

The Church's Liturgical Year : Epiphany - The Light to the Gentiles



Wise Men
Still Seek Him

Twelfth Night - The climax of the Advent/Christmas Season and the Twelve Days of Christmas is Epiphany — counted from the evening of December 25th until the morning of January 6th. In the Church Calendar — 'The 3 Kings Day' celebrates Christ, the Light of the World, being revealed to the *Gentiles*. In Central and South America, this is so central to Churches' traditions that believers open Christmas presents on The 3 Kings Day, or late on the night before not Dec 25th.

We Three Kings of Orient Are... When I was doing research for this year's Advent series, I was surprised to find out that this Christmas carol may have been in error.

In 1857 John Henry Hopkins Jr, rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Williamsport PA, wrote the music and words for "We Three Kings" for a college Christmas pageant. It was the first American Christmas carol to be popular in Europe. It was added to the Episcopal Hymnal in 1916 and included in the 1928 Oxford Book of Carols as "one of the most successful of modern composed carols." Unfortunately Hopkins took poetic license.

In Matthew's Gospel it says: Magi [wise men/scholars] 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... 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." [Matt 2:2,3,11]

Magi is a term that appeared in 6th Century BC Greek literature and Persian/ Iranian literature the 5th Century BC. Matthew's gospel reports that these magi were star-watchers, non-Jews from the East who came in search of the 'King of the Jews.' It doesn't say how many came although *magi* is plural. They were guided by God and brought their finest gifts, ones *predicted 8 centuries earlier*.

A party of only three travelers is unlikely. In those days people of wealth would travel in a donkey or camel caravan with body guards. At 10 to 25 miles/day through heat, cold, storms and deprivation, it was a long trip. They clearly did not visit Jesus when he was still lying in

the manger. As befits wise men, they asked for directions in the big city where the kings lived' — Jerusalem. They obviously had a lot of prestige to gain an audience with King Herod. Matthew 2:16 implies that Herod learned from the wise men that up to two years had passed since the birth. So Herod ordered the slaughter of all male children two years or younger in Bethlehem.

Sound extreme? Herod was paranoid and wanted no threats to his throne, especially from an unknown 'King of Jews.' Although a practicing Jew, Herod was far from 'the lineage of David.' In fact, his father Antipater was an Edomite (an Arab from the region between the Dead Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba). Herod even killed his own firstborn son, his wife, and other potential heirs from his family. No wonder God told the Holy Family to flee to Egypt until Herod died.

Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh
I wonder why the Magi brought these gifts. They were typical gifts for honoring a king or deity in the ancient world. Isaiah 60:6, when describing Jerusalem's glorious restoration, tells of nations and kings who will come and "bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord."

Gold provided the family's traveling money and sustenance. Frankincense and Myrrh were even more valuable than gold. These precious bead-like crystal of tree saps/resins were harvested on the Horn of Africa and the coastal countries of the Arabian Peninsula. They would be the family's treasure used for incense, perfume, healing, anointing and preparation for burial...a foretelling.

I recently reread a tiny book: *The Other Wise Man* by Henry Van Dyke. A Wise Man from Babylonia sold all he had to buy three jewels, so that he might *have joy in finding the One who is worthy to be served*. Too late to travel with the first group, he kept seeking and encountered King Jesus in unexpected everyday ways throughout his life.

May we each experience God's Epiphany — the Light of the World — and offer Him our lives and gifts for His Glory, day by day.

BY SHARLYN STARE, STARECVG@AOL.COM

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star. **CHORUS**
CHORUS: O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect Light.

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign. **CHORUS**
Frankincense to offer have I.
Incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising all men raising,
Worship Him, God on high. **CHORUS**

Myrrh is mine: it's bitter perfume
Breaths a life of gathering gloom.
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. **CHORUS**
Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice.
Alleluia, alleluia! Sounds through the
earth and skies. **CHORUS**



Dear Friends,

As I sit here writing this letter, I realize I am thankful in some way for every person I have ever met. Some have taught me amazing lessons and I've grown. Some have hurt me, and I learned forgiveness. Some have shown me love, when I didn't feel lovable. Some have taught me just by being transparent and not wearing a mask. Admittedly, some have made me shake my head and I walk away grateful I am not on their journey. We are all on our own journey. And every day we have an opportunity to be used by God to make a positive impact in each other's lives. Young, old, rich, poor, black, white we all matter to God.

