



**A CELEBRATION OF THE EPIPHANY – JAN. 5, 2020**  
**St. Mark's Episcopal Church, North Tonawanda**

**THE GATHERING**

GATHERING MUSIC

*Organist: Su Lee*

WELCOME

*Please remain seated.*

*The Rev. John Seib*

OPENING HYMN

*We three kings*

*Hymnal 128*

## OPENING ACCLAMATION & PRAYER

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen**

Let us pray: **Almighty God to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name, through Christ our Lord. Amen**

## GLORIA

*Hymnal S-280*

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY (Collect)

*Please be seated.*

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

Let us pray: **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 for ever. Amen**

## THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

*Isaiah 63:7-9*

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.  
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.  
Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.  
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.  
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.  
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.

*Reader*            The word of the Lord.

*All*                **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 72

*Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

*Hymnal 616*

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles – for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. 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: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

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. 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, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; 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. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

*Reader*            The word of the Lord.

*All*                 **Thanks be to God.**

*All who are able, please stand for the reading of the Gospel.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(sing refrain twice)

ALLELUIA

Refrain

Celtic Alleluia  
Fintan O'Carroll, Christopher Walker

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

*Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
according to Matthew.

*All* **Glory to you, Lord Christ!**

THE GOSPEL

*Matthew 2:13-23*

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.

*At the conclusion of the reading...*

*Priest*            The Gospel of Christ,  
*All*                **Praise to you, Lord Christ!**  
*Sing refrain*    **Alleluia...**

SERMON

*The Rev. John Seib*

MUSICAL MEDITATION (Choir Anthem)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*All able to do so, please stand*

Let us affirm our faith in Christ, born to be our Saviour:

**Though he was divine,  
he did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.  
Taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.**

**He humbled himself  
and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God has raised him on high,  
and given him the name above every name:  
that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father. Amen**

*(From Common Worship, England - based on Philippians 2.6-11)*

**CALL TO PRAYER**

*Please be seated for prayer.*

*The following refrain is sung three times:*

Where two or three are ga-thered in my name, I am  
there, I am there.

It is in following the Light that we discover the truth. With the love of God to guide our footsteps, let us journey to the new Bethlehem and offer our prayers to the Holy Child, saying "Hear us, God of Glory."

For the light of hope which illumines the depths of reality and releases our hearts to offer the treasures of our souls; let us pray. **Hear us, God of Glory.**

For the fragile stirrings of peace sown in troubled places throughout the world, that freedom may flourish, and its fruits bring hope to those most in need; let us pray. **Hear us, God of Glory.**

For the forgiveness of our sins: our greed and narrow-mindedness, our selfishness and misuse of power, our misjudgment of one another, that we may acknowledge our faults and turn to the all-merciful love of God; let us pray.

*Hear us, God of Glory.*

That we may be humbled in the presence of the poor, bending the knee of our hearts to those who have no defender, and to those whose economic and personal distress pains us to encounter; let us pray. *Hear us, God of Glory.*

For those who are suffering with illness and for those who bear a private grief, that the Holy Comforter may bring them relief from their burdens; let us pray. *Hear us, God of Glory.*

For all that is to be revealed to us during this new year: the joys, the disappointments, the struggles, the new directions and insights; that through all our journeys we may know the Messiah as our constant companion; let us pray. *Hear us, God of Glory.*

For generosity of spirit, that through the delight of giving treasures rich and rare, we may share a common bounty and support a shared mission; let us pray. *Hear us, God of Glory.*

In thanksgiving for the Body and Blood of Christ, a foretaste of that heavenly banquet upon which the faithful departed continually feast; let us pray. *Hear us, God of Glory.*

In companionship with the angels of light, we continue our prayers.

We pray for Michael our Presiding Bishop, Sean our Bishop, John our Priest, and for all bishops and other ministers, and all who serve God in the church.

We give thanks this week for the birthdays of Braden Kozlowski, Lynn Moore, Faith Elliott, and Olive Elliott.

We pray for God's healing and comfort for those connected with this congregation who are ill or homebound, and all who have asked for our prayers. We especially remember Kathleen "Mary" Dreelan, who is critically ill.

We pray for all who have died, especially Pat Rellinger, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*[You may add your own prayers of thanksgiving or petition, silently or aloud.]*

*Then the concluding collect is said by all:*  
**Lord God, the bright splendor whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**



THE PEACE

*All able to do so, please stand*

*Priest*            The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*All*                **And also with you.**

*The members of the community greet one another. Then all return to their places and remain seated for the offertory.*

## THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

*Music is played as the altar is prepared and offerings are collected. As the gifts are brought forward, all able to do so, please stand.*

THE DOXOLOGY                      *Old 100<sup>th</sup>*                      *Hymnal 380, v. 3*

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

### PRESENTATION & PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

**Instead of gold and frankincense and myrrh, we bring to you, O God, the treasures you have first given to us – our hearts, minds and bodies. Use us and our offerings to herald the coming of your kingdom. We pray this in Jesus' name. *Amen***

### EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

*(BCP Prayer B)*

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 right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of

heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only son, to be born for us; who by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS      *Holy, holy, holy Lord*      *Hymnal S-129*

**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!**

*(Please be seated or kneel for the remainder of the prayer.)*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke

it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,  
**We remember his death,**  
**We proclaim his resurrection,**  
**We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Mark and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

**Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. Amen**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Priest* And now, as our Savior has taught us, we are bold to say:

*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**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD (FRACTION ANTHEM)

*As the bread is broken, the choir leads the congregation in a Fraction Anthem: Christ our Passover Hymnal S-154*

*Priest* We share the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

*All* **God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

*Priest* The Gifts of God for the people of God.

