

# An Order of Worship for Epiphany- St. Paul's Episcopal Church

## Prelude

Rule Beasley

*The church is dark, or partially so, when the service is to begin. All stand as Officiant greets the people with these words:*

*Officiant*            Light and Peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*People*                **Thanks be to God.**

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

*John 8:12*

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night," darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike. *Psalms 139:10-11*

**O Gracious Light** *Phos hilaron*

**O gracious light,  
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,  
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!**

**Now as we come to the setting of the sun,  
and our eyes behold the vesper light,  
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

**You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,  
O Son of God, O Giver of Life,  
and to be glorified through all the worlds.**

*The Officiant* Let us pray.

O Lord God Almighty, as you have taught us to call the evening, the morning, and the noonday one day; and have made the sun to know its going down: Dispel the darkness of our hearts, that by your brightness we may know you to be the true God and eternal light, living and reigning for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

**A Reading from Isaiah**

*Isaiah 60:1-6*

Anne Frazier

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.

Here ends the reading.

*Silence*

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

**A Reading from the Gospel According to Matthew**      *Matthew 2:1-12*

Rosemary Ross

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.

Here ends the reading.

*A brief silence follows the Reading.*

### **Reflection on the Readings**

Janet

Fullmer

*Silence followed by* **The Song of Simeon** *Nunc Dimittis* **Luke 2:29-32**

**Lord, you now have set your servant free \***  
**to go in peace as you have promised;**  
**For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \***  
**whom you have prepared for all the world to see:**  
**A Light to enlighten the nations, \***  
**and the glory of your people Israel.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \***  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

#### **The Versicle and Response:**

Reynolds

Leader: Julie

- V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
R. **And grant us your salvation.**  
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
R. **Let your people sing with joy.**

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
R. **For only in you can we live in safety.**

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
R. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**  
V. Let your way be known upon earth;  
R. **Your saving health among all nations.**  
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
R. **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**  
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
R. **And sustain us by your Holy Spirit.**

Leader: Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

**O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations obey you, all tongues confess and bless you, and men and women everywhere love you and serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.***

Hymn                      What Star is this                      vs 1-3  
                                    Hymnal 124

*Officiant* Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers.

*(The people offer their prayers and thanksgivings)*

**Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.***

*Officiant* O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **The Blessing:**

The Lord bless you and keep you. *Amen.*

The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. *Amen.*

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. *Amen.*

**Hymn                    Go tell it on the mountain**  
**Hymnal 99**

Go in peace to be the light of Christ to all, near and far. Alleluia, Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**