This past year I made an effort to look at every person I met through the eyes of God. The result was I began to love everyone more than I could have ever imagined. When you look at folks through the eyes of God you don't see color or economic standings; you see people in need of God's unconditional love. The kind of love that never lets go!

I am so thankful to be used by God through Feast of Love. It was an amazing year! We gave away oodles of furniture and beds, fed over 1500 people, took over 100 kids to camp, provided school supplies for 13,000 children, and delivered 20 brand new beds to area children through the "Sleeping Sound" program. I can hardly wait to be used by God in 2016. I already have a new project waiting to get started... of course all in His timing!

May your New Year be chocked full of God appointed opportunities to love on each other the way He first love us!!!

Warmly,

Bev Graves

Children & Youth Helpers in Worship

Children ages Kindergarten through third grade are invited to a Children's Worship service each week. Start off with your families in both the 9am and 11:15am service, then listen for the announcement dismissing the kids to their special service. Just before the sermon, children will be dismissed to their special study and worship time.

This week's helpers are:
9:00am Sarah L.
11:15am Jared L / Nate S.
The Deitzel Family will greet

Next week's helpers are:
9:00am Aidan M.
11:15am Ian & Joshua S.
The Michelle Dyson will greet

3. sunday

8:00am	Morning Prayer	Prayer Room
9:00am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:10am	Foundation Hour	
	• Children's Classes	Barnabas Ctr
	• Jr. High	BC 204
	• High School	BC 205-206
	• Let's Make Worship Viral	Fellowship Hall
11:15am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
1:30pm	Adult Children of Alcoholics	Fireside Room
4:00pm	CRASH	BC 205 & 206

4. monday

6:00pm	Community Prayer Walk	House of Joy
6:30pm	Karate	Clubroom

5. tuesday

6. wednesday

6:30pm	ACA Meeting	BC 203
7:00pm	Bi-Polar Support Group	Great Hall
	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary

7. thursday

6:15am	Band of Brothers	Fireside Room
8:30am	Prayer - Church/Community	Prayer Room
10:00am	Knitting Group	Atrium
6:30pm	Karate	Fellowship Hall
7:00pm	ACA	BC 203
	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:30pm	Alanon	BC 201-202

8. friday

9. saturday

9:00am	Christmas Service Rehearsal	Sanctuary
2:00pm	Praise Dancers	BC Lobby

"LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION" POLICY
When parking, remember to keep your valuables and all parcels out of sight safely locked in your trunk. Thieves can even see through dark tinted glass. Don't tempt!

January 3 - January 9 calendar

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOINING THE CHPC FAMILY If you are interested in becoming a member at CHPC, our next New Covenant Partner Orientation Classes are: Sundays January 10, 17, 24 and 31 at 10:10am. To sign up or if you have questions contact Michelle Hemsath 541-5676 Ext. 1123 or mhemsath@chpc.org or Pastor Dennis 541-5676 Ext. 1122 or dhall@chpc.org

Begin the year with prayer Join the Kindling Prayer Group on Wednesday, January 6 from 7-8 pm in the White House. This group meets the first Wednesday of each month. Other opportunities for prayer include Thursday at 8:30am (Prayer Room), Sunday at 8am (Prayer Room) and Mondays at 6pm at House of Joy. Questions: Contact Jeanne Schneider at jschneider@chpc.org or 541-5676, x1160

Listening For Heaven's Sake is a one day seminar that provides practical hands-on skill for improving your career, your relationships and your ministry by becoming a better listener. The seminar focuses on establishing a genuine connection with other people, communicating God's love, showing warmth and understanding, listening for God's voice and helping others without burning out. Join us on Saturday, January 30 from 9:00-5:00. Led by Natalie McSwain & Anne Clippard. Cost: \$20 includes materials and lunch. Register via email at jschneider@chpc.org or 541-5676, ext. 1160.

Stock Gifts Are you planning on giving a stock gift to CHPC? Please let Heather Lethander, Finance Manager, know the details so it can be accurately credited to your account for tax purposes.

The Front Desk Ministry needs you! Do you like welcoming folks? Do you have a gift of hospitality? If so, we have the ministry opportunity for you. We are in need of subs for the front desk (during the week) for January-March. If you are interested contact June Elwood 681-1767 or Michelle Hemsath at 541-5676 ext 1123.

