

Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Metcalfe  
FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY  
January 1, 2023  
Reverend Michael Fleming

Fr. Michael: We welcome the new secular year. As we begin our first service for 2023, we acknowledge that this sacred space and the places we call home lie on the unceded territory of the Anishanabee people.

People: **May we live and grow together with mutual respect in a spirit of reconciliation and hope.**

Fr. Michael: O Star-flinging God whose light dances across eternity, dazzle us into your presence this new year. Open our hearts to the mystery of your love. Awaken us to your presence, knit to the ordinary. Reveal to us what is possible but not yet present. Heal us so that we might be healers.

Reconcile us to you and to ourselves so that our living may be reconciling. Stop us often, we pray with news that is good, with hope that holds and with truth that transforms with a Word tailored to this path we are on. May the Word of your grace guide our steps like the sun by day and the north star by night as we begin to travel into the gift that is this new year. And the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

(Glenn Mitchell posted on MINemergent's Daily Communique re: Worship)

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: As community which has been led by a star to find our kneeling places in a cave in the hills near Bethlehem, we pray, Almighty God

People: **to you all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom 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 glorious name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, our North Star. Amen**

Fr. Michael: Eternal God, who by a star led Magi 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 forever. **Amen**

Eternal God and Creator, you have placed us in a world of time and space, and through the events of our lives, you bless us with your love. Grant that in this new year, we may know your presence more deeply, see your love at work more clearly and live more consciously in the light of the Incarnation which gives us joy forever – the coming of your Son Jesus our Lord. **Amen**

(The Reverend Thomas L Weitzel from Liturgy by TLW)

Reader: A reading from the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 60:1-6)

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See,

darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. "Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: Our Psalm for this new year's first day is from Psalm 72 (Psalm 72: 1-14)

Give the king your justice, O God,

All: **and your righteousness to the king's son;** Reader: That he may rule your people righteously

All: **and the poor with justice;**

Reader: That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,

All: **and the little hills bring righteousness.**

Reader: He shall defend the needy among the people;

All: **he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

Reader: He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,

All: **from one generation to another.**

Reader: He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,

All: **like showers that water the earth.**

Reader: In his time shall the righteous flourish;

All: **there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.**

Reader: He shall rule from sea to sea,

All: **and from the River to the ends of the earth.**

Reader: His foes shall bow down before him,

All: **and his enemies lick the dust.**

Reader: The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute,

All: **and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.**

Reader: All kings shall bow down before him,

All: **and all the nations do him service.**

Reader: For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress,

All: **and the oppressed who has no helper.**

Reader: He shall have pity on the lowly and poor;

All: **he shall preserve the lives of the needy.**

Reader: He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence,

All: **and dear shall their blood be in his sight.**

Reader: A reading from the letter of Paul to the church at Ephesus (Ephesians 3: 1-12)

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me

for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Fr. Michael: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ according to the blessed St. Matthew (St. Matthew 2: 1-12)

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

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Fr. Michael: This is the very Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Homily

Fr. Michael: Let us begin our new year in community by affirming, I believe in God, the Father Almighty,

All: **creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Reader: God of the prophets, God of Christ: we are reminded today that your blessings do not necessarily follow the logic of this world. The world believes that the rich are blessed, but Jesus reminds us that it is the poor who are blessed, the poor in spirit and the materially poor as well. We remember of this new year day the social workers, the street workers, the justice advocates who spend their lives trying to bring hope and love to the mean streets; we think of all the front line workers who have struggled through this time of pandemic, offering their skills, talents and above all else their time to walk with those affected into wholeness and recovery.

People: **We praise you and we thank you, Lord of the New.**

Reader: Though we fear death and its inevitable arrival in our midst, Jesus tell us that those who grieve and mourn are blessed. Help us to experience the truth of this mystery; bring healing and wholeness to those who are sick or suffering in mind, body or spirit Louise, Marjorie, Richard and Deb L., Howard, Irene, Beth, Roy, Zachariah, Sarah, Jeanette, and Cheryl. and especially on this new year day, we hold before you all those who work in palliative care facilities, in hospices and hospitals, in our funeral homes as they minister to those who have lost loved ones.

People: **We praise you and we thank you, Lord of the New.**

Reader: While people covet and crave for power, Jesus blesses the meek. Instruct us Lord in the ways of humility and sacrifice; help us to stand in solidarity with the oppressed and the marginalized and show us your presence in the faces of those whom the world has forgotten or marginalized.

People: **We praise you and we thank you, Lord of the New.**

Reader: Give us a hunger and a thirst for righteousness; fill our hearts with love which overflows into mercy; make our hearts pure and give us a vision of your glory.

