



TWELFTH NIGHT

Eve of the Epiphany



Thursday, January 5, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Duke University Chapel

TWELFTH NIGHT

Eve of the Epiphany



In 567 AD, the Council of Tours established a twelve-day Christmas festival lasting from December 25 until Epiphany on January 6. Twelfth Night, the Eve of the Epiphany, is a transitional observance: The church still celebrates the birth of Jesus, but looks beyond the nativity toward the revelation of Christ to the whole world.

Derived from the Greek *epiphainein* (“reveal”), the earliest Epiphany celebrations included three such stories of revelation: the visit of the magi to Bethlehem, the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River, and his first miracle at the wedding in Cana. Over time, the visit of the magi became the primary narrative of Epiphany, and the other episodes were remembered on subsequent Sundays. But no matter how the liturgical details have changed, the arc of the Advent–Christmas–Epiphany cycle remains the same: We celebrate the promised, covenant love of God incarnate in Jesus Christ, the Morning Star, the light of the world.

Our gospel readings this evening include stories of travel and searching: the magi journey to Jerusalem and Bethlehem; the holy family flees to Egypt before they are able to return safely to Nazareth. Therefore, Twelfth Night is an appropriate time to remember immigrants and refugees, and to give thanks for the gifts of shelter and home.

In parts of eastern Europe, it is a tradition to bless the home on Twelfth Night or Epiphany, with a chalk inscription made above the dwelling’s main door: 20 + CMB + 23. The numbers change with the new year, while the letters stand for the Latin phrase *Christe mansionem benedicat* (“Christ, bless this house”) or the legendary names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar). Our service begins tonight with this blessing of the Chapel. We encourage you to take this worship guide and use this liturgy—from the Greeting through the Prayer of Blessing—to bless your own home.

***Please rise as able**

Prelude

Weihnachten, Op. 145, No. 3

Max Reger
(1873–1916)

Choral Introit

The Wexford Carol

arr. Martin Shaw
(1875–1958)

Good people all, this Christmastime, consider well and bear in mind
what our good God for us has done, in sending his beloved Son.
With Mary holy we should pray to God with love on Christmas Day;
in Bethlehem upon that morn there was a blest Messiah born.

The night before that happy tide, the noble Virgin and her guide
were long time seeking up and down to find a lodging in the town.
But mark how all things came to pass: From every door repelled, alas!
As long foretold, their refuge all was but an humble oxen stall.

—*Irish traditional*

***Greeting** | Please stand and face the main entrance to the Chapel.

Leader: May peace be to this house and to all who enter here.

People: **By wisdom a house is built and through understanding it is established;
through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures.**

***Reading** | John 1:1–4, 14, 16

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

***Inscription** | This inscription is made with chalk above the primary entrance:

20 † C M B † 23

The magi of old, known as
C Caspar,
M Melchior, and
B Balthasar

followed the star of God's Son who came to dwell among us
20 two thousand
23 and twenty-three years ago.
† Christ, bless this house,
† and remain with us throughout the new year.

*Prayer of Blessing

Let us pray.

O God, you revealed your Son to all people by the shining light of a star.

We pray that you bless this place of refuge and all who gather here with your gracious presence.

May your love be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light,
and your peace our benediction; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Processional Hymn

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET



1. O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's own
2. Come, pre - cious dia - mond, light di - vine, and deep with - in our
3. Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there falls from



truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy! Of Ja - cob's line, King
hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing! In your one bod - y
God a - bove a ray of pur - est plea - sure. Your word and Spir - it,



Da - vid's son, our Lord and Sav - ior, you have won our hearts to
let us be as liv - ing branch - es of a tree, your life our
flesh and blood re - fresh our souls with heav'n - ly food. You are our



serve you on - ly! Low - ly, ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious,
lives sup - ply - ing. Now, though dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us
dear - est trea - sure! Let your mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us!



rich in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
and dis - tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.
For you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.

First Reading | Isaiah 60:1-6

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.

This the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*Hymn

As With Gladness Men of Old

DIX



1. As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
2. As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
3. As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
4. Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
5. In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

Second Reading | Luke 2:1-16, 21

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

This the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (Huron Carol)

arr. Richard Erickson

'Twas in the moon of wintertime when all the birds had fled,
that mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead.
Before their light the stars grew dim,
and wand'ring hunters heard the hymn:

*Jesus your king is born! Jesus is born!
Glory be to God on high!*

The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair
as was the ring of glory around the infant there.
And when the shepherds then drew near
the angel voices rang out clear:

*Jesus your king is born! Jesus is born!
Glory be to God on high!*

O children of the forest free, the angels' song is true.
The holy child of earth and heav'n is born today for you.
Come, kneel before the radiant boy,
who brings you beauty, peace, and joy.

*Jesus your king is born! Jesus is born!
Glory be to God on high!*

—*Jean de Brebeuf (1593–1699),
trans. J. E. Middleton (1872–1960)*

Third Reading | Luke 2:22–32, 36–38

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



*Hymn

He Came Down

HE CAME DOWN

1. He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
2. He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
3. He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4. He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have light; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have joy; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.

Fourth Reading | Matthew 2:1-11

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Excerpts from *Christus*, Op. 97

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809–1847)

recitative

When Jesus, our Lord, was born
in Bethlehem, in the land of Judea;
Behold, from the east to the city
of Jerusalem there came wise men and said:

trio

Say, where is he born, the king of Judea?
for we have seen his star, and are come to adore him.

chorus

There shall a star from Jacob come forth,
and a sceptre from Israel rise up,
and dash in pieces princes and nations.

How brightly beams the morning star!
What sudden radiance from afar
with light and comfort glowing.
Thy Word, O Lord,
inly feeds us, rightly leads us,
life bestowing.
Praise, oh, praise such love o'erflowing!

