# EPIPHANY

— Seattle



# THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

HOLY EUCHARIST

JANUARY 6, 2024 AT 7:30 PM

### A NEW SPIRITUAL EXERCISE: COMMUNITY THEOLOGY

Dear Epiphany,

My goal tonight is to share where we are, where I sense we are going, and why it is our privilege to go there. One of the providential realities about being a church in Seattle is our proximity to technological innovation and influence. It's like being in Mainz Germany in the 15th century as the printing press was being developed.

The impact of this technological revolution on Epiphany has been both our capacity to employ it and our perpetual reflection on its spiritual impact, individually and communally.

What is clear is that technology connects us, and that this connectivity expands human freedom into a virtual space where people can connect and reconnect as an unlimited, dynamic, creative community that allows new things to be done that could never have been done before.

Awesome, and yet I wonder: if we have indeed been drawn more closely together electronically spanning language, race, gender, time, nationality, and geography, why then are we more polarized than we have ever been before? The answer to that question, I believe, sits at the heart of who Epiphany is as a spiritual center of gravity in this technologically thriving city.

At issue is the loss of an organizing principle, a magnetic center that draws, then holds, the community together. As the world re-creates itself into a web of connectivity, the grounding rods of articulated direction, inspired purpose, and deviance deterrence have been loosened in the ground. Suddenly, it seems, there is no center. What had been trusted economic or political or scientific models are having their inequalities exposed, while simultaneously being undermined by cynical disinformation. With governments fast losing their regulatory capacity corporations are seeking to fill the void. Yet, even if their intentions are noble, their hardwired profit motivation is disqualifying. Then there are the individuals who seek to be the center and in doing so reveal themselves simply as megalomaniacs.

So, what do people do when the center disappears? They seek an organizing principle down a portal into an echo chamber that reinforces their particular point-of-view. The result is even greater division.

Without a center of gravity, without an organizing perspective, or an organizing pattern, technology will be leveraged to maximize power for those who marshal the strongest competitive forces; and inevitably lead to even more human differentiation and division, accruing power to a very few, and leaving the many in a world that could be even more messed up than the 20th century.

The answer to this conundrum, I believe, is religion. I hope I lay out this reasoning clearly for you in this evening's sermon. As you listen to the sermon, I invite you to envision, as I do, the new center being the network, the web itself, that lives between all relationships. That's a core Epiphany theology... relationship as primary. The paths across this networked world are not toward the destination of God, but are the destination itself, where God is revealed in the space that exists between me and you and you and even between each one of us and creation itself.

The revelation of God is in the conversation about God. God is found in "doing God." In the Age of the Holy Spirit a new conversation is unfolding. It is unfolding here at Epiphany. The title we are giving it is *Relata*, which means a generative conversation that creates theology... that is, a reductive loop of insight and experience that reveals that God that is here with us, living between us, and holding us together.

These are exciting times to be at Epiphany, and I am glad you are here to be part of the unfolding.

Peace upon your soul.

Doyt+

# THE GATHERING

Welcome to Epiphany! We invite you to help create the experience of silence before our service. Our hope is to calm our hearts as we prepare to enter into an intensity of shared presence. Thank you for turning off all electronic devices. This service is livestreamed over the internet. If you do not wish to be seen in the video please see an usher for appropriate seating.

The choir enters during the voluntary.

VOLUNTARY: Prélude sur L'Introit de l'Épiphanie

Maurice Duruflé (1902-86)

At the sound of the bell, all rise as able.

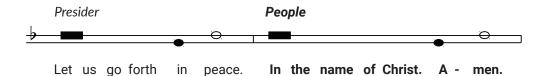
### INTROIT: Behold, he appeareth

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

Behold, he appeareth, our Lord and Ruler: and in his hand the kingdom, and power, and dominion. Give the King thy judgements, O God: and thy righteousness unto the King's son.

The people stand for

### THE FESTIVAL PROCESSION





Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

Presider 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.** 

### **SONG OF PRAISE** sung by all

William Mathias





Presider The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

All

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 LITURGY OF THE WORD

All are seated.

THE LESSON: 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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The people remain seated.

PSALM 72: 1-7, 10-14: Deus, judicium

Anglican Chant: John Goss

Give the King your justice, O God, \* and your righteousness to the King's Son;

That he may rule your people righteously \* and the poor with justice;

That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \* and the little hills bring righteousness.

