

## ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

1123 Washington St. Gloucester, MA 01930

[www.stpaulcapeann.org](http://www.stpaulcapeann.org) 978-283-6550

Rev. LaDonna E. Thomas, Pastor

Ted Stoddard, Music Director

Festival of Epiphany – January 2, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.

**WELCOME** to Worship! Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here. May the light of Jesus' love and compassion surround and uplift you.

**THANK YOU** for joining us in our efforts to gather safely by wearing a mask, maintaining social distance, and sanitizing hands.

**HOLY COMMUNION** is celebrated in this worship service. All who desire to receive God's gifts of love, forgiveness, and grace through the presence of Jesus in bread and wine are welcome to participate. At the direction of an usher, proceed with an open hand to receive the bread and continue to the tray of cups filled with wine (red) or grape juice (white). You may remove your mask to eat and drink the elements as you receive them. Please replace your mask then place the empty cup in the available basket as you return to your seat by the side aisle.

**OFFERINGS** to support the mission and ministry of St. Paul Lutheran Church may be placed in the offering plate at the back of the church as you leave. Electronic giving is also available. Use our email address of [office@stpaulcapeann.org](mailto:office@stpaulcapeann.org) to find us on PayPal or you can use our donation page on our website, <https://www.stpaulcapeann.org/donations/>.



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

*\*Indicates congregation is to stand*  
**Bold Print = Congregational Responses**

### INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

### PRELUDE

*At Morning Light*

Thomas Tallis

*As with Gladness, Men of Old*

Flor Peeters

### WELCOME

### GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth. **Amen.**

In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Holy God, we confess our sin before you.**

**We replace compassion with competition.**

**We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek.**

**We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.**

**We have not put on love in harmony with you.**

**Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.**

**Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us. Amen.**

I bring you good news of great joy for all people:

God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord.

In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace. **Amen.**

**\*GREETING**

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.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.

**Refrain**

Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **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.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

## FIRST READING

## Isaiah 60:1-6

*Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.*

<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

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

*The Psalm will be read responsively.*

All kings shall bow down before him.

<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. R**

<sup>5</sup>May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation 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. R**

<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. R**

## SECOND READING

## Ephesians 3:1-12

*What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.*

<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 given 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 created 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.

Word of God, Word of Life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

#### Gospel Acclamation *Celtic Alleluia*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation for a Celtic Alleluia. Both staves are in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The melody is written in a simple, folk-like style with a mix of eighth and quarter notes, some with ties. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the notes on both staves.

**\*GOSPEL**

**Matthew 2:1-12**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.*

<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 Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**THE SERMON**

The Rev. LaDonna Thomas

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

## We Three Kings of Orient Are



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing  
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I  
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense  
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a  
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,  
 bring to crown him a - gain; king for - ev - er,  
 owns a de - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,  
 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,  
 God and Sac - ri - fice; heav'n sings al - le -



moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
 ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.  
 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.  
 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.



*Refrain*  
 Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891, alt.

Music: THREE KINGS OF ORIENT, John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891

## \*APOSTLES' CREED

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 to the dead. \*  
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 heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of wanderers, you sent the magi from afar to witness the mystery and majesty of your birth. Send us into the world with your will in our hearts and on our lips. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You created heaven and earth. Through your Spirit send your all-encompassing love over the cosmos. Bless the stars that guide our way and the night sky that invites the earth into slumber. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You sent the magi to follow the star into an uncertain future. May all leaders and peoples seek your face, especially when paths are not clear, conflicts rage, tyrants oppress, and fear abounds. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You sent your Spirit to dwell with Paul in prison. Send your Spirit to those who are imprisoned and enslaved. Give courage and wisdom for building roads that lead to justice and freedom. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You sent the holy family to seek safety in a new land. Protect all who make similar journeys. Send your guiding Spirit to asylum seekers, refugees, and all who journey toward safety. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Your glory is shown to the saints. We give thanks for those whose earthly journey has ended and now dwell with you forever. Give us signs of your continual presence until that day when we arise in you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

#### **\*THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*(Worshippers may share a sign of peace with one another. Please refrain from touching those not in your household or moving about in the sanctuary)*

#### **\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

#### **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Gracious God,

**your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth.  
As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth  
you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation,  
in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## **\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;  
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;  
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

# Holy, Holy, Holy

## Great Thanksgiving



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937  
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## **\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world.

