

SERVICE OF WORSHIP Epiphany Wednesday, January 6, 2021, 8:00 p.m.

The twelve days of Christmas culminate in the festival of Epiphany on January 6. Historically, the festival celebrated three primary epiphanies through which the light of the incarnation was revealed to the world: the adoration of the magi, the baptism of Christ in the Jordan River, and Jesus' first miracle at the wedding at Cana. In the modern liturgical calendar, these events are usually separated and marked on successive Sundays in January. Tonight's service focuses on the first of these two epiphanies. Duke Chapel welcomes all to this online worship experience, particularly the participants in the 2021 National Conference for Sacred Music.

Voluntary

Toccata in F Major

**Choral Introit** 

The Lord Shall Come and Not Be Slow

The Lord shall come and not be slow; his light is soon appearing. Prepare, you children here below who are these tidings hearing:

Arise, O sleepers, trim your lamps! Their flames, so swiftly burning, reveal the path to hope and peace the dawn for which you're yearning.

Come forth, you weary, meek, and poor! Forget your strife and labor. Messiah comes to those who toil, bestowing God's own favor.

Your King eternal, Lord on high, in humble form and lowly, transforms a simple oxen stall into a throne most holy.

For Christ shall come and not be slow; his light is now appearing. Rejoice, you saints on earth below! His reign of love is nearing.

Text: Zebulon M. Highben

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637–1707)

Zebulon M. Highben

## **Opening Prayer**

Blessed are you, O God, fountain of creation, for you are not a God far-off, but God-with-us. May our hearts open to you, that we, like Mary, may give birth to holy love in this world, in this season and always, through the power of Christ Jesus and your Spirit, now and unto all ages of ages. Amen

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien

**Opening Hymn |** See hymns at the back of the worship guide.

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

SALZBURG

## Reading

## Isaiah 60:1–6

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.

## Anthem

For behold, darkness / The people that walked in darkness (Messiah)

George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

Text: Isaiah 60:2–3; Isaiah 9:2

Reading

God in Christ

God in Christ. God in flesh. Susan Palo Cherwien

God in human form.

The impact of the Christ story should startle and delight us; it should form our lives and our desire, it should turn our heads.
For God entered creation in a new way: God sat at table and shared bread, God laughed and God wept, God savored sunsets and felt damp sand on the soles of feet, God suffered God risked, God danced, And thus God blessed human life.
There should be no more doubt.
Life is blessed.
Life is holy.

#### Anthem

Puer natus in Bethlehem

Samuel Scheidt (1587–1654) ed. Philip Cave

A child is born in Bethlehem, Alleluia, Exult for joy, Jerusalem! Alleluia.

Per Gabrielem nuntium, Alleluia, Virgo concepit Filium, Alleluia. By angel Gabriel announced, The Virgin has conceived a Son.

Come then, and on his natal day, Alleluia, Rejoice before the Lord and pray. Alleluia.

Text: traditional

Hymn | Stanzas 1 through 3. See hymns at the back of the worship guide.

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET

Reading

Matthew 2:1–12

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 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.

\*Hymn | Stanzas 4 through 6. See hymns at the back of the worship guide.

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET

Malcolm Guite

#### Reading

## The Baptism of Christ

Beginning here we glimpse the Three-in-one; The river runs, the clouds are torn apart, The Father speaks, the Spirit and the Son Reveal to us the single loving heart That beats behind the being of all things And calls and kindles us to light. The dove descends, the spirit soars and sings, 'You are beloved, you are my delight!' In that swift light and life, as water spills And streams around the man like quickening rain, the voice that made the universe reveals The God in Man who makes it new again. He calls us too, to step into that river, To die and rise and live and love forever.

#### Anthem

Deep River

spiritual, arr. Gerre Hancock

Deep river, my home is over Jordan, deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground. Oh, don't you want to go to that gospel feast, that promised land where all is peace? Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.

#### Reading

Mark 1:4–11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now

John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

#### Anthem

To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord

Johann Walter (1496–1570) arr. Gerhard Krapf

To Jordan came the Christ, our Lord, to do his Father's pleasure; baptized by John, the Father's Word was given us to treasure. This heavenly washing now shall be a cleansing from transgression and by his blood and agony release from death's oppression. A new life now awaits us.

There stood the Son of God in love, his grace to us extending; the Holy Spirit like a dove upon the scene descending; the triune God assuring us, with promises compelling, that by our baptism he will thus among us find a dwelling to comfort and sustain us.

To his disciples spoke the Lord, "Go out to every nation, and bring to them the living Word and this my invitation: Let everyone abandon sin and come in true contrition to be baptized, and thereby win full pardon and remission, and heavenly bliss inherit."

Text: Martin Luther (1483–1546), trans. Elizabeth Quitmeyer

Closing Prayer

Creator of the Stars of Night, who shaped the worlds in love and sweetly sang to us the great alleluia, Accept now our hearty and faltering hymns of wonder and join us to the morning stars and all the galaxy of saints, through Jesus Christ, the risen Morningstar. Amen.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien

\*Hymn | See hymns at the back of the worship guide.

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Fugue on "How Brightly Shines the Morning Star"

# **TODAY IN WORSHIP**

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#### **Opening Hymn**

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

SALZBURG



Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt. Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750 Hymn

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

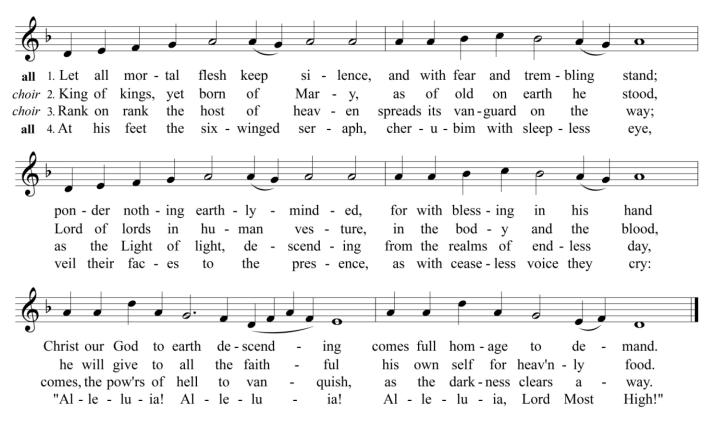
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Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1598; Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt. Music: Philipp Nicolai, 1598; Harm. J. S. Bach, c. 1731

#### **Closing Hymn**

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



PICARDY

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt. Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17<sup>th</sup> cent.