People: **We praise you and we thank you, Lord of the New.**

Reader: In a society divided by race, gender, class, ideology, sexual orientation and so many other labels that we have created, remind us that we ALL are created in your image, each of us a beautiful reflection of you, each us a beloved child. Help us to end our conflicts so that we may be peacemakers and reconcilers. May your churches, mosques, synagogues and temples be havens of hope and safe harbours for all, remembering especially at this time Shane, our Bishop; Anne, our Metropolitan; Linda, our Primate;

Reader: as well as The Diocese of Jerusalem and Archbishop Hosam Naoum, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and Bishop Susan Johnson and Bishop Michael Pryse. We also remember the Church of the Epiphany, Gloucester and The Reverend Simone Hurkmans, and All Saints Westboro, The Venerable Chris Dunn and The Reverend Chung Yan Lam

People: **We praise you and we thank you, Lord of the New.**

Reader: Gracious God, you have so richly blessed us with life, with love and joy, with hope in the midst of despair. Help us to share that which we have received, boldly proclaiming the good news of your love and letting your ways grow in our lives and in our worlds. Give us eyes to see the ways you are changing the world and planting kingdom seeds within us. Give us ears to hear and respond to your will and to join you in the great transformation you are bringing. Hear us now, O Lord, as we pray on this new year day for the coming of your kingdom. **Amen**

( from Literature and Liturgy adapted by RMF)

Fr. Michael: As we begin this new year, we pray Holy God

People: **we do not deserve a room in your dwelling- place for we have not led blameless lives; we have not done what is right in your sight or spoken the truth which you have sealed in our hearts. We have done evil to both those whom we love and to those whom we refuse to love as we should. We have not been faithful stewards of all that with which we have been blessed and we have hoarded that which we should have shared with the least of your children. Hear our cry, Lord of our hope as we confess that which weighs us down. Redeeming God, save us from our foolishness and guide us in your wisdom; gather us in your righteousness and redemption; forgive us for we are seeking light and your salvation; cleanse us of your brokenness so that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you.**

Fr. Michael: Because we are not worthy to enter God's dwelling, God came to dwell among us, through the body and being of his Son Jesus. Christ came to be with us, amongst us and for us., Hear the good news of the Gospel – in and through Jesus Christ we are forgiven. **Alleluia and Amen!** And may the peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

WE SHARE THE PEACE WITH OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS (from our pews)

Fr. Michael: Gracious God, accept the offering of your Church, the hearts of your people joined in praise and thanksgiving in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Fr. Michael: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Fr. Michael: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Fr. Michael: Blessed are you gracious God, creator of heaven and earth, because in the mystery of the word made flesh you have revealed your eternal plan for salvation, and have shown your Son Jesus Christ to be the light of the world and the hope of all peoples. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we raise our voices in joyful praise, to proclaim the glory of your name:

People: **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.**

Fr. Michael: Gracious God, in the fullness of time you sent your Son Jesus to share our fragile humanity. Through His life, death and resurrection, you open the path from brokenness to health, from fear to trust. From pride and conceit to reverence for you. Rejected by a world which could not bear the Gospel of Life, Jesus knew that death was near. His head anointed for burial by an unknown woman, Jesus gathered together those who loved him. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it and gave it to his friends saying, "Take and eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave you thanks and said, "Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

And now we gather at this table in response to his commandment, to share the bread and the cup of Christ's undying love, and to proclaim our faith

People: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Fr. Michael: Breathe your Holy Spirit, the wisdom of the universe, upon these gifts which we bring to you: this bread, this wine, our selves, our souls and bodies that we may be signs of your love for all the world and ministers of your transforming purpose. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, Creator of all, and we bless your holy name forever. **Amen**

Fr. Michael: And now, as Jesus has gifted it to his beloved Church, so we pray, "Our Father

People: **hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Fr. Michael: We break the bread of life and that life is the light of the world.

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

Fr. Michael: the gifts of God for the whole children of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Fr. Michael: God of the nations of the world, guide us with your light. Help us to recognize Jesus as he comes to us in this eucharist, in our neighbours and especially in the lives of the strangers who will cross our paths. May we welcome Jesus as He comes to us through others, for He is Lord now and forever. **Amen**

Fr. Michael: Christ of the East, Christ of the South, Christ of the West, Christ of the North: we turn our hearts to you, hoping and praying for peace and love and life to dispel the shadows of war and death. We turn our faces to you, trusting and believing for love and grace to shine upon us and to radiate to all from us. We turn our lives to you, even if we only know in part what we will one day know fully even as we are fully known. And now, may faith, hope and love, but love most of all, abide in us as we journey together through this new year. So, may the Lord Jesus who walks on wounded feet walk with you to the end of the road.

Fr. Michael: May the Lord Jesus who serves with wounded hands teach you to love and serve each other. May the Lord Jesus, who loves with wounded heart be your love forever. So bless God where you go; see the face of Christ in everyone you see and take with you from this place the blessing of God, earth – maker, life – giver, pain – bearer to be with you today and to remain with you and yours always. **Amen**

(Bishop Victoria Matthews, Auckland New Zealand)  
Dismissal

Worship follows the Holy Eucharist in the Book of Alternative Services.

Copyright © 2004 by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada.

All rights reserved.

Reproduced under licence from ABC Publishing, Anglican Book Centre, a ministry of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada, from Anglican Liturgical Library. Further copying is prohibited.