

# A Service of Lessons and Carols for Epiphany



St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
St. Louis, Missouri  
Sunday, January 12, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.



**E**PIPHANY celebrates the appearance of God's glory in the world through the birth of Jesus, our Emmanuel ("God with us"), and the revelation of the incarnation to the Gentiles, and the whole world. It has been marked since the 3rd century with a Feast Day on January 6 and celebrated in both East and West in a rich variety of ways. In the Western Church, the emphasis has been on the nativity itself and the acknowledgment of Christ's sovereignty over all through the visit of the Magi bringing their gifts of frankincense, gold, and myrrh. The revelation of his true nature is echoed by the words of the prophet Simeon, the *Nunc Dimittis*, at the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (observed as a feast in the Episcopal Church on February 2).

The Greek word epiphany means literally "sudden appearance" and refers above all to the manifestation of God. This is the moment we see that Jesus is so much more than a good human being, a wise teacher, and a moral example. In fact he is the Word become flesh. It is in this sense that Simeon declares him to be "salvation" and "a light to lighten the Gentiles." Later Jesus calls himself "the light of the World." Thus the symbolism of light pervades both this season and this Service of Lessons and Carols for Epiphany.

This service is in three sections: 1) The Word Made Flesh, 2) The King of the Nations, and 3) Light to the World.

Christ calls us out of darkness and into light, so that we may recognize his effect on all creation. In this service, we pray that our eyes may be opened to see his glory; for all are made in the image and likeness of God.

*This service and this description are adapted from an order of service held at  
St. John's College, Cambridge, England.*

*The cover art is the Adoration of the Magi (1423) by Gentile da Fabriano (c. 1370–14)*

# A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR EPIPHANY

Sunday, January 12, 2025  
5:00 p.m.

## Music Before the Service

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern, BuxWV 223  
(“How bright appears the Morning star;” Hymn 496)

Dieterich Buxtehude  
(1637–1707)

## ORDER OF SERVICE

*The service begins with the Church in darkness.*

*The Officiant reads the First Lesson from the entrance to the Church in the narthex.*

### FIRST LESSON John 1: 1–14

**I**N THE BEGINNING was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

## ANTHEM

**A**LLELUIA. We have seen his star in the east, alleluia; and have come with offerings to worship the Lord. Alleluia.

ALLELUIA. VIDIMUS STELLAM  
Words: Matthew 2:2  
Music: David Hurd (b. 1950)

*The People stand and sing the hymn. The Procession enters the Church.*

HYMN 82: "Of the Father's love begotten"

*Divinum Mysterium*

## BIDDING PRAYER

*Officiant* Dear People of God, we are gathered to celebrate with joy the appearance of God's glory in the world through the birth of Jesus, who is Emmanuel, God with us; to reflect upon the visit of the Magi bringing homage to their King at his birth; and to hear the prophetic words of Anna and Simeon revealing the Christ child as a light to lighten all people.

As we rejoice in this, the Word made flesh, who called us out of darkness into light, so we pray that his love and faithfulness may be known in all the world.

We pray for the unity and mission of Christ's Church, and for all who minister the gospel of Christ; we pray for the world, that we may have reverence for the natural order and respect for every person, made in the image and likeness of God; and we pray for those who stand in need, for the lonely, the fearful, the sick and the bereaved, and for all who have no one to pray for them.

May God our Father take us and use us in his service; may he open our eyes to see his glory and equip us to bless his people, now and at all times. *Amen.*

Believing the promises of God, let us pray with confidence as our Savior has taught us:

*All* 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 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, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

## I. The Word Made Flesh

*Officiant* The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the shadow of death, upon them has the light shined.

*Officiant* Arise, shine, for your light has come:  
*People* And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

### COLLECT

**A**Lmighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. *Amen.*

*The People sit.*

### CAROL

**I**NFANT HOLY, infant lowly,  
for His bed a cattle stall;  
    oxen lowing, little knowing  
    Christ the Babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing,  
noels ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the Babe is Lord of all,  
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping  
    vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story,  
    tidings of the gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the Babe was born for you.  
Christ the Babe was born for you.

Words: *Traditional Polish, trans. Edith M.G. Reed*  
Music: *Polish Carol, arr. Gerre Hancock (1934-2012)*

## SECOND LESSON Matthew 1: 18–23

**N**OW THE BIRTH of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”

### CAROL

“**W**HEN HE IS KING we will give Him the Kings’ gifts,  
Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown,  
Beautiful robes,” said the young girl to Joseph  
Fair with her firstborn on Bethlehem Down.

Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight  
Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,  
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music  
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

When He is King they will clothe Him in grave-sheets,  
Myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown,  
He that lies now in the white arms of Mary  
Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.

Here He has peace and a short while for dreaming,  
Close-huddled oxen to keep Him from cold,  
Mary for love, and for lullaby music  
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

BETHLEHEM DOWN  
Words: *Bruce Blunt*  
Music: *Peter Warlock (1894–1930)*

### THIRD LESSON Luke 2: 8-20

**I**N THAT REGION there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

### CAROL

**S**SMALL WONDER THE STAR,  
small wonder the light,  
the angels in chorus,  
the shepherds in fright;  
but stable and manger for God—  
no small wonder!

Small wonder the kings,  
small wonder they bore  
the gold and the incense,  
the myrrh to adore;  
but God gives his life on a cross—  
no small wonder!

Small wonder the love,  
small wonder the grace,  
the power, the glory,  
the light of his face;  
but all to redeem my poor heart—  
no small wonder!

NO SMALL WONDER  
Words: *Paul Wigmore (1925-2014)*  
Music: *Paul Edwards (b. 1955)*

*The People stand and sing the hymn.*

HYMN 127: “Earth has many a noble city”

*Stuttgart*

## II. The King of the Nations

*Officiant* At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow; in heaven, on earth and under the earth: and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

*Officiant* Nations shall come to your light:  
*People* And kings to your dawning brightness.

### COLLECT

ALMIGHTY FATHER, by the leading of a star you revealed your only-begotten Son to the peoples of the earth: In your mercy grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*The People sit.*

### ANTHEM

HOW SPLENDID SHINES THE MORNING STAR,  
God’s gracious light from darkness far,  
The root of Jesse blessed.  
Thou David’s son of Jacob’s stem.  
My bridegroom, king, and wondrous lamb,  
Thou hast my heart possessèd.  
Sweetly, friendly, O, thou handsome  
precious ransom, full of graces,  
set and kept in heav’nly places.

Words: Southern Harmony, 1835  
Music: *American traditional*,  
*arr. Virgil Thomson (1896–1989)*

### FOURTH LESSON Matthew 2: 1–12

IN THE TIME OF KING HEROD, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 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.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘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.’”



Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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.” 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

*The People stand and sing the hymn.*

HYMN 128: “We three kings of Orient are”

*Three Kings of Orient*

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

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

*Solo*  
*(Gaspard)* Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again,  
King for ever,  
ceasing never  
over us all to reign.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Words & Music: *John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820–1891)*

*The People sit.*

## FIFTH LESSON Matthew 2: 13–18

**N**OW AFTER THEY HAD LEFT, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

### CAROL

*Lully, lulla,  
by, by, lully, lullay.  
Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child  
By, by, lully, lullay.*

O sisters too,  
How may we do,  
For to preserve this day  
This poor youngling  
For whom we sing  
By by, lully, lullay?

Herod, the king,  
In his raging,  
Chargèd he hath this day  
His men of might,  
In his own sight,  
All young children to slay.

That woe is me,  
Poor Child for Thee!  
And ever morn and day,  
For thy parting  
Neither say nor sing  
By, by, lully, lullay.

THE COVENTRY CAROL

Words: *Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors, 15th century*

Music: *Philip Stopford (b. 1977)*

*The People stand and sing the hymn.*

### III. Light to the World

*Officiant* But the hour is coming, and now is, when true worshippers will worship in spirit and truth.

*Officiant* And the Lord, whom you seek:  
*People* Shall suddenly come to his temple.

#### COLLECT

**A**Lmighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was presented in the Temple in substance of our flesh, and was acclaimed the glory of Israel and the light of the nations: Grant that in him we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, and in the world may reflect his glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*The People sit.*

#### CAROL

*An Offering is received during the singing of this carol.*

**T**HE GREATNESS OF GOD in his love has been shown,  
The light of his life on the nations is thrown:  
And that which the Jews and the Greeks did divine  
Is come in the fullness of Jesus to shine.

*The Light of the World in the darkness has shone,  
And grows in our sight as the ages flow on.*

He rolls the grim darkness and sorrow away,  
And brings all our fears to the light of the day:  
The idols are fallen of anger and blood,  
And God is revealed as the loving and good.

