

St. John's Anglican Church, Ida  
Parish of Ida and Omeme

## The Feast of the Epiphany Service of Holy Communion

January 5, 2025

*Welcome to Worship today.*

We invite you to stay for refreshments in the parish hall following the service. During the service please assume whatever physical position is comfortable for you.

### THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

*We have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.  
Matthew 2: 2*

#### **Opening: CP118 – O Come, All Ye Faithful (V1-5a)**

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:  
come and behold him, born the king of angels;  
    *O come let us adore him,  
    O come let us adore him,  
    O come let us adore him,  
    Christ the Lord.***

**God of God, Light of Light,  
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten not created:**

*Refrain:*

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God in the highest:**

*Refrain:*

**See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw night with lowly fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;**

*Refrain:*

Led by the starlight, Magi, Christ adoring,  
offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
we to the Christ-child bring our hearts' oblations.

*O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.*

## **Children's Gathering**

*Children are invited to join Rev. Susan at the chancel steps for a moment. They are invited to attend a special program and will return at the sharing of the peace.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Almighty God,  
to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no  
secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the  
inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our  
Lord. Amen.

## **Song of Praise**

All glory to God in the heights of the heavens,  
and peace to his people, his people on earth.  
We praise you, we bless you, we give you our worship,  
and for your great glory we sing out our thanks.  
O Lord, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty,  
Lord Jesus the Christ and the Father's dear Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, only Son of the Father  
have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord, you take away all the sin of the world,  
hear our prayer from your place at the Father's right hand.  
Have mercy upon us; you only are holy and you,  
you alone, are our Lord and our God.  
Lord Christ, Holy Spirit and Father Almighty,  
Most High and most glorious, we give you our praise.  
All glory to God in the heights of the heavens,

**and peace to his people, his people on earth.**

### **The Collect of the Day**

Let us pray:

Eternal God,

**who by a star led wise men to the worship of your Son. Guide by your light the nations of the earth, that the whole world may know your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

## **THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

### **The First Reading**

A reading from Isaiah (60: 1-6)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **The Psalm (72: 1-7, 10-14)**

**Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;**

**That he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**

**That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and  
the little hills bring righteousness.**

**He shall defend the needy among the people;  
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

**He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.**

**He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**

**In his time shall the righteous flourish;  
there shall be abundance of peace  
till the moon shall be no more.**

**The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.**

**All kings shall bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.**

**For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, and the oppressed who has no helper.**

**He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; he shall preserve the lives of the needy.**

**He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, and dear shall their blood be in his sight.**

### **Psalm Prayer**

O God,

**bring our nation and all nations to a sense of justice and equity, that poverty, oppression, and violence may vanish and all may know peace and plenty. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### **The Second Reading**

A reading from Ephesians (3: 1-12)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

### **The Proclamation of the Gospel**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (2: 1-12)

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*The Gospel is proclaimed.*

The Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Gospel Hymn – CP122 – In the Bleak Mid-Winter**

In the bleak mid-winter,  
frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid-winter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him,  
nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign.  
In the bleak mid-winter  
a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and arch-angels  
may have gathered there;  
cherubim and seraphim  
thronged the air;  
but his mother only  
in her maiden bliss,  
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him,  
poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd,  
I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man,  
I would do my part;  
yet what I can, I give him—give my heart.

**The Sermon:** The Rev. Susan Spicer

*A silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

*The Congregation stands at the invitation of the Celebrant.*

## **The Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified  
under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father.  
With the Father and the Son  
he is worshipped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic  
and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **The Prayers of the People**

*We pray for the world, the church and ourselves, assuming whatever physical position helps us to pray (remain standing, kneel, or sit).*

*The response to the intercessions will be:*  
Lord, in your mercy.  
**Hear our prayer.**

### **ST. JOHN'S MISSION PRAYER**

**Gracious God, we ask that you would give us pure hearts, that we may see you;  
humble hearts, that we may hear you;  
hearts of love that we may serve you;  
hearts of faith that we may abide in you.  
Most especially, Lord, help us to become more effective in reaching out to help others become committed followers of Jesus.  
Give us boldness to share the Good News with those we meet each day. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **Confession and Absolution**

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; God welcomes sinners and invites us to this table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

*A brief silence is kept.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **The Peace**

The peace of Christ be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*We greet one another saying, "Peace be with you" or "The Peace of Christ".*

## **THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*The offering of money is a sign of our gratitude for God's blessing of our lives, collected in the plates placed at the front and back of the church before the service. The offering plates will not be passed during the service.*

### **Offertory: CP160 – As With Gladness Men of Old**

**As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold;  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore be led to thee.**

**As with joyful steps they sped,  
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
thee, whom heaven and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek thy mercy seat.**



**As they offered gifts most rare  
at that cradle rude and bare,  
so may we with joyful song,  
raising voices pure and strong,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee our heavenly king.**

**In the heavenly country bright  
need they no created light:  
thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
thou its sun which goes not down;  
there forever may we sing  
alleluias to our king.**

### **Prayer over the Gifts**

Let us pray:

Gracious God,

**accept the offering of your Church, the hearts of your people  
joined in praise and thanksgiving, in the name of Jesus Christ  
the Lord. Amen.**

### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth, you  
have revealed your eternal plan of salvation, and have shown your  
Son Jesus Christ to be the light of all peoples.

