

WHY GOD HOLDS THE WORLDS
IN HIS HANDS



PRINCE OF PEACE

Sunday January 3, 2021
Celebration of Epiphany
Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Introduction: The celebration of Epiphany concludes the Christmas season with God's glory revealed to the whole world in Jesus Christ. In Isaiah we hear that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. In this season we remember that God has the whole world in his hands. God is holding your life!

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Holy Trinity + one God,
Whose voice is upon the waters,
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,
whose goodness cascades over all creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.
(Silence is kept for reflection)

Holy God,
You search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways.
We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin-
Our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.
We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love.
We distrust those who are not like us.
We exploit the earth and its resources
and fail to consider generations to come.
Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone.
Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them;
Receive them in your divine mercy.
Amen.

How vast is God's grace!
Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus,
our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved.
You are forgiven. God is holding your life. In that gift of God's forgiveness
we are called to be the beloved community living our Christ's justice
and the Spirit's reconciling peace.
Amen.

May 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.

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 Moment

First Reading: Isaiah 60.1-6 (New Revised Standard Edition)

The Ingathering of the Dispersed

60 Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

² 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.

³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ 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.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,^[a]
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ 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.

Psalm: 72.1-7, 10-14 (New Revised Standard Edition)

Prayer for Guidance and Support for the King Of Solomon

¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.

**² May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.**

³ May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

**⁴ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

⁵ May he live^[a] while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

**⁶ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.**

⁷ In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

Gospel: Matthew 2.1-12 (New Revised Standard Edition)

The Visit of the Wise Men

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men^[a] from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising,^[b] and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah^[c] was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘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^[d] my people Israel.’”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men^[e] and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ 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.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising,^[f] until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped,^[g] they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Message

Song: "The First Noel" 300 English Traditional John Stainer, 1840-1901 The First Nowell irregular

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel

1. The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep. *Ref.*

2. They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night. *Ref.*

3. And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far
To seek for a king was their intent
And to follow the star wherever it went. *Ref.*

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay. *Ref.*

5. Then entered in those wise men three
Full rev'rently upon the knee
And offered there in His presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense. *Ref.*

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

**On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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.

The Peace

Announcements

*Altar flowers are given to the glory of God
By Alton E. Randall Jr. with thanks to Marie
and in honor of our 65th Wedding Anniversary*

In January and February you can watch our worship services on Facebook each Sunday at 9:30 AM. We hope to be able to gather together safely later in the New Year! In the meantime, stay home, stay warm and stay safe!

The 2021 POP envelopes are here! If you would like to receive yours by mail, please email the office with your preferred address Attention Donna at princeofpeacebrockton@gmail.com or dplouffe16@gmail.com thank you!

Bible study on Wednesday 10 am Live or taped on our facebook page.

“New” Thirsty Thursday video also on facebook. Send in your pics by Tuesday check in for the theme of the week.

Prayers of Intercession

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Sing Response: **God is holding your life, God is holding your life, God is holding your life, we believe. (sing twice)**

Glorious God, fill your church with joy. Let your faithful people live as beacons of your redemption. Give wisdom and courage to your church that it may speak with boldness and confidence, even when words of mercy are met with scorn.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Come quickly with your healing power to all who seek love, support, and restoration. Dispel fears and shadows. Restore broken relationships and mend broken hearts. Bring relief to those who are sick or struggling.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Send traveling mercies upon all who journey home by other roads. Guard refugees, immigrants, and asylum seekers. Protect families fleeing conflict in their homelands or abuse in their homes. Tend to those who have no place to lay their heads. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

According to the boundless riches of Christ, you draw all your saints, from the least to the greatest, to your heavenly places. As you created all things, make all things new again in the splendor of your glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

Sing Response: **God is holding your life, God is holding your life, God is holding your life, we believe. (sing twice)**

The Lord's Prayer

Blessing:

May God, the creator strengthen you;
Jesus the beloved fill you;
And the Holy Spirit, the comforter, keep you in peace.
Go in the knowledge that
God is holding your life
You are not alone.
You are loved. **Amen.**

Hymn: "We Three Kings" WOV 646

Text & Music John Hopkins, Jr. 1820-1891 88446 and refrain

1. We three kings of orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain moor and mountain
Following yonder star. **Ref.**

2. Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again
king forever, ceasing never
over us all to reign. **Ref.**

3. Frankincense to offer have I
Incense owns a deity nigh
Prayer and praising gladly raising
Worshipping God Most High. **Ref.**

4. Myrrh is mine its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. **Ref.**

5. Glorious now behold him arise, and God and Sacrifice
Heav'n sings alleluia alleluia the earth replies. **Ref.**

Refrain: Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to the perfect light!

Dismissal

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God!

Thanks for joining us!

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Worship live Sundays @ 930am, Bible study Wednesday 10am and “New” Thirsty Thursday video View all on our facebook page

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