

Sunday, January 2, 2022
Epiphany of the Lord Sunday
Order of Service

Gathering Song..... **“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”** (*Hymnal, #334*)

There’s a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it’s the spirit of the Lord; There are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord. Sweet holy Spirt, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us filling us with your love; and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise; without a doubt we’ll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

Greeting/Call to Worship..... **Cynthia / Larry**

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come,

Larry: and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Leader: For darkness shall cover the earth,

Larry: and thick darkness the peoples.

Leader: But the Lord will arise upon you,

Larry: and his glory will appear over you.

Leader: Nations shall come to your light,

Larry: and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Hymn of Praise..... **“Holy, Holy, Holy”**
(sing along with Christian Choir)

1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed trinity!

2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee, though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see, only thou art holy; there is none beside thee, perfect in pow’r, in love, and purity.

4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed trinity!

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*Unison*)

God of light and love, shine the brightness of your presence upon the darkness of sin and fear in our lives. Let your light so shine in us that our sin and fear are overcome and forgiven. May the brightness of your light shine out from us to all who are yearning for love and forgiveness so that

your grace may fill this weary world. God gives us all we need. Shine upon us with God's grace!
Amen.

The Invocation

Song of Meditation — “**More than Enough**” (*featuring the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir*)

The Prayer of Illumination (*Unison*)

God of abundant love, all we have comes from you, we ask that love would shine upon each of us as we hear your Word read during this hour of worship. In the name of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 **Gemma**
(*Isaiah 60:1–6, Common English Bible*)

60 Arise! Shine! Your light has come;
the LORD's glory has shone upon you.
² Though darkness covers the earth
and gloom the nations,
the LORD will shine upon you;
God's glory will appear over you.
³ Nations will come to your light
and kings to your dawning radiance.
⁴ Lift up your eyes and look all around:
they are all gathered; they have come to you.
Your sons will come from far away,
and your daughters on caregivers' hips.
⁵ Then you will see and be radiant;
your heart will tremble and open wide,
because the sea's abundance will be turned over to you;
the nations' wealth will come to you.
⁶ Countless camels will cover your land,
young camels from Midian and Ephah.
They will all come from Sheba,
carrying gold and incense,
proclaiming the LORD's praises.

Scripture Reading #2 **Tina**
(*Ephesians 3:1–12, Common English Bible*)

3 This is why I, Paul, am a prisoner of Christ for you Gentiles.
² You've heard, of course, about the responsibility to distribute God's grace, which God gave to me for you, right? ³ God showed me his secret plan in a revelation, as I mentioned briefly before (⁴ when you read this, you'll understand my insight into the secret plan about Christ). ⁵ Earlier generations didn't know this hidden plan that God has now revealed to his holy apostles and prophets through the Spirit. ⁶ This plan is that the Gentiles would be coheirs and parts of the same body, and that they would share with the Jews in the promises of God in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷ I became a servant of the gospel because of the grace that God showed me through the exercise of his power.

⁸ God gave his grace to me, the least of all God's people, to preach the good news about the immeasurable riches of Christ to the Gentiles. ⁹ God sent me to reveal the secret plan that had been hidden since the beginning of time by God, who created everything. ¹⁰ God's purpose is now to show the rulers and powers in the heavens the many different varieties of his wisdom through the church. ¹¹ This was consistent with the plan he had from the beginning of time that he accomplished through Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² In Christ we have bold and confident access to God through faith in him.

Scripture Reading #3 **Larry**
(*Matthew 2:1–12, Common English Bible*)

² After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. ² They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him."

³ When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. ⁴ He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

⁶ *You, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah,
because from you will come one who governs,
who will shepherd my people Israel."*

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him." ⁹ When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. ¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

Doxology – "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here be low; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. **Amen.**

The Affirmation of Faith — "The Apostles' Creed"

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried:
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.**

The Gloria Patri – “Glory Be to the Father”

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now
and ever shall be, world without end. **Amen.**

Hymn of Preparation — “Change” (*featuring Tramaine Hawkins*)

Inspirational Message..... **Rev. Eugene W. Matthews**

“Arise, Shine Your Light Has Come”

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call

Invitation Selection — “Rise, Shine Give God the Glory” (*featuring Georgia Mass Choir*)

*The Great Thanksgiving
for New Year, Epiphany, Baptism of the Lord,
or Covenant Reaffirmation*

The pastor stands behind the Lord’s table.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,

always and everywhere to give thanks to you,

Father Almighty (*almighty God*), creator of heaven and earth.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth,

from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God.

