

JANUARY 6, 2022
EPIPHANY OF
OUR LORD



Christ's light shines brightly for the world.

EPIPHANY BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Epiphany celebration.

Thursday	Isaiah 60:1-6	Arise, shine; for your light has come
	Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14	Prayer for a righteous king
	Ephesians 3:1-12	Paul's ministry to the Gentiles
	Matthew 2:1-12	The visit of the wise men

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR EPIPHANY

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.

Matthew 2:11 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Epiphany:

God of the nations, may your glory shine brightly and bring justice and peace for all the world to see through Christ Jesus, born in Bethlehem. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts to us be blessed; and let there be a goodly share on every table everywhere. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you live with boldness and confidence through faith in Christ. (Ephesians 3:12)



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HYMN FOR EPIPHANY

*Bright and Glorious
Is the Sky*



EPIPHANY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Think or talk about when you took time to look at the stars. What did you see?
- The wise men were guided by a star to find Jesus. What guides you to see Jesus in the world?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 2:1-12.

If this story were not so well-known, we might think it more than a bit odd. Three foreigners who do not know the God of Israel, travel west to find the "king of the Jews." They are guided by a star, something akin to astrology. Strange, indeed. Herod and all Jerusalem with him were frightened. That a king would feel the threat of a new king is understandable, but why all Jerusalem? Do all the people have too much to lose with a change of leadership, whether that leadership is good or bad? Matthew also ends like it begins with a focus on other nations. Jesus' birth draws leaders from the east. By the end of the book of Matthew, Jesus' followers are commissioned to reach all nations of the world. It is not the wise men from the east who will expand Jesus' work. It is we, who are Jesus' followers.

Discuss: How do you give honor to Jesus and spread the good news of Jesus' birth?

Pray: **Dear God, your love is for all the nations; may the good news of Christ's birth reach all people so that your love, grace, and justice may shine brightly throughout the world. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Epiphany Bible Readings and theme for this day, how can you help Christ's light shine on others so they may receive the good news?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Epiphany is associated with the blessing of homes as a place to welcome friends and strangers. Light a candle to symbolize Christ and carry it with you from room to room.

Say these words in each room: **Lord Jesus, please bless this room and all that takes place here. Light this room and our lives with your presence. Amen.**

After you have gone throughout your home, use chalk to write above your entrance door: 20+C+M+B+22. This stands for the year 2022, the initials of Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, the names traditionally given to the wise men, and also for *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, which is Latin for "Christ, bless this home." Keep this inscription above your doorway until Pentecost.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org