

Worship on January 9, 2022 (CCLI: License Number #3156883)

(Welcoming Elder: Anne Newman)

Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 183 – Christ, when for us you were baptized
- Prayer for worship + Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: Mark 1:1-11
- Sermon: The Meaning of Epiphany
- The Lord's Table

We Respond

- Offering & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – BOP 686 – How firm a foundation

We Serve

- Benediction

Announcements:

. Welcome! Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us today. This is Sunday, January 9th, 2022. Even in these difficult situations around us, God is good. May God's goodness be experienced to all of us as we worship God today.

. Today, we are having ONLINE church ONLY because of recent spike of COVID situation. For a few weeks, we will inform you whether or not we will have the off-line church in our building. Please check your community email regularly.

. Today, during our worship, we will have the Lord's Table. Please prepare your own elements.

. Thank you for your continuing support with your gifts. As we offer our gifts to the Lord, let us give our hearts and our lives to the Lord as well. May God be in the centre of your hearts.

As we come into the presence of our God, let us calm down our hearts and minds, and focus on our Lord.

Responsive Call to Worship

One: Beloved, God chooses us and calls us by name.

All: We belong to God. Alleluia!

One: Our lives have purpose because we belong to God.

All: We are called to be like Christ and follow him.

One: We will find joy, peace, and restoration through God's amazing grace.

All: Let us worship God who claims us and loves us! Praise be to God!

Praise song – BOP 183 – Christ, when for us you were baptized

<u>Vs. 1</u> Christ, when for us you were baptized, God's Spirit on you came As peaceful as a dove And yet as urgent as a flame	<u>Vs. 2</u> God called you the beloved Son Called you the servant true Sent you the kingdom to proclaim, God's holy will to do
<u>Vs. 3</u> Straightway and steadfast until death You then obeyed the call Freely as Son of Man To serve and give you life for all	<u>Vs. 4</u> Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord Your cross on us be signed That likewise in God's service we may perfect a find

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

Creator of the sun and moon and stars, You stir in our midst to reveal your light.

By the work of your Spirit, you lead us in new directions. Your beloved Son has called us to new life and by his grace, reconciles the divisions among us. Holy One, we praise you for the blessings you give us in our baptism into Christ, and through your love that surrounds us day by day. To you we give all praise, glory and honor, through Jesus Christ, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and always.

Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, but we confess that we prefer our old, familiar ways. We cling to destructive habits, we harbor grudges, and we are reluctant to welcome a stranger or forgive one another. Nostalgia for the past prevents us from exploring new possibilities. In your loving kindness, forgive us. Have mercy upon us and move among us so that we might pursue new life in Christ together.

This time we come to you in prayer that you taught us how to pray: (The Lord's Prayer:)

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 forever. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Sisters and brothers in Christ at St. Andrew's, Do not be afraid, for Christ has redeemed you. Baptized in the deep waters of death, he has washed away your sins. Risen from death, he invites you to be washed in the cleansing tide of God's mercy. Your sins are forgiven; be at peace with God, with yourself, and with each other.

Prayer for Illumination:

Holy Spirit, you blessed Jesus in his baptism, proclaiming him beloved of God. As we give our attention to God's holy Word, descend on us, we pray. Speak to us of God's love for us and renew our faith and commitment to follow Jesus, God's living Word. Amen.

Scripture: Mark 1:1-11

1 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; 3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” 4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. 8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” 9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. 11 And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

“This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God.”

SERMON: The meaning of Epiphany

Today’s title is “The Meaning of Epiphany.”

Today, we celebrate Epiphany. What is Epiphany?

Epiphany came from a Greek word epiphaneia or theophaneia.

Epi means upon

Phaino means to show

These combined words mean appearance or manifestation.

OR Theo means God, and phaino means to show, it is the day showing God. Appearance of God.

In ancient world, epiphany was used when a respected kings or rulers formally visited cities. They respected them, so their presence was honoured by calling their visit epiphany. It was respected and honoured like the appearance of God.

But for believers, like the light clearly shows itself in the darkness, epiphany is used for God reveals himself clearly in Jesus Christ. The glory of God is appeared in Jesus Christ. Epiphany indicates the appearance of God in Jesus Christ. Manifestation of God in Jesus Christ.

It is not that Jesus Christ showed himself to the world, but God revealed himself to the world in Jesus Christ. So, Epiphany is the day that the presence of God was clearly displayed for us through Jesus Christ.