*All* **Thanks be to God!**



## COMMUNION

*Everyone is invited to receive the Holy Communion. Communion may be taken in both forms, or in bread or wine alone. Gluten free wafers are available; please let the priest know if you need them. Those who choose to not receive communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing. During*

*Communion, meditative music is played, and the following hymn is sung.*

COMMUNION HYMN    *Humbly I adore thee*    **Hymnal 314**

## SENDING OUT OF THE DISCIPLES

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. *Amen***

### BLESSING

May God the Father show you the light of his glory in the face of his Son, so that you may be a light to the world; and may the blessing of God – our Creator, Redeemer & Sustainer – be with us all, now and for ever. *Amen*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

### TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*(Readers gather near the Advent Wreath)*

*Celebrant*    Through the Sundays of Advent and through Christmastide, we lit candles to symbolize Christ and the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love which are God's gifts during this holy season. Today, as we leave this service, and move on

from Advent and Christmas to this joyful time of Epiphany, we are invited to take this light and these gifts into our individual lives and into the life of this congregation.

By the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, may we receive into our lives the Christ whose coming we have experienced through the holy seasons of Advent and Christmas.

*Reader #1*      On December 1<sup>st</sup> we lit the first candle in celebration of the hope that is ours through Christ our Lord.

*(1<sup>st</sup> Advent Candle is removed from the wreath).*

**All**            **May we all live with hope in our hearts, as the love of God drives away all despair.**

*Reader #2*      On December 8<sup>th</sup> we lit a second candle in celebration of the peace God gives us.

*(2<sup>nd</sup> Advent Candle is removed from the wreath).*

**All**            **May we all know God's peace in our hearts, and seek it in our homes, in our church and in our world.**

*Reader #3*      On December 15<sup>th</sup> we lit the third candle in celebration of the joy we feel in response to God's goodness toward us.

*(3<sup>rd</sup> Advent Candle is removed from the wreath).*

**All**            **May we continue to rejoice throughout this year.**

*Reader #4*      On December 22<sup>nd</sup> we lit a candle in celebration of the great love God has for us.

*(4<sup>th</sup> Advent Candle is removed from the wreath).*

**All**                    **May we all accept this Love, and seek to live  
in love toward our neighbours.**

*Celebrant*            On Christmas Eve, we lit this Christ Candle  
which represents Immanuel, God with us.  
Christ be with you, and with all God's  
creatures!

**All**                    **And also with you, and the whole of creation.**

*Reader #1*            Gathering together all that we experienced of  
Christ's presence during Advent and  
Christmas, we now transfer the flame of the  
Advent Wreath to our individual candles,  
celebrating the light of Christ that fills our  
lives.

*Hand candles are lit from the light of the Advent Wreath.*

DISMISSAL

*Celebrant*            In the days to come, keep the light of Christ  
burning brightly in your hearts – and share  
that light with the world.

**All**                    **May Christ be with us now, and on all our  
journeys. And when our pilgrimage is ended  
may we, like the wise men, find him who is  
our true treasure, happiness and peace.**

*Celebrant*            Go in peace. Your light has come. Alleluia!

**All**                    **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

CLOSING HYMN

*What star is this*

*Hymnal 124*

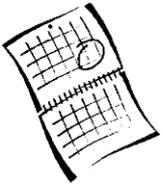
POSTLUDE

**Whether you are visiting or regularly attend St. Mark's, you are very welcome here.** If you are visiting, our ushers will be happy to answer any questions. Please sign our Guest Book located on the table near the door.

**PLEASE JOIN US** for our Epiphany Party in the Fellowship Hall following the service.



**CREDITS:** Collect/Prayer of the Day, BCP. Prayers of the People from *Planning for Rites and Rituals Year A, 2019-2020, Episcopal Church Publishing*. Concluding collect and Epiphany Blessing from *Common Worship*. Prayer over the Gifts adapted from Moira B. Laidlaw ([www.liturgiesonline.com.au](http://www.liturgiesonline.com.au)). Image: *Nativity -3*, Kim Jae Im, Korea Taking of Light adapted from the Rev. Bob Kayes ([www.ecclesiacakes.ca](http://www.ecclesiacakes.ca)). Dismissal from 2008 Epiphany Worship at the Vatican Observatory.