In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son. Through him all glory and honor are yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

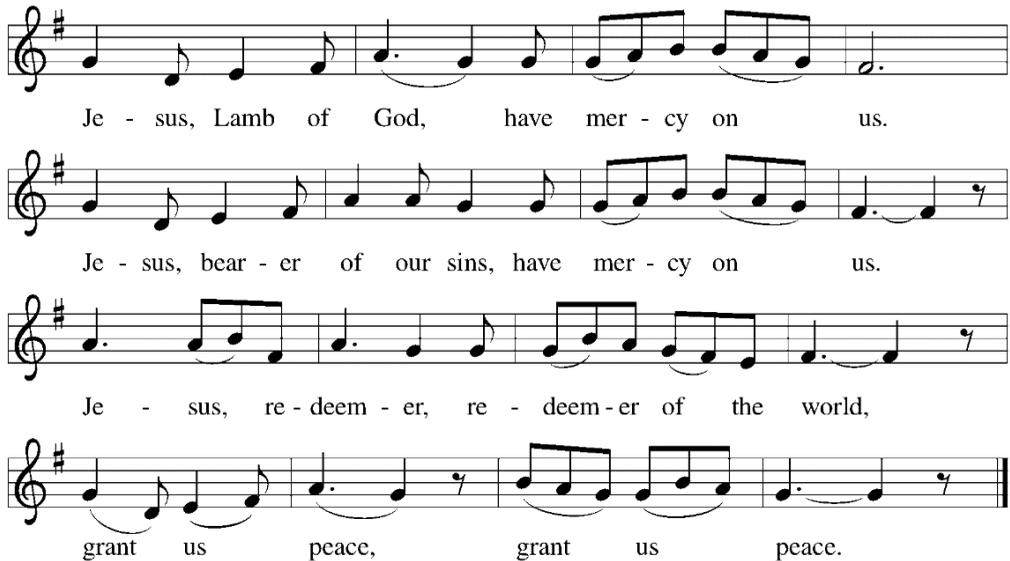
**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

### Jesus, Lamb of God



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937  
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## COMMUNION HYMN

*Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning* ELW 303

### \*BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

**We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus 'name we pray. Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**DISMISSAL**

Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*What Star is This with Beams So Bright* Alec Wyton

**WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY**

**Preaching and Presiding:** Rev. LaDonna Thomas

**Eucharistic Minister:** Patrick Broe

**Reader:** Andy Broe

**A/V:** Anne Wheeler

**Music Director:** Ted Stoddard

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**NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1123 Washington St., Gloucester, MA 01930

978-283-6550, [office@stpaulcapeann.org](mailto:office@stpaulcapeann.org)

**WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS**

If you would like to learn more about St. Paul Lutheran Church, please feel free to call the office at 978-283-6550, send an email to [office@stpaulcapeann.org](mailto:office@stpaulcapeann.org), or go to our website [stpaulcapeann.org](http://stpaulcapeann.org). If you would like to sign up for our newsletter, click on “Sign up for our newsletter” found in the menu bar of the website.

**PASTOR LADONNA’S OFFICE HOURS**

Mondays Noon – 2:00 P.M. and by appointment

Pastor LaDonna can be reached at 717-688-0652 or by email at [pastor@stpaulcapeann.org](mailto:pastor@stpaulcapeann.org)

**PRAYER LISTS**

**Please keep these people in your prayers for healing throughout the week:** Daneen R., Sonny M., Tasha R., Willy G., Brian D., Judith O., Ron F., for a Family in need of prayers, Miles, Kathryn, Bill P., Bob S., Liana W., Bruce G., Jim S., Judy M., John B., Judy R., Roger K., Ellen R., Barbara U., Doug G., Judy K., Dan W., Josh M., Dan W., John M., and Mark R.

**Armed services:** Josh Coakley, Stephanie Norberg, Brian Misuraca, Christian DiGregorio, John Korpi III, Danny Hill, Rachel Misuraca Lewin, Zach Hafey, and Tony Favalora

**POINSETTIAS**

Thank you to all who donated toward or supplied poinsettias during this holiday season.

Given by:

Carol Gray

Mary Jane Morrill

Marion Phipps

Sharon Brynes Kishida

The Carlo Family

Carol, Mark, and Matthew Babson

Laura Stephanio Kerr

Laura, Ellie, and Carol

The VanAuken Family

Pat Tanson

Sylvia Knowles

Barbara and Greg Olson

Judith Oleson

Fred and Joanne Peterson

Dave and Ginny Morey

Nancy McKay

Carl and Miranda Johnson

Norman Seppala

Martha and Don Johnson

In Memory or Honor of:

For her mother, Mary E.

Loved Ones and Family

Loved Ones

Loved Ones and Victims of Gun Violence

Nanny, Popsy, Gay, Dan, Jane, Joe, Suzan, and Stacy

Dick Babson

John "Chip" McRae

Parents and Sisters, Ed, Anne Stephanio, Mary, and Diana

Parents and Grandparents, Ann VanAuken, Kevin Blouin, and Robin VonEsch

Loved Ones

Elizabeth Jackson and Donald Knowles

Brook Faulkner

Bill & Priscilla Oleson

Loved Ones

Liisa Maria Robertson and Tripp Abbott

Loved Ones

Rebecca and Loved One

Uno and Louise Seppala

Norris Paul Johnson and other Loved Ones