



The Feast of Lights

Anticipating the Feast of the Epiphany
3 January 2021 AD

Opening Hymn 89 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven’s all-gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains bend on hovering wing,
and ever o’er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.
- 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not the tidings which they bring;
O hush the noise and cease your strife and hear the angels sing!
- 4 For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Priest: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People: ***The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.***

Priest: Those who dwelt in the land of darkness, on them light has shined.

People: ***We have beheld Christ’s glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.***

Priest: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

People: ***In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.***

The Collect of the Epiphany

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Hymn 542 *Christ is the World’s True Light*

- 1 Christ is the world’s true light, its Captain of salvation,
The Day-star clear and bright of every race and nation;
New life, new hope awakes, for all who own his sway;
Freedom her bondage breaks, And night is turned to day.

2 In Christ all races meet, their ancient feuds forgetting,
The whole round world complete, from sunrise to its setting:
When Christ is throned as Lord, all shall forsake their fear,
To plough-share bear the sword, to pruning-hook the spear.
3 One Lord, in one great Name unite us all who own thee;
Cast out our pride and shame that hinder to enthrone thee;
The world has waited long, has travailed long in pain;
To heal its ancient wrong, come, Prince of Peace, and reign.

✠ **The Messiah Will Come: Isaiah 9:2-7** *a candle is lighted*

Hymn 98 *Unto Us a Child is Born*

1 Unto us a child is born! The King of all creation,
came he to a world forlorn, the Lord of every nation.
2 Cradled in a stall was he with sleepy cows and asses;
but the very beasts could see that he all men surpasses.
3 Herod then with fear was filled; "A prince," he said, "in Jewry!"
All the little boys he killed at Bethlehem in his fury.
4 Now may Mary's son, who came so long ago to love us,
lead us all with hearts aflame unto the joys above us. . . .
reign.

✠ **In the Beginning was the Word: John 1:1-5, 9-14** *a candle is lighted*

Anthem *Lo, How a Rose Ere Blooming*

✠ **The Birth of Christ: Luke 2:1-7** *a candle is lighted*

Hymn 101 *Away in a Manger*

1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay;
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh. . . .

✠ **The Shepherds and the Angels: Luke 2:8-14** *a candle is lighted*

Hymn 110 *Venite Adoramus*

1 The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright,
when Christ our Lord was born on Christmas night.
Venite adoremus Dominum. Venite adoremus Dominum.
 [Refrain] Venite adoremus Dominum. Venite adoremus Dominum.
2 'Twas Mary, daughter pure of holy Anne,
that brought into this world the God made man.

She laid him in a stall at Bethlehem;
the ass and oxen shared the roof with them. *Refrain*

3 Saint Joseph, too, was by to tend the child;
to guard him, and protect his mother mild;
the angels hovered round, and sang this song,
Venite adoremus Dominum. *Refrain*

4 And thus that manger poor became a throne;
for he whom Mary bore was God the Son.
O come, then, let us join the heavenly host;
to praise the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. *Refrain*

✠ **The Kings Offer Gifts: Matthew 2:1-10** *a candle is lighted*

Hymn 128 *We Three Kings*

1 We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

*[refrain] O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King for ever, ceasing never over us all to reign. *Refrain*

3 Frankincense to offer have I: incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising, worship him, God Most High. *Refrain*

4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain*

5 Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
heaven sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies. *Refrain*

✠ **The Disciples are Called: Matthew 10:1-10** *a candle is lighted*

Hymn 660 *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*

1 O Master, let me walk with thee in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.

2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.

3 Teach me thy patience; still with thee in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong,

4 in hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way,
in peace that only thou canst give, with thee, O Master, let me live.

✠ **We are Commissioned for Service: Romans 12:3-17** *a candle is lighted*

following the reading is the Charge to Carry Christ's Light

The Peace of the Lord be always with you. *And also with you.*

Hymn at the Peace *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

1 I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world; The star of my life is Jesus.

[Refrain] In him there is no darkness at all; The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God; Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2 I want to see the brightness of God; I want to look at Jesus.

Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path, And show me the way to the Father.

Refrain

3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ; I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race, We shall know the joy of Jesus.

Refrain

The Prayers of the People

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Lord's Prayer As our Savior Christ has taught us we now pray...

The Blessing *reminds us we are blessed to be a blessing*

Closing Hymn *Joy to the World*

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;

let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing. . . .

4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove

the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,

and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

The Dismissal *sends us to serve and share*

Priest: Alleluia. Alleluia. Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Postlude



On Sundays we receive the gifts of the people for the support of the church and its mission in the world. Please mail your gifts to **The Church of the Messiah, P O Box 70367, Myrtle Beach, SC 29572.**



The Episcopal Church of the Messiah in the City of Myrtle Beach