## **ST. MARK'S CALENDAR & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Everyone is welcome to join us for **Mid-Week Eucharist and Roundtable Discussion** in the chapel at 10:00 am this **Wednesday, January 8**. At our weekday service we look for inspiration in the lives of men/women commemorated by the church. This week we'll learn about the lives of Ralph Adams Cram and Richard Upjohn, Architects, and John LaFarge, Artist. (This will be a visual presentation prepared by Fr. John.)

**We are sad to announce the death of Pat Rellinger**, a friend of St. Mark's and a member of our "Lunch Bunch". She was also a dear friend of Lin Kucharski, and the 'Avon Lady' of several members of the congregation. Calling hours will be held at Lester H. Wedekindt Funeral Home (3290 Delaware Ave., Kenmore, NY) on Saturday, January 11 from 2-4 and 7-9 pm.

*Next Sunday, January 12, 2020 – services at 8 am and 10 am*

## **COMMEMORATION OF THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST**

As we celebrate God's revelation of Christ in his baptism, this service will include a renewal of the vows made at our own baptisms. This is a great way to refocus our lives at the start of a new year! Lectionary readings assigned for the day are:  
*Isaiah 42:1-9 ✦ Psalm 29 ✦ Acts 10:34-43 ✦ Matthew 3:13-17*

St. Mark's "**Lunch Bunch**" will meet for lunch at 11:30 am on **Tuesday, January 14** at *Exit 2* (3191 Eggert Rd, Tonawanda, NY). If you'd like to join us, please RSVP to Lin Kucharski or phone her for more details (716-870-3535).

**The Vestry will meet at 7 pm on Tuesday, January 14.**

**Ordo Calendars for 2020 are now available.** You can pick one up on the desk in the hallway.

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### ***Prayers for the Week of Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020***

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**Sunday** In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for: The Cattaraugus Deanery; St. John's-in-the-Woods Summer Chapel, Allegany State Park; St. John's, Ellicottville; St. Barnabas', Franklinville; and St. Mary's, Gowanda. Among our local churches, we pray for: St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Open Arms Community Church, Niagara Alliance Church, and our Deanery Partner - Christ Church, Lockport.

**Monday** We pray for all who are sick, suffering or in any need or trouble. We especially ask for God's healing and comfort for those who are ill or homebound, and all who have asked for our prayers, including: Fr. Glenn Fuller, Theresa Arndt, Harold Becker, Jessica

Cameron, Libby Foels, Fritzi Gerwitz, Ellie Zdrojewski, Joan McKernan, Kathleen (Mary) Dreelan, Zhour Benaich Harding, Michelle Young, Tom Prusinowski, Geraldine Orchard, Pat Mahoney, John Kucharski (Junior), Art Lee, Audrey Miner, Sandra Miner, Susan and Scott Thibault, Joe Rudd, Beth Rossow, Betty Lamb, Karen, Julie, Susan, Lois, Bill, Audrey, Robin and Mark. We pray for the repose of the soul of Pat Rellinger.

**Tuesday** We ask that God will guide the leaders in our country and the world, strengthening their commitment to justice and peace. We pray for Donald our President, Andrew our governor, our legislators, our courts, and our service men and women.

**Wednesday** We give thanks for the many who contribute their skills to our worship. We pray for our Choir, Organist, Altar Guild, Eucharistic Ministers, Eucharistic Visitors, Acolytes, Ushers, Sunday School Teachers, our priest Fr. John, and our seminarian, Katie Smith.

**Thursday** We rejoice in the many blessings of this life, giving thanks for the birthdays of Braden Kozlowski, Lynn Moore, Faith Elliott, and Olive Elliott.

**Friday** We give thanks for all the members of this congregation who give of themselves in service to God and others. We pray for our Vestry and Officers, parish committees, and for the upcoming Annual Meeting & Vestry Election.

**Saturday** We give thanks for the buildings and grounds, and the rich heritage entrusted to us. We pray for our Sextons.



**St. Mark's**  
NORTH TONAWANDA  
**150!**  
years of service & love

**61 Payne Ave., North Tonawanda, NY 14120**

Phone: 716-692-3735

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**The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe**, Bishop of Western New York

**The Rev. John Seib**, Priest-in-Charge:

Mobile phone: (315) 775-9851; Email: [jnseib@gmail.com](mailto:jnseib@gmail.com)

**Vestry:**

Rich Fischer (Treasurer), Rebecca Goris (Co-Warden, Clerk),

Marty Hall, Linda Hardy, Jane Lemley,

Barb Nesbit, Benjamin Phillips (Co-Warden),

Jeff Trenchard, Diane Wacker, Ray Wolf

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**NOTICE re the Vestry Election and Annual General Meeting**

This meeting will be postponed until March (date to be determined at the January 14<sup>th</sup> Vestry Meeting). We are seeking candidates to fill one of the positions of Warden and several vestry seats. Members and leadership for several parish committees, including Stewardship and Buildings & Grounds, is also being sought. A box for nominations and suggestions will be in the hall outside the Parish Office for the following three weeks. Please prayerfully consider whether God is leading you to volunteer!