Men of CHPC get ready for IGNITE 2016!

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

No FX Night this month! We'll be back at it on Wednesday, February 3rd, but for this month spend some extra time with your family or a new family from our church that you are starting to connect with!

The January Theme in BLAST (K-3) and MEGABLAST (4-6) is Self-Control: "choosing to do what you should do not what you want to do," and our memory verse is Proverbs 25:28: "A person without self-control is like a city whose walls are broken through." Please pray this month that our children would learn to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to help them choose words and actions that honor God. For more information on what kids are learning as well as ideas on how to engage with them on this subject, check out the Parent Cue on chpc.org/forms.

No CRASH and Huddles tonight We will start back up on January 17th. We tried some new things this last semester, and are looking for some feedback on how you think things went, including the new schedule and focus for CRASH. Email Andrew if you have some input on what went well, or what could go better next semester: awells@chpc.org.

ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION

"Let's Make Worship Viral! " Party Today at 10:10am in Fellowship Hall.

Adult Spiritual Formation for the winter will be a series of round table discussions that will follow the sermon series on worship. Beginning Jan. 10 through Feb. 7 come join a table in Fellowship Hall at 10:10 between services. There will be a discussion leader at each table which will include all the members of the Session worship committee. Just for a count of how many are interested, please sign up in the atrium, but everyone welcome. Don't miss this chance to express your passion for worship.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Mark your calendars for the College Hill Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration – Sunday, January 17, at 6:30pm at Good News Church of God in Christ at 1063 Northbend.

All-Church Chili Cook-off! At 12:30pm on Sunday, January 24th, we will once again have our Annual Chili Cook-off. Please bring your best chili, cornbread, or brownies to share and enter into the competition. During lunch, we will hear about summer ministry plans from the Children, Youth and Family team.

Prayer Page

"... without ceasing I remember you always in my prayers," Romans 1:9

CHPC Community

Judy Bethel	Lena Beyring
Marcia Blank	Richard Blank
Mary Bodmer	Jim Bodmer
Jinda Bowerman	Michael Bowerman

Staff

Sam Routzon - Communications/Worship & Arts

Officers/Leadership

Steve Telecsan - Deacon

Home Bound/Health Center

Pat Robinson

Ministries

CityLink

Global Workers

In the Military

Adam Steveley US Army	Chris Jaeger USMC
Cary Jaeger USMC	Kirk Kalmbacher US Coast Guard
Zach Scharf Army National Guard	Nyjoel Baker US Air Force
Danny Holian US Navy Pilot	Will Connor US Army
Joey Nieberding US Army	Peter & Amanda Leugers US Navy
	Gus Carpenter US Marines

College/Career Students

Alexis Wilsey	Rachel Abbott
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January 3, 2015

Everyday Worship

Expecting

Preaching: Rev. Drew Smith

Welcome to College Hill Presbyterian Church

Thank you for worshiping with us today. Single, married, with children or not, there are many opportunities for knowing Christ, worshiping, personal growth and discipleship, service and ministry within the church and beyond the walls.

Visitors - Stop by the welcome table or the desk in the Atrium to find out more about College Hill Presbyterian. Return and become part of this dynamic Church Family.

Upcoming Services

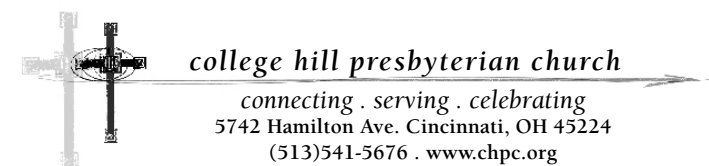
Jan. 10	Everyday Worship - Encountering
Jan. 17	Everyday Worship - Experiencing
Jan. 24	Everyday Worship - Struggling

Today's Order of Worship

Prelude
Call To Worship / Opening Prayer
Songs of Praise
Dismiss Children
Scripture & Sermon
Pastoral Prayer
Healing Stations
Communion
Offering
Announcements
Charge and Blessing
Postlude

Available Help

Ushers have copies of the song lyrics for the 9am service. Ushers can also provide help with wheelchairs and equipment for hearing assistance. Handicapped accessible restrooms are located off the exit hallway to the right side of the main platform. This exit also leads to handicapped parking spaces.



Committed to growing and planting flourishing churches that make disciples of Jesus Christ