Today’s passage is one of the most significant appearances of God in Jesus Christ.

John the Baptist baptized Jesus. Then this happened. **V10 – And just as Jesus was coming out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”**

God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit are together on this picture.

God revealed his voice and the Holy Spirit was seen, for the first time.

Therefore, on the day of Epiphany, we remember and celebrate the presence of God displayed on the baptism of Jesus Christ.

Through this, we can think about Christological Epiphany, Ecclesial Epiphany, and Apostolic Epiphany.

First of all, Christological Epiphany. Epiphany is the day of the completion of the promise of the Coming King the Old Testament. If I summarize the theme of the Old Testament in two words, it is the Coming Messiah. The Old Testament is filled with the promise and the prophecies of the Coming Messiah.

We say Jesus Christ. Some think Jesus is his first name and Christ is his last name. That's what I thought for a long time. But, Christ is his title. Christ means Anointed One, the Chosen One. In the Old Testament, they anointed king, prophet, and priest. So, Jesus Christ plays all these roles. Jesus becomes our King, Jesus displays the completion of all the prophecies, and Jesus sacrificed himself as our priest. This indicates that Jesus saved us. So, we call Jesus Christ the Saviour. Epiphany is the day we celebrate and remember the saving work of God displayed in Jesus Christ.

Ecclesial Epiphany. The origin of church is Ecclesia. This means the people called by God. We are the people called by God. We are church.

Matthew 4:16-17, "the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

The message of Ecclesial Epiphany, to the church, should show Jesus clearly.

Who is Jesus Christ?

Jesus came to the world as light. He is **a great light**. He shone his light to those who were in darkness. With proclaiming his identity, he began his ministry in Galilee. Starting from Galilee, Jesus calls his disciples. His light is to be spread through his disciples, through us, his church. We are his church. We are to carry the great light to the world. This is the message given to the church.

Apostolic Epiphany. Today, I am using too much Greek. Apostello is to send. Apostle is the people who are sent. We are sent by God. We need to have clear definition of who we are.

Matthew 5:14, Jesus says to us, **"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hid."** You are the light of the world. Church is the light of the world.

We are saved by God. We have the life of God. We have seen Jesus, the Great Light. We are sent to the world to display God revealed in Jesus Christ.

Apostle Paul urges his disciples in the church of Philippi. Philippians 2:12-15, **"12 Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. 14 Do**

all things without murmuring and arguing, 15 so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world.”

Live like you have God. Follow his steps. Obey God. Therefore, you shine like stars in the world. We are sent to shine like stars in this hurting world. We are to shine the light of Jesus Christ to this darkness. We, church, are the light.

In this season of Epiphany, we are thinking of the wisemen who came to Baby Jesus. We remember the baptism of Jesus. Also, we remember Jesus' first miracle, which he turned water into wine. Through all these, God's glory and power were revealed to us in Jesus Christ. God's light was shone to us in Jesus Christ. And the light came to us. And we became the light.

As the light of the world, shine your light. Display the life we have received. Show the love of God we have in our hearts. May the people around you see God through you.

Let us pray.

Father God, Son God, the Holy Spirit God, thank you for your presence among us. Even though we are staying in our own places, we are together in you. Thank you for the connectedness and thank you for your grace and love overflowing in our lives.

Epiphany, we celebrate the appearance of God in Jesus Christ. We celebrate the Coming of the Messiah. We celebrate the great light. The light came to us and we became light. Praise the Lord. Thank you. Let us live as who we are. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

The Lord's Table THIS is time for the Lord's Table.

This is the joyful feast of the people of God. They will come from east and west and from north and south, and sit at the table in the kingdom of God.

This is the Lord's Table. Our Saviour Jesus Christ invites all those who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

(Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:) ***(Please say BOLD print together)***

L: The Lord be with you. **P: And also, with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts. **P: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

L: It is our greatest calling and greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, Father God. In your Son Jesus Christ the Word became flesh, giving us a vision of your glory, that all people might be brought out of darkness into your marvellous light. With apostles and prophets, and great cloud of witnesses who live for you beyond all time and space, **we lift our hearts in joyful praises.**

(Sanctus) Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of Your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

L: We praise you most holy God, for sending your only Son Jesus to live among us, full of grace and truth. Sharing our joy and sorrow, he healed the sick and was a friend of sinners. Obeying you, Jesus took his cross and did that we might live. We praise you that he overcame death and is

risen to rule the world. He is still the friend of sinners. We trust him to overcome every power that can hurt or divide us, and we believe that when he comes in glory we will celebrate victory with him. With hope and expectation, **we proclaim the mystery of faith:**

P: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

L: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine, that we may be one with Christ and he with us. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honour and glory are yours, Tender and Mighty God, now and forever.