—*Matthew 2:1–2; Numbers 24:17; Psalm 2:9;*
Philipp Nicolai (1556–1608)

Fifth Reading | Matthew 2:13-23

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



*Hymn

Gentle Joseph Heard a Warning

JEFFERSON



1. Gen - tle Jo - seph heard a warn - ing from an an - gel in the night;
2. Tar - gets of a ty - rant's ar - my, seek - ing safe - ty, flee - ing strife,
3. Give us, God, such faith and cour - age when we move from place to place,



val - iant Mar - y, maid - en moth - er, roused from sleep, pre - pared for flight:
leav - ing house and land and kin - dred, spurred by dreams of peace - ful life;
and to those who come a - mong us, make us chan - nels of your grace.



thus the Christ - child's fam - 'ly lived out what the proph - et had fore - told,
through the des - ert of un - know - ing and the night of doubt they went,
Let us see in ev - 'ry strang - er ref - u - gees from Beth - le - hem,



that he might be called from E - gypt as God's peo - ple were of old.
guid - ed by God's prom - ised pres - ence, by that trust made con - fi - dent.
help us of - fer each one wel - come and re - ceive the Christ in them.

Sixth Reading | Refugee

We think of him as safe beneath the steeple,
Or cosy in a crib beside the font,
But he is with a million displaced people
On the long road of weariness and want.
For even as we sing our final carol
His family is up and on that road,
Fleeing the wrath of someone else's quarrel,
Glancing behind and shouldering their load.
Whilst Herod rages still from his dark tower
Christ clings to Mary, fingers tightly curled,
The lambs are slaughtered by the men of power,
And death squads spread their curse across the world.
But every Herod dies, and comes alone
To stand before the Lamb upon the throne.

—Malcolm Guite

Hymn Anthem | The choir sings the stanzas; all join on the refrain.

See, Amid the Winter's Snow

John Goss
(1800–1880)

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

Refrain:

Hail, thou ev - er - bless - ed morn; hail, re-demp - tion's hap - py dawn;
sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem, Christ is born in Beth - le - hem.

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The first system covers the first two lines of text, and the second system covers the next two lines. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords that support the vocal melody.

Lo, within a manger lies he who built the starry skies;
he who, throned in light sublime, sits amid the cherubim:

Refrain

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

Refrain

Teach, O teach us, Holy Child, by thy face so meek and mild,
teach us to resemble thee, in thy sweet humility.

Refrain

Seventh Reading | Ordinary Holiness

Wonder
is at the root
of praise.
Wonder
is at the heart
of Christmas,
and not for one day only
but for each waking day.
At the heart
of Christ's incarnation
is the truth
that God makes extraordinary things
happen
in ordinary places,
that heaven and earth
holy and earthly
God and human
are intertwined
The wonder of Christmas
desires to creep
into every living moment,
so that we behold
the glory of God.
The wonder of this holy day
points to the wonder in all days;
the wonder of the Bethlehem stable
teaches us to find
the wonder in all places;
the wonder of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus
leads to the wonder
in the faces of ordinary people.
(O Mary,
Life
Is
holy...)

—Susan Palo Cherwien (1953–2021)

Anthem

Come, Love We God

Daniel Pinkham
(1923–2006)

Come, love we God! Of might is most
The Father, Son, the Holy Ghost,
regnante jam in aethera (now reigning in the sky);
The which made man, both more and less,
and create him to his likeness,
O quanta sunt haec opera (how great are thy works).

The herdsmen came with their off'ring
for to present that pretty thing
cum summa reverentia (with utmost reverence).
They gave their gifts that child until
They were received with full goodwill;
Quam grata sunt haec munera (How welcome are these gifts)!

Three kings came from the east country,
which knew they by astronomy,
et Balam vaticinia (and Balam's prophecy);
They offer'd him gold, myrrh, incense;
He took them with great diligence:
Quam digna est infantia (How worthy is the infancy).

They turned again full merrily,
Each came unto his own country:
O Dei mirabilia (O God of wonders).
They had heaven's bliss at their ending,
The which God grant us old and young.
Deo Patri sit Gloria (to God the Father be the glory).

—*anonymous, collected by Richard Shanne, 1611*

*Closing Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

People: **Blessed are you, O God, fountain of creation, for you are not a God far-off, but God-with-us. May our hearts be open to you, that we, like Mary, may give birth to holy love in this world, in this season and always, through the power of Christ Jesus and your Spirit, now and unto all ages of ages. Amen.**

*Choral Benediction

When the Song of the Angels is Stilled

Elizabeth Alexander

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost, to heal the broken,
To feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations, to bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.

—Howard Thurman (1899–1981)

*Closing Hymn | Stanzas 4–6

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET



4. Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us, when not
5. Oh, let the harps break forth in sound! Our joy be all with
6. What joy to know, when life is past, the Lord we love is



yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion! Your Son has ran -
mu - sic crowned, our voic - es gai - ly blend - ing! For Christ goes with
first and last, the end and the be - gin - ning! He will one day,



somed us in love to live with him here and a - bove: this is your
us all the way— to - day, to - mor - row, ev - 'ry day! His love is
oh, glo - rious grace, trans - port us to that hap - py place be - yond all



great sal - va - tion. Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing
nev - er end - ing! Sing out! Ring out! Ju - bi - la - tion! Ex - ul - ta - tion!
tears and sin - ning! A - men! A - men! Come, Lord Je - sus! Crown of glad - ness!



life for - ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!
Tell the sto - ry! Praise to Christ, who reigns in glo - ry!
We are yearn - ing for the day of your re - turn - ing.

Postlude

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern, BuxWV 223

Dietrich Buxtehude
(c. 1637–1707)

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