

**PRAYER SERVICE  
JANUARY 3, 2021  
EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD**



**+ ANNOUNCEMENTS +**

God loves you all the time  
**And all the time God loves you.**

**+ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS +**

Blessed be the holy Trinity † one God,  
who was in the beginning,  
who makes a dwelling among us,  
who covers us with justice and mercy.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of goodness and lovingkindness,  
**we confess that we have sinned against you  
and our neighbors.**

**We have turned away from your invitation to new life.  
We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden.  
In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,  
those we know and those known only to you,  
for the sake of the one who came to live among us,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Hear the good news of peace and salvation!  
God forgives us all our sins,  
not through our own work,  
but through † Jesus Christ, made known to all people.  
With all who come to the manger,  
rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

**Amen.**



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



*Refrain*  
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

**+ OPENING DIALOGUE+**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**+ PRAYER OF THE DAY +**

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup>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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**+ PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14 +**

- <sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;  
<sup>2</sup>**that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**  
<sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.  
<sup>4</sup>**Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**  
<sup>5</sup>May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.  
<sup>6</sup>**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**  
<sup>7</sup>In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.  
<sup>10</sup>**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**  
<sup>11</sup>May all kings bow down before him,  
and all the nations do him service.  
<sup>12</sup>**For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,  
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**  
<sup>13</sup>He has compassion on the lowly and poor,  
and preserves the lives of the needy.  
<sup>14</sup>**From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,  
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

**+ SECOND READING: .Ephesians 3: 1-12 +**

<sup>1</sup>This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—  
<sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for  
you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few  
words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of  
Christ. <sup>5</sup>In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has  
now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles  
have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ  
Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was giv-  
en me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am the very least of all the saints, this  
grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ,  
<sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who cre-  
ated all things; <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might

now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**+GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12**

**The holy gospel from the book of matthew.**

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>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." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>'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.' "

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>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." <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The holy gospel of Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**+ THE MESSAGE +**

**+ PEACE +**

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

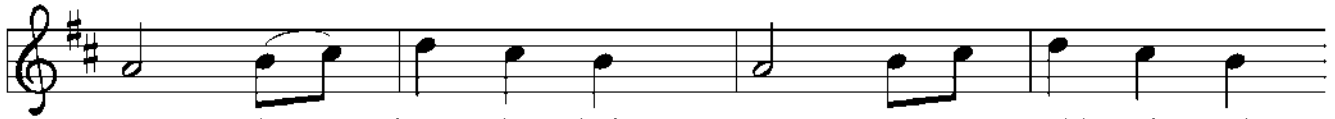
**+ APOSTLES' CREED +**



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing  
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .  
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .  
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the  
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a  
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it  
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -  
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the  
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

*Refrain*

night that was so deep.  
 tin-ued both day and night.  
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
 place where Je - sus lay.  
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit**

**born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**And he will come 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**

#### **+ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION +**

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Glorious God, fill your church with joy. Let your faithful people live as beacons of your redemption. Give wisdom and courage to your church that it may speak with boldness and confidence, even when words of mercy are met with scorn. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Show us your faithfulness in the rising and setting of the sun. Place wonder into the hearts of those who search the skies and explore the heavens. Curb waste and pollution, that all might have clean air to breathe. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Bring all nations and rulers to the splendor of your dawn. Raise up advocates who champion the cause of exploited and vulnerable people. Inspire leaders to be generous with abundance, that all people might live in stability and freedom. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Come quickly with your healing power to all who seek love, support, and restoration. Dispel fears and shadows. Restore broken relationships and mend broken hearts. Bring

relief to those who are sick or struggling (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Send traveling mercies upon all who journey home by other roads. Guard refugees, immigrants, and asylum seekers (*especially*). Protect families fleeing conflict in their homelands or abuse in their homes. Tend to those who have no place to lay their heads. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

According to the boundless riches of Christ, you draw all your saints, from the least to the greatest, to your heavenly places. As you created all things, make all things new again in the splendor of your glory. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

+ THE LORD'S PRAYER +

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

+ BLESSING +

Almighty God,  
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,  
proclaimed joy through the angels,  
sent the shepherds with good news,  
and led the magi by a star,  
bless you this day ✠ through the Word made flesh.

**Amen.**



+ DISMISSAL +

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus..  
Thanks be to God.