Breaking of the BREAD and Pouring the WINE – prepare your Bread and Wine

Take, eat, remember, and believe that the precious body of our Lord Jesus Christ was given for the complete forgiveness of all our sins. (BREAD)

“This is the **body** of Christ, broken for you.” (Let us take it)

Take, drink, remember, and believe that the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ was shed for the complete forgiveness of all our sins. (CUP)

“This is the **blood** of Christ, poured out for you.” (Let us drink it)

Prayer after Communion:

Jesus you are the hope of all nations. You are the source of hope of every difficult situation. We come to your presence relying upon your grace and love. As we celebrate the appearance of God in Jesus Christ displayed for us, our lives may be made new with your light.

Because we are renewed with your body and blood, strengthen us and help us live with you.

We pray for the world. It is suffering with corona virus. There are different kinds of variants. Although there are vaccines and boosters, this virus develops faster. Some countries are ready to protect all their people with enough vaccines, but on the other hand, some other countries are short of supplies. It would take many years for them to be vaccinated. Different background, different resources, different politics. Different lives. But, we share the same earth, same environment, same issues, same problems, same future. Help us open our hearts. Help us embrace each other and gather our hearts and power together so we can overcome our common problems together. Give wisdom to the people who are leading countries, so together, we can protect our future and our future generations.

With the spread of corona virus, the school shifted to online. Children are staying home now. It is good that we can protect them, but their lives are becoming too narrow. Their various opportunities are taken away. Online school is provided and it is the best option right now.

However, still, we are worried and concerned about our children and youth.

Heavenly Father, give wisdom to all the teachers and leaders of educational system, and pour out your wisdom upon parents and children and youth, so in this limited situation, help us find our best options. Help us give our best to our children and youth. Protect them with health and wellness and patience and love.

Schools are closed, but work is not. Many many parents are having difficult times. Help us.

Gracious Father God, we pray for our church. It is shifted online church again because of virus. This Corona virus is too big. Give us wisdom and courage to shine your light to our surroundings. We need your wisdom to step forward. We need your power to follow your steps. Right now, we stay still, to know your will. Open our hearts and ears.

We also pray for our members. This cold weather is challenging. Icy road is dangerous. Protect our church members. Provide energy and power, health and wellness. Help all of us to love our family members. Help us understand each other and be patient with each other, so we share your love among our family members, so your love may overflow through our daily lives.

You are our King and Lord. We are your light. Shine your light to the world through our lives. In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering.

In the season of Epiphany, God's gift to us in Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. Our gifts to God in Christ's name reveal our commitment to the love and mercy, the forgiveness and hope we have received. Our gifts proclaim that we are beloved by God and God is beloved by us. Let us pray for our offering.

Offering prayer:

God our Maker, we bring our gifts to you in thanksgiving for your gifts to us in Christ and in creation. Bless what we bring and who we are, so that our gifts will bless the world you love in Christ's name. Amen.

Song for the Journey BOP# 685 How Firm a Foundation

Vs. 1 How firm a foundation Ye saints of the Lord Is laid for your faith in God's excellent word What more can God say than to you hath been said to you that for refuge to Jesus have fled	Vs. 2 Fear not, I am with thee Oh be not dismayed For I am thy God And will still give thee aid I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand
Vs. 3 When through the deep waters I call thee to go The rivers of woe shall not thee overflow For I will be with thee thy troubles to bless And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress	Vs. 4 When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie My grace all sufficient shall be thy supply The flames shall not hurt thee I only design thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine
Vs. 5 The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose I will not I will not desert to his foes That soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake I'll never no, never no, never forsake	

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. God is shown to us in Jesus Christ. God's light came to us in Jesus Christ. His light found us and we became his light. With the light of God, let us shine our light to the world. Let us cast out the darkness around us.

Benediction: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with us all, now and always. Amen.