

**CHRIST CHURCH PRESBYTERIAN**  
**January 6, 2019**

**“Epiphany Revelations”**

2000 First Ave NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405  
319-364-3612

[christchurchpres@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchpres@gmail.com)  
[www.christchurchnow.org](http://www.christchurchnow.org)



**Christ Church Presbyterian**  
**Epiphany of the Lord**

January 6, 2019

10:30 A.M.

*Called to love, serve and witness.*

Thought as we enter worship  
*The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul.* — G.K. Chesterton

**GATHERING**

*Quiet meditation time (Please fill out a blue or pink card with any prayer requests and put it in the collection plate.) – Thanks*

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Today, the words of God come to us, in love,  
**inviting us to not be afraid, but to place our faith in God.**

Today, the word of God comes to us, in faith,  
**inviting us to trust in the One who knows us,**  
to place our hope in the One who saves us.

**Today, the Word of God comes to us, in hope,**  
inviting us to be gracious in our love and in our service to others.

**\*UNISON INVOCATION:**

**O God, by the leading of a star, you revealed your love to the people of the earth. Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face. Amen.**

**\*HYMN      BLUE      #66      “We Three Kings of Orient Are”**

**\*CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

We hide them deep in the closets of our hearts, but God knows our secret failings. We sit in the shadows of our lives, but God sees the possibility we can become. We mumble our words, but God bends down to listen, and whisper grace and hope to us. Let us confess our sins to the One who loves us, as we pray together,

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of incredible patience, we must confess that our love is not always what we might hope it would be. We focus so much on ourselves, the needs of others pale in significance.

Too often, we find ourselves rejoicing in the miseries of others, believing they must have done something to deserve what comes their way. We continually push our families and friends away from us, simply by insisting that everything be done our way.

Faithful Deliverer of our foolish lives, forgive us and have mercy on us. As you rescue us from ourselves, may we become your people. As you touch us with faith, may we be witnesses to the world of your dreams. As you pour out hope upon us, may we be your compassion to those who hurt. As you drench us with your love which comes to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, may we be made whole.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God's love never ends! With this good news, we know we are forgiven; with this blessing, we know that we are healed.

**Now, we can bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, endure all things. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

inviting us to trust in the One who knows us,  
to place our hope in the One who saves us.

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

May the peace, love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you  
**And also with you.**

Let us greet one another in the name of the Lord.

\* BLUE #579 "*Gloria Patri*"

**THE PEOPLE OF GOD HEAR THE WORD****CHILDREN'S SERMON****HEARING GOD'S WORD Matthew 2:1-12 The Message (MSG)****Scholars from the East**

2 1-2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory— this was during Herod's kingship—a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, "Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. We're on pilgrimage to worship him."

3-4 When word of their inquiry got to Herod, he was terrified—and not Herod alone, but most of Jerusalem as well. Herod lost no time. He gathered all the high priests and religion scholars in the city together and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"

5-6 They told him, "Bethlehem, Judah territory. The prophet Micah wrote it plainly:

It's you, Bethlehem, in Judah's land,  
no longer bringing up the rear.

From you will come the leader  
who will shepherd-rule my people, my Israel."

7-8 Herod then arranged a secret meeting with the scholars from the East. Pretending to be as devout as they were, he got them to tell him exactly when the birth-announcement star appeared. Then he told them the prophecy about Bethlehem, and said, "Go find this child. Leave no stone unturned. As soon as you find him, send word and I'll join you at once in your worship."

9-10 Instructed by the king, they set off. Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time!

11 They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh.

12 In a dream, they were warned not to report back to Herod. So, they worked out another route, left the territory without being seen, and returned to their own country.

**MESSAGE "Epiphany Revelations"**

\*HYMN BLUE #367 "*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*"

**THE PEOPLE OF GOD RESPOND****THE OFFERING**

\*LIFTING PRAISE TO GOD – HYMN #593 *The Doxology*

\**Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving*

O God, in giving these gifts to you we are stating that we trust you to care for us. May we be as generous with your gifts to us as you are in giving them. This we ask in the name of the one who died for us, Amen.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

We give you praise and thanks, O Lord that you have called us to be your children. We are grateful for your love that led you to die for us and offer ourselves as your servants to be conduits of your love and grace in the world. With joy we thank you for the ways our

congregation has shown your love this week. We praise you for your grace, honor you for your love and rejoice in your mercy. With deepest gratitude we proclaim you God.

[Time for Silent Congregational Prayer]

O God of compassion, we ask that our hearts be moved to show compassion for others. We especially pray for those who have suffered the loss of loved ones, home, food and shelter. We pray for all those who are prisoners, those who suffer addictions, and those who suffer daily. We remember before you the sick and dying, those who are lonely, those who are victims of war, terror, and injustice. We ask for mercy for those who suffer abuse especially those who are enslaved and grace for those who oppress others. We recall all those who have worshipped with us in the past and are unable to do so today.

[Time for Silent Congregational Prayer]

O Lord of the nations, we pray for all those who exercise authority over others. May they remember that their power is granted them to care for their people. May they pursue peace and justice as they seek first your kingdom and your righteousness. Help us all remember we need your love and grace. Grant us the courage to model your mercy to those around us.

[Time for Silent Congregational Prayer]

O Lord Jesus, you are the head of the church, the beginning and the end of all things. Grant to the church universal your mercy as we struggle to follow you. Look on also upon the ministry of this congregation which you have called together with grace and kindness. Increase our courage, strengthen our faith, and inspire our witness to all people, even to the ends of the earth.

[Time for Silent Congregational Prayer]

O Gracious God, the source of all love and goodness, bless us with your Spirit as we seek to do your will. May we keep our hearts and thoughts on you through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray, saying:

***Our Father, who art in heaven, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.***

**SENDING OUT IN SERVICE**

**\*CLOSING HYMN BLUE #358 "Help Us Accept Each Other"**

**\*CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**\*HYMN BLUE #41 CHORUS ONLY "O Come Let Us Adore Him"**

**\*POSTLUDE**

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**\*Please rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.**

**Please join us for coffee and refreshments in Fellowship Hall after the service.**

**Church office hours: 8 am to Noon Monday through Thursday.  
For emergencies call The Rev. Tim Dyck 319-321-4154**