



Friday Bulletin

Good Shepherd E-News

6 January 2023

The Episcopal Church of the
Good Shepherd in Athens, Ohio

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This Upcoming Sunday

First Sunday after the Epiphany
The Baptism of our Lord

Holy Eucharist B

8 January 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Order of Worship (Bulletin)

Service: Holy Eucharist II-B

Celebrant: The Rev. Deborah Woolsey

Lector: Alex Buckley

Eucharistic Minister/Acolyte: Owen
Buckley

Eucharistic Minister/Prayer Leader:
Gregory Proctor

Altar Guild: Lynn Graham

Coffee Hour Host: David Burton



LESSONS First Sunday in Epiphany-Baptism of Our Lord

Old Testament – Isaiah 42: 1-9

Psalms 29 (Sung)

New Testament – Acts of the Apostles 10: 34-43

Gospel – Matthew 3: 13-17

<https://www.lectionarypage.net>

Happy Feast of the Epiphany!

Today is a major feast day as the Church celebrates the arrival of the Magi. In some Christian denominations, this is the day Christmas gifts are exchanged. Others celebrate with special food like a king cake, games, and music.

We are celebrating with this special email that contains prayers, readings, art, poetry, and reflections. However you celebrate today, we wish you peace and joy as Christmas ends and a new season begins.

Prayer for Epiphany from the *Book of Common Prayer* page 214

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 forever. *Amen.*

Prayer for Epiphany from St. *Augustine's Prayer Book* page 219

Almighty God, who made known the Incarnation of thy Word by a star of stunning brilliance, which the wise men followed until they came to worship and offer their treasures before the infant Lord resting in his mother's arms; grant that the star of thy righteousness may always appear in our hearts to lead us and to inspire us to offer the treasure of our praise and the worship of lives that reflect thy goodness; through him whose birth among us is our hope. *Amen.*

Gospel Reading for Epiphany

Matthew 2:1-12 The Visit of the Wise Men

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.

Some Reflections

“Every manifestation of Christ to the world, to the Church, to a particular soul is an Epiphany, a Christmas day.” John Donne, *The Showing Forth of Christ*



Adoration of Magi, an illustration by Ruth Sanderson

“Matthew’s Gospel is the only one to mention the magi, who are often politely described as ‘wise men’, but whose wisdom probably derived from the almost occult science of divination using the stars, a bit like astrology. They must have been good at it, too, if their wealth and status are anything to go by. But that world, the world of government by dark and impersonal forces, is to meet

its match in the just and generous rule of the new king whom they have come to worship. They are the first to give up everything to follow Jesus Christ. Their submission to the new ruler is clear...in the Gospels.

“Yet God does not despise the skill that brought them here. They used all the gifts and tools they had and came to the Christ Child, to lay it all at his feet. Their passionate commitment to their profession make them the first witnesses from among the Gentiles, the first to signal that this birth is for all, not just for the insiders. Matthew does not actually say that there were only three magi – we infer that from the three gifts – but he does tell us they came ‘from the East’, from outside, and were ‘overwhelmed with joy’ (Matthew 2:10) when they reached their destination. The star that guides the magi to Jesus is visible to all, though not all take any notice of it. When Joseph dreams (Matthew 1.20, 2.19) the gospel tells us that he is directed by an angel of the Lord. When the magi dream (Matthew 2.12) there is no specific mention of an angel, and yet the end result is still directed by God. God makes and guides and loves everything, not just those who know it.

From Jane Williams, *The Art of Advent a Painting a Day from Advent to Epiphany*, SPCK Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, Great Britain, 2018 pages 116-117



Gifts of the Magi:

The Gospel does not comment on the significance of the gifts, however, tradition suggests each gift is symbolic and has a deeper meaning pointing to the life, death, resurrection of Jesus.

Gift of Gold: Considered the most precious and valuable of metals, gold represents wealth and prestige. The magi were willing to give all their wealth and treasure to Jesus because they believed he was a new and glorious king.

Gift of Frankincense: Made from the resin of tree sap, frankincense is valued today for its healing properties. When heated, frankincense emits a fragrance that science has proven alleviates depression, sinus infections, allergies, and cleans harmful bacteria from the air. By giving such a gift the magi were pointing to Jesus' healing the sins of humanity and restoring wholeness and right relationship with God.

Gift of Myrrh: Made from resin of tree sap like frankincense, myrrh can be made into incense and oil. The rich scent of myrrh would be familiar to anyone anointing a dead body for burial. This gift foreshadows Jesus' crucifixion.



The Three Magi: Balthasar, Melchior, and Gaspar, from a mosaic at the Basilica of Sant'Apollinaire Nuovo in Ravenna, Italy.

**Are there gifts and skills that you have been made
to feel are not 'Christian'?**

If so, what, and why?"