+ HYMN +

*Angels We Have Heard On High*

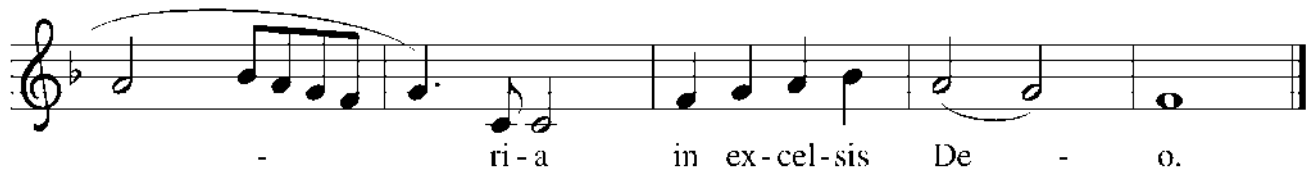
ELW 289



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



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**The Epiphany of Our Lord**  
**Prayers of the Faithful for Week of January 3**

**TODAY we pray for:**

Family and friends of Betty Magoon as they mourn her passing; Jeremy, David and Pastor Tara  
Son and daughter of Vera Waggonfuhr  
Friends and family of Owen Mathre as they mourn his passing  
For all those suffering with Covid-19  
Brian  
Pat Kizuka  
Polly Gillis  
Allen Whitley  
Christina  
Stacy Dambaugh  
Sue, friend of JoAnne Deaton  
Roger Camp  
Krisida Alberto  
Diane Kiefer daughter of Margie Betley  
- all in our hearts and minds today.

**WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR:**

Louise Ench, Kathy Long, Gener Ernst, Barbara Hewlett, Russ & Joan Snyder, Clare Schoening, Scott; Chris, Denise, Clare Benz and Lynda Martinez, Barbara Lynn Grabher; daughter in law of Erika and Ed Burke, Kyle, Bill Smith; step-father of Rebecca Koreck, Lena, Leslie, friend of Diane Teig, Jack Baskow, Claudia and Geof Bromfield, Connie and family, Scott & Lia Wycoff, The Fenner family, John Worrell—brother in law of Bill Baur, Mike Goyda, Lis Verbeck, Lois Snyder

David & Angie Wasgatt, John Deaton, Joan Sandstorm, Delores Sipe, Doug Price, Bob Waller, Kent Hardel, Gretchen Platz, Ellen Hall, Nanci Hunsinger, Betty Magoon, Claire Schoening, Tyler, Bill Howerin, Marcia Burton, Gina Clay

For our bishops; Elizabeth Eaton, Bill Gohl

For the Dean of the Delmarva Conference; Barbara Melosh

For our staff; Pastor Tara, Susan Allen, Jordan Irazabal, Louis Jones

For leaders & congregations of the Delmarva Conference;

For all pastors and church leaders

For our country; the United States, leaders and citizens.

For all of our global neighbors, stricken by the covid-19 virus.

**To request a prayer, or update prayers, please call the church office (302-239-6481)**  
**or email [office@glcde.org](mailto:office@glcde.org).**

## Every Sunday on Zoom at 10:00AM

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84338548999?  
pwd=bkd6S3NueTdOOTZ6UE1URINqK1pIUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84338548999?pwd=bkd6S3NueTdOOTZ6UE1URINqK1pIUT09)

Meeting ID: 843 3854 8999

Passcode: 799577



## Adult Education Opportunity

### *Anxious for Nothing – Finding Calm in a Chaotic World*

While initially produced in 2017, this Max Lucado video program is right on target for this year.

Titled “Anxious for Nothing – Finding Calm in a Chaotic World”, this is a series of five one-hour sessions. While there is some carryover from one session to another, each session is valuable on its own.

The program will follow the Sunday “Coffee and Connect” hour, using the same ZOOM link.

The remaining sessions on January 3, and January 10.  
Please join us as you are able.

### **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Rev. Tara Magoon, Pastor

Rev. David Wasgatt, Pastor Emeritus

Jordan Irazabal, Director of Music

Susan Wells Allen, Office Manager

Louis Jones, Custodian

2033 Graves Road, Hockessin, DE 19707

Office: 302-239-6481

Email: [Office@gmail.com](mailto:Office@gmail.com) Website: [glcde.org](http://glcde.org)