You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,

and spoke to us through your prophets.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ,
in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation.

In his baptism and in table fellowship he took his place with sinners.
Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
to announce that the time had come
when you would save your people.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (*God*), now and for ever.

Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

The Lord's Prayer – *Andrea Bocelli*

BREAKING THE BREAD

The pastor breaks the bread in silence, or while saying:

Because there is one loaf,
we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.
The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The pastor lifts the cup in silence, or while saying:

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

The bread and wine are given to the people, with these or other words being exchanged:

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.
The blood of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The congregation sings hymns while the bread and cup are given.

When all have received, the Lord's table is put in order.

The following prayer is then offered by the pastor or by all:

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

Announcements

Benediction

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Go forth in peace.
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all. **Amen.**



Happy Birthday and Anniversary January Members

Gail Gibson – 11th

Troy Gibson (TJ) — 11th

Floyd Hughes, Jr. – 23rd

Anniversary

Floyd & Nena Hughes – 7th



Announcements

Pastor's Hrs. — Tuesday and Thursday (11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.)

Millicent Hrs. — Tuesday and Thursday (10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.)

Pray Daily at Noon

Please remember to pray daily at NOON. Some areas to include in your prayer, can include the pandemic, racial healing, government leaders, educational challenges, and most importantly for our sick and shut-ins and each other.



Tuesday Men's Bible Study (7:00 p.m.) — Zoom information/call in: [Click Here To Join Zoom Meeting](#). Copy and paste into your browser if the link above does not work:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84876087048?pwd=K201NEwzWmpIMFZMenVqTnJlL0d0QT09>; **Meeting ID:** 848 7608 7048, **Passcode:** 803201; **Phone Option** —

One tap mobile: +13017158592,,84876087048#,,, *803201# US (Washington DC)

Wednesday Night Experience (7:00 p.m.) — This is our weekly Bible Study, based on the Wednesday reading in Upper Room. **Call in #267.807.9611; Access Code: 331960**

The pastor invites all members to participate in a 365-Day plan to read the bible during the year (2022) as part of our “**FRESH START NOW**” emphasis. The following Bible selections are provided for this week:

January 1st thru January 9th

Day 1 — Genesis 1:1–2:3

Day 2 — Genesis 2:15–3:24

Day 3 — Genesis 4: 1–16

Day 4 — Genesis 6:9–22

Day 5 — Genesis 7:1–24

Day 6 — Genesis 8:1–22

Day 7 — Genesis 9:1–17

Day 8 — Genesis 11:1–9

Day 9 — Genesis 12:1–9; 17:1–8

Jaylah & Jalani, Troop 23015 are selling Girl Scout Cookies, orders will be collected until January 9th, monies are not due until the cookies are received. You can contact Tiara (202.603.9800).



Note from Finance: First, let us give a big thank you to all that have been giving. This is a reminder that there are several ways to get your offering to the church:

1. You can drop it off at the church and place it in church mailbox
2. You can mail it to the church (601 Eighth Street, Laurel, MD 20707)
3. You can use on-line giving (Give–St. Marks — <https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/stmarkslmd>)

Again, thank you. Just remember, even during the pandemic, the church building still has obligations that need to be met.



*“Proclaiming Christ to the generations...
Equipping disciples to transform the world”*

Special Prayers / Sick and Shut-In List: If you hear of anyone that needs special prayer or is taken to the hospital, please contact: Rev. Eugene Matthews (443.257.2730 (cell), 410.379.0600 (home), reveugene@comcast.net)

Celebration of Life for DeShaun Jones

Viewing: Sunday, January 2, 2022 (2:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.)

Final Viewing: Monday, January 3, 2022 (10:00 a.m.)

Funeral: Monday, January 3, 2022 (11:00 a.m.)

Howell Funeral Home

10220 Guilford Rd, Jessup, MD 20794

Charles Gregg, Chantel Ashley, Beverly Wright, Phillip Reese, Larry Powell, Naomi Williams (Ms. Cynthia’s Mom); Hayden Harris (Gemma’s cousin), Floyd Hughes Sr., Leah Henry, Sonja Smith, Marvin Hebron, Shelford Henry, Francis Desouza (Gemma’s son), Eric Smith, Nena Hughes, Gloria Thomas, Jeanette Reeves, Rev. George F. DeFord, Wanda Dumas, Tyrone / Pat Mundell, Joan Moore, Ernestine Gibson, Mildred Awkward, Grace Elaine Catchings, James Matthews, Birdie Walker, Paul Browder, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Nancy Daniels, Hannah Polk

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