Therefore with angels and archangels we raise our voices in joyful  
praise to proclaim the glory of your name:

**Holy, most holy all holy the Lord,  
in power and wisdom for ever adored.  
The earth and the heavens are full of your love;  
our joyful hosannas re-echo above.**

**Blessèd, most blessèd, all blessèd is he  
whose life makes us whole, and whose death sets us free:  
who comes in the name of the Father of light,  
let endless hosannas resound in the height.**

We give thanks to you, Lord our God,  
for the goodness and love  
you have made known to us in creation;  
in calling Israel to be your people;  
in your Word spoken through the prophets;  
and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son.  
For in these last days you sent him  
to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.  
In him, you have delivered us from evil,  
and made us worthy to stand before you.  
In him, you have brought us out of error into truth,  
out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over  
to suffering and death,  
a death he freely accepted,  
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread;  
and when he had given thanks to you,  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples,  
and said, "Take, eat:  
this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine;  
and when he had given thanks,  
he gave it to them,  
and said, "Drink this, all of you:  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it,  
do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, O God, according to his command,

**we remember his death,  
we proclaim his resurrection,  
we await his coming in glory;**

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving  
to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation,  
this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God,  
to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts,  
that they may be the sacrament  
of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant.  
Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice,  
that we, made acceptable in him,  
may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ,  
and make them new, and bring us to that city of light  
where you dwell with all your children;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation,  
the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation;  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory  
are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*A brief silence is kept.*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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 for ever. Amen.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

We break the bread of life,  
and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us,  
light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

The gifts of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

*For those who are present in person, all baptized persons may receive Communion. If you prefer, Communion can be brought to you in your seat. Those who wish to receive a blessing instead of Communion may place a hand on their heart when they come forward.*

## **Spiritual Communion**

*For those who are worshipping with us online, we invite you to make your spiritual communion, by inviting Jesus into your heart, saying "Come, Lord Jesus."*

*A brief silence is kept.*

**Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

## **Communion Hymns**

### **Hymn – CP126 – Away in a Manger**

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus—look down from on high  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me for ever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with you there.

### **Hymn CP136 – While Shepherds Watched**

While shepherds watched their flocks by night  
all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down  
and glory shone around.

“Fear not,” said he, for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind.  
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and human-kind.

To you in David’s town this day  
is born of David’s line  
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;  
and this shall be the sign:

the heavenly babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,  
and in a manger laid.”

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who thus  
addressed their joyful song:

“All glory be to God on high,  
and to the world be peace;

good will henceforth from heaven to earth  
begin, and never cease.”

**Hymn – CP148 – See Amid the Winter’s Snow**

See amid the winter’s snow,  
born for us on earth below,  
see, the tender Lamb appears,  
promised from eternal years!

*Hail, thou ever blessèd morn!*

*Hail, redemption’s happy dawn!*

*Sing through all Jerusalem:*

*Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Lo, within a manger lies  
he who built the starry skies,  
who enthroned in height sublime  
sits amid the cherubim.

*Refrain:*

Say, ye holy shepherds, say  
what your joyful news today;  
where-fore have ye left your sheep  
on the lonely mountain steep?

*Refrain:*

“As we watched at dead of night,  
lo, we saw a wondrous light;  
angels singing ‘Peace on earth’  
told us of the Saviour’s birth.”

*Refrain:*

Sacred infant, all divine,  
what a mighty love was thine,  
thus to come from highest bliss  
down to such a world as this!

*Refrain:*

## THE COMMUNITY IS SENT OUT

*Please stand as you are able.*

### **Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray:

God of all the nations of the earth,  
**guide us with your light. Help us to recognize Christ as he comes to us in this eucharist and in our neighbours. May we welcome him with love, for he is Lord now and for ever. Amen.**

Glory to God,  
**whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

#### **Closing: CP145 – Good King Wenceslas**

**Good King Wenceslas looked out  
on the feast of Stephen,  
when the snow lay round about,  
deep and crisp and even.  
Brightly shone the moon that night,  
though the frost was cruel,  
when a poor man came in sight,  
gathering winter fuel.**

**“Hither, page, and stand by me,  
if thou knowest it, telling:  
yonder peasant, who is he?  
Where and what his dwelling?  
“Sire, he lives a good league hence,  
underneath the mountain,  
right against the forest fence,  
by St. Agnes’ fountain.”**

**“Bring me flesh and bring me wine,  
bring me pine-logs hither:  
thou and I will see him dine,  
when we bear them thither.”  
Page and monarch forth they went,  
forth they went together,  
through the rude wind’s wild lament,  
and the bitter weather.**

**“Sire, the night is darker now,  
and the wind blows stronger:  
fails my heart, I know not how;  
I can go no longer.”  
“Mark my footsteps, my good page;  
tread thou in them boldly.  
Thou shalt find the winter’s rage  
freeze thy blood less coldly.”**

**In his master’s steps he trod,  
where the snow lay dinted;  
heat was in the very sod  
which the saint had printed.  
Therefore, Christians all, be sure,  
wealth and rank possessing,  
ye who now will bless the poor,  
shall yourselves find blessing.**

## **Dismissal**

**Go forth to follow the Light that has come into the world.  
Thanks be to God.**

## **OUR LEADERS TODAY**

*Celebrant & Preacher*  
*Organist*  
*Pianist*  
*Crucifer*  
*Reader*

The Rev. Susan Spicer  
Sylvia Amesbury  
Linda Parsons  
John Amesbury  
Marilyn Marshall



*Intercessor*  
*Communion Assistants*  
*Technical Team*  
*Prayer Ministry*  
*Anointing*

Ted Hodgkinson  
Marilyn LaMarche  
Jason Conrad/Dalton George  
Bette Holder/Don Winslow  
Cathy Olley

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