The Journey Of The Magi by T. S. Eliot

A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter.'
And the camels galled, sorefooted, refractory,
Lying down in the melting snow.
There were times we regretted
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling
and running away, and wanting their liquor and women,
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:
A hard time we had of it.
At the end we preferred to travel all night,
Sleeping in snatches,
With the voices singing in our ears, saying
That this was all folly.
Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;
With a running stream and a water-mill beating the darkness,
And three trees on the low sky,
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins.
But there was no information, and so we continued
And arriving at evening, not a moment too soon
Finding the place; it was (you might say) satisfactory.
All this was a long time ago, I remember,

And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.

*"When the song of angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:*

*To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart."*

~ Howard Thurman



Some More Examples.



Toys -- unknown source



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Wood carving made in Mexico



Magi - A watercolor illustration by Ruth Sanderson from her book *The Nativity*.

Learn more about the Epiphany holiday worldwide from [Wikipedia](#).

Coming up on the Calendar

Sunday, January 8, 9:15 a.m. - - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 8, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, January 11, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl Meeting (Nehls Hall)

Sunday, January 15, 9:15 a.m. - - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 15, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist (Discretionary Sunday)

Thursday, January 19, 7:00 p.m. - - Vestry Meeting (via Zoom)

Sunday, January 22, 9:15 a.m. - - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 22, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, January 25, 9:30 a.m. - - Prayer Shawl Meeting (Nehls Hall)

Sunday, January 29, 9:15 a.m. - - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 29, 10:30 a.m. - - Holy Eucharist

Looking Ahead

Sunday, February 5, 2:00 p.m. - - Good Shepherd Annual Meeting (via Zoom)

Sunday, February 19 , 3:00 p.m. - - Celebration Concert II featuring our Choral Scholars and other guests.

Sunday, March 26 - - AGO concert for organ and instruments at 1st  Presbyterian Church. Marsha Reilly and Kathleen Ristinen Jones will be participating.

Sunday, April 30, 3:00 p.m. - - Celebration Concert III Dr. Gregory Crowell, guest organist.

Schedules

Coffee Hour Schedule

Jan. 8 David Burton
Jan. 15 Anne Walker
Jan. 22 Alex Buckley
Jan. 29 Lynn Graham

Open Dates for Altar Flowers

January 8
January 15
January 22
January 29

[To Altar Flowers Procedure](#)

Notes & Announcements

Some good news to start the year.



Mother Deborah's newest nephew was born on January 2.

George Andrew Woolsey was the first baby born in the Fox Valley (Wisconsin) in 2023.

He's 8 pounds 5 ounces and 20 inches long.

Baby George and his mother, Emily (who has been on our prayer list) are both doing well.



The Diocese
of Southern Ohio

An Epiphany Message from Bishop Smith

This brief sketch of how the Feast of the Epiphany and its ensuing season work was written by Bishop Smith in 2013. We are glad to share it with you today, January 6, as we celebrate Epiphany.

[To the Epiphany Message](#)

Repeats & More

Bishop Transition News/Updates -- [Follow this link](#) --

CrossRoads Café is closed until we find staff. If you know of someone looking for a job, please have them send an email to chogs@chogs.org



or revedebwoolsey@gmail.com.

We are still selling Deeper Roots Coffee Beans. \$15 for a 1 pound bag and \$12 for half pound. Please contact Michael Luelloff at michael.luelloff@hotmail.com if you want to purchase a bag.

If you want to help the folks who have been negatively impacted by climate disaster and war anywhere in the world please consider contributing to [Episcopal Relief and Development \(ERD\)](#) which is the official ministry of the Episcopal Church. You can select which fund, such as Ukraine Crisis Response.



Contacts & Information

Contact Information

For pastoral needs, please contact The Rev. Deborah Woolsey at 937-689-8895 (cell) or 740-593-6877 (church), or by e-mail at revdebwoolsey@gmail.com.

To find out more about Good Shepherd and other matters, please contact Alex Buckley, Senior Warden, at 740-593-5513 or by e-mail at macbuck@yahoo.com.

For maintenance matters, please leave a note at the office or contact Dana Carlson, Junior Warden, at 740-664-2022 or by e-mail at carlsondana@hotmail.com.

For emergencies, please call The Rev. Deborah Woolsey at 937-689-8895.

[DONATE to Good Shepherd](#)

This takes you to the Parish Home page where you can donate on line via PayPal. If you have a preference, please indicate on the the "Add special instructions to the seller" section the purpose of the donation—e.g. Covid Memorial, plate collection, etc.

Check out the Church's [YouTube Channel](#).

LIKE us on Facebook

NON-emergency messages can be left on the church's answering machine (740-593-6877). The parish office administrator is Barbara Martin (740-593-6877) or barbara@chogs.org.

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
Seeking and Serving Christ in All Persons

64 University Terrace, Athens OH 45701
740-593-6877
chogs@chogs.org
www.chogs.org

**[Episcopal Church of
the Good Shepherd
45701](#)**

**Office Hours:
10:00 a.m.– 2:00
p.m., Monday
through Thursday.**

**The Diocese COVID
Guidelines request
all persons wear
masks inside the
church building
regardless of
vaccination status.**

Church of the Good Shepherd | 64 University Terrace, Athens, OH 45701

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