*The Light of the World in the darkness has shone,  
And grows in our sight as the ages flow on.*

And, though we have sinned like the Prodigal Son,  
His love to our succor and welcome will run.  
His gospel of pardon, of love and accord,  
Will master oppression and shatter the sword:

*The Light of the World in the darkness has shone,  
And grows in our sight as the ages flow on.*

The Light of the World is more clear to our sight  
As errors disperse and men see him aright:  
In lands long in shadow, his churches arise  
And blaze for their neighbors the Way of the Wise.  
*The Light of the World in the darkness has shone,  
And grows in our sight as the ages flow on.*

INFINITE LIGHT  
*English traditional carol*  
Music: *harm. Martin Shaw (1875–1958)*

## SIXTH LESSON Luke 2: 21–32

**A**FTER EIGHT DAYS HAD PASSED, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

## NUNC DIMITTIS

Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine,  
secundum verbum tuum in pace.  
Quia viderunt oculi mei salutare tuum:  
quod parasti ante faciem  
    omnium populorum.  
Lumen ad revelationem gentium,  
et gloriam plebis tuae Israel.

Gloria Patri, et Filio,  
    et Spiritui Sancto.  
Sicut erat in principio,  
    et nunc, et semper,  
et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

*Now let your servant depart, Lord,  
in peace, as you promised.  
For I have seen with my own eyes the salvation:  
which you have prepared for  
    all nations to see.  
A light to lighten the gentiles,  
and the glory of your people Israel.  
Glory to the Father, the Son,  
    and the Holy Spirit.  
Just as it was in the beginning,  
    both now, and for ever,  
for generations of generations. Amen.*

*Words: Luke 2: 29-32 and Gloria Patri  
Music: Gustav Holst (1874-1934)*

## THE RECTOR'S GREETING

*The People stand.*

### COLLECT

**A**LMIGHTY GOD, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### BLESSING

**M**AY CHRIST, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

*The People stand and sing the hymn.*

HYMN: "O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness"

*Notes in small type are for the first and last stanzas only.*

1. O wor - ship the Lord in the beau - ty of ho - li - ness!  
2. Low at his feet lay thy bur - den of care - ful - ness,  
3. Fear not to en - ter his courts in the slen - der - ness,  
4. These, though we bring them in trem - bling and fear - ful - ness,  
5. O wor - ship the Lord in the beau - ty of ho - li - ness!

Bow down be - fore him, his glo - ry pro - claim; With gold of o - be - dience, and  
High on his heart he will bear it for thee, Com - fort thy sor - rows, and  
Of the poor wealth thou wouldst reck - on as thine: Truth in its beau - ty, and  
He will ac - cept for the name that is dear; Mor - nings of joy give for  
Bow down be - fore him, his glo - ry pro - claim; With gold of o - be - dience, and

in - cense of low - li - ness, Kneel and a - dore him, the Lord is his name!  
an - swer thy prayer - ful - ness, Guid - ing thy steps as may best for thee be.  
love in its ten - der - ness, These are the offer - ings to lay on his shrine.  
eve - nings of tear - ful - ness, Trust for our trem - bling and hope for our fear.  
in - cense of low - li - ness, Kneel and a - dore him, the Lord is his name!

Words: *J.S.B. Monsell*  
Music: Was Lebet, Was Schwebet,  
*from the "Rheinhardt MS," Üttingen, 1754*

*At the conclusion of the hymn the People remain standing as the Procession departs.  
Bearing in mind that the organ music after the service, like the liturgy that precedes it,  
is an offering to God's glory, the Congregation is asked to be seated or depart quietly.*

### Music After the Service

In dir ist Freude, BWV 615  
(*In Thee is Gladness*)

*J. S. Bach*  
(1685-1750)

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*Officiant* The Rev. Dr. Nathan Haydon  
*Musicians* The St. Peter's Singers  
David Sinden, Organist & Choirmaster  
Joseph Arndt, Assistant Organist  
*Lectors* DeWayne Trainer, Kathryn Haydon, Linda Morotz  
Page Melton Ivie, John Bradley  
*Crucifer* Sandy Peters  
*Usher* Mike Newport

### Upcoming Choral Services and Concerts at St. Peter's

**Choral Evensong** Sunday February 9 5:00 p.m.  
A traditional Anglican service of scripture, prayer, and music in the evening.

**Concert: Apollo5** Friday February 14 7:00 p.m.  
Acclaimed British vocal ensemble, Apollo5, returns to St. Peter's for a concert that spans genres including jazz, pop, classical, and early sacred music

**Concert: Early Music Missouri\*** Sunday March 2 3:00 p.m.  
Darkness in Paris: Tenebrae Lessons – Lenten Lessons by Charpentier and Clérambault

**Choral Evensong** Sunday March 9 5:00 p.m.

**Choral Evensong** Palm Sunday April 13 5:00 p.m.

**Concert: Early Music Missouri\*** Sunday May 4 3:00 p.m.  
Vivaldi's Four Seasons

\*A \$20 admission at the door is requested

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**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
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