The Collect

Silence may be kept.

Officiant: O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

(Page 685 of the Book of Common Prayer or as printed in the bulletin. We will read the psalm alternatively by half verse.)

- 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.**

Scriptural Reading: Matthew 2. 1-12

Reader: A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

In 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

Reflection

The Rector

Musical Selection:

"We three kings of orient are"

Truth in Song

Confession and Absolution

Officiant: Let us, in humility, confess our sins to God.

Silence

Officiant: When faith is tested to the limit and we stumble.

***People:* Forgive us.**

Officiant: When feet stray from the path and we wander.

***People:* Forgive us.**

Officiant: When our neighbor is in need and we pass by.

***People:* Forgive us.**

Officiant: When the voices of this world drown out your whisper.

***People:* Forgive us.**

Officiant: When love draws us to your feet in repentance.

***People:* Forgive us.**

The Officiant says the following Absolution.

God, the Father of mercies, has reconciled the world to himself through the death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ, not holding our sins against us, but sending his Holy Spirit

to shed abroad his love among us. By the ministry of reconciliation entrusted by Christ to his Church, receive his pardon and peace to stand before him in his strength alone this day and for evermore.

People: Amen.

Intercessory Prayers

The musical selection - "Laudate Omnes gentes" (Praise all nations) - Mix Taizé Instrumental and original version - is played during the prayers.

Officiant: Almighty and everlasting God, creator of time and space of season, of birth and evolution of both living creatures and galaxies alike, hear us as we humbly come before you as we mark our brief passage of time as another year begins. We have heard the Christmas story, about how you, Father, came to live among us. As we try to understand what this means in our lives we pray that you will guide us in our requests for others in our prayers of intercession.

Lord have mercy upon us.

People: Christ have mercy upon us. We put our trust in you, the light that shines in the darkness.

Officiant: Lord, we thank you that you promised the possibility of making a fresh start at any time and not just at the beginning of a new year. Help those who have recently made important decisions in their lives to see them through. Life is full of pressures which often pull and push us in directions we would, and should, not normally take. Give us strength of purpose and faith in you to take decisions seriously, to understand the consequences for others, as well as ourselves, and, always, to seek your guidance through prayer.

Lord have mercy upon us.

People: Christ have mercy upon us. We put our trust in you, the light that shines in the darkness.

Officiant: At the start of this new year we are reminded of the worlds deafness to the message of peace sung by the Christmas angels. We imagine how un-silent is life in today's Bethlehem and across Israel and Palestine. We pray for all caught up in conflict or its preparations. We think of our military men and women who are away from home in places where peace is not present. Father, give strength and courage to all peacemakers that they will not be dissuaded from the difficult decisions needed to bring about an end to open conflict or acts of terrorism. We also pray for countries seeking responsible government and an end to oppression.

Lord have mercy upon us.

People: Christ have mercy upon us. We put our trust in you, the light that shines in the darkness.

Officiant: We pray for this, our own, country with its cultural and ethnic diversity, for Donald, our President, Joseph, our President-elect, for the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, for the Judiciary, that they will govern wisely and with due regard for the needs of all people. We pray for all our people facing this New Year without some of the basics of life that we take so much for granted. We think of the homeless, the unemployed, the asylum seeker, the addict, the ex-prisoner. Lord Jesus who became a refugee from the oppression of Herod be with all those who find themselves marginalized from our affluent society. Support all who work through state and voluntary agencies to relieve their hardship and restore dignity.

Lord have mercy upon us.

People: Christ have mercy upon us. We put our trust in you, the light that shines in the darkness.

Officiant: We pray for all families represented here today. Each one is made up differently and faces the normal ups and downs of family life in different ways. We remember that Jesus was born, nurtured and grew up in a family which would have known all the emotions that we know in ours. We pray that each family finds a place for that selfless love, revealed to us through the life, teachings and example of our Lord.

Lord have mercy upon us.

People: Christ have mercy upon us. We put our trust in you, the light that shines in the darkness.

Officiant: We Pray for the world-wide church and pray especially for all peoples facing religious intolerance often by those who distort the teachings of their own faith for political ends. We think now of our Church here at All Saints'. We pray for our clergy and leaders, guide and support them and all who contribute to the Church's vision of service and witness.
Lord have mercy upon us.

People: Christ have mercy upon us. We put our trust in you, the light that shines in the darkness.

Officiant: We pray for the sick, both at home and in hospital, or hospice. We think of the elderly, the housebound, those in care homes, and the millions who have been ill with coronavirus. And we pray for all who care to their needs, both professionally and in the family. Lord Jesus who responded to the needs of all those who had faith; comfort and sustain those who are in need of your grace at this time. As we share together in prayer, let us now bring before you those who have asked us to pray for them (*Name those who are ill*).
Lord have mercy upon us.

People: Christ have mercy upon us. We put our trust in you, the light that shines in the darkness.

Officiant: Especially do we pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones, whether recently or some time ago. Let the knowledge of your resurrection in glory be comfort to all those who mourn. Jesus Christ is the Light of the World, a light which no darkness can quench. We remember before God those who have died that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.
Merciful Father accept these our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Adapted from "thisischurch.com"

The Lord's Prayer

Sung by Citizen Way

The Blessing and Dismissal

The Officiant may say

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Musical Selection:

"Epiphany Song"