He shall defend the needy among the people; \* he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \* from one generation to another.

He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \* like showers that water the earth.

In his time shall the righteous flourish; \* there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, \* and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.

All kings shall bow down before him, \* and all the nations do him service.

For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, \* and the oppressed who has no helper.

He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; \* he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, \* and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

The people stand.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION The refrain is sung first by the Cantor, and then sung by all.



Verse: We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.

**Refrain** (sung by all)

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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.

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON: The Reverend Doyt L. Conn, Jr.

Reflective silence and stillness are kept after the sermon.

### The people stand to say

### THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The intercessor and people pray responsively.

Intercessor On this feast that shows all humanity drawn to God through the light of Christ, let us pray that our spiritual gifts will enable us to reach the fullness of that light and life.

The people remain standing or kneel.

Intercessor Through the light of faith inspire us to seek you continuously in the ordinary and common places. Lord, in

your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

Intercessor Through the light of wisdom show us the path that leads to healthier lifestyles and spiritual maturity. Lord, in

your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

Intercessor Through the light of hope renew our strength in time of illness, grief, and personal trial. Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

Intercessor Through the light of truth enable leaders of nations to see new horizons for universal peace. Lord, in your

mercy,

All hear our prayer.

Intercessor Through the light of justice help us as a society to share our material gifts with those less fortunate. Lord, in

your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

Intercessor Through the light of love transform any ill will and hostility in us into forgiveness and kindness. Lord, in your

mercy,

All hear our prayer.

Intercessor Through the light of everlasting peace scatter the darkness of death for those whose earthly journey has

ended. Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

Intercessor Through the light of grace be with those on our hearts, as we offer praise and thanksgiving, intercession and solace, comfort and healing, for those we now name silently or aloud.

The people may add their own petitions.

Intercessor Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

All Who put their trust in you.

The Presider offers a Concluding Collect.

Presider God of everlasting glory, you have revealed Christ to be the light of the nations. Receive our prayers through

Christ, who manifests your love to us eternally. Amen.

The people are seated.

### WELCOMING NEW PEOPLE TO EPIPHANY

People who have joined Epiphany since the last Feast of the Epiphany are invited to come forward.

Presider Dear siblings in Christ, as companions on this spiritual journey we are grateful to God to Epiphany Parish

new members who we are pleased to welcome and acknowledge this evening. Together we will continue to love the Lord our God with heart and soul, mind and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We welcome and honor their unique gifts and experiences as together we build up the body of the cosmic Christ within ourselves, to inspire and be inspiring in a way that reveals the Kingdom in the world around us.

Parish Life Minister

I present these people to be welcomed as members of Epiphany Parish.

Presider Do you desire to continue your spiritual journey as a member of Epiphany Parish?

**New Members** 

I do.

Presider Will you commit yourself to seek and serve Christ in this community of faith and pledge to work, pray, and

give to build up our common life?

**New Members** 

I will, with God's help.

The people stand.

Presider Will you who witness these promises, do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

People We will.

Presider Let us pray.

All Loving God, we give thanks that you have brought these people to join this parish family. Knit us together

by worship, prayer, and service, soul to soul in unity and in step with your divine purpose and providence,

for the kingdom and power and glory are yours, for ever and ever. Amen.

### THE PEACE

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you.

The ministers and people greet one another in the name of Christ.

# THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

### **OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

Presider Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

### **OFFERTORY ANTHEM: Epiphany Alleluias**

John Weaver (b. 1973)

Alleluia. We have seen his star in the east and are come to worship him. Alleluia. Arise, shine, for thy light is come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. Alleluia.

The people stand.

### **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A**

Presider The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give God 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 in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 sung by all Mathias



The people stand or kneel. Then the Presider continues.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

### Presider and people

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

### Presider and people

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

### Presider

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN**.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

### THE LORD'S PRAYER said by 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.

### **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.



### THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All are invited to receive the Holy Communion. It is your choice as to whether you receive Holy Communion or a blessing. You may receive Communion or a blessing at the standing station in the front of the nave or proceed to the altar rail. The bread will be placed in your palm. You may consume the bread and then drink from the chalice (please grasp the bottom of the chalice firmly and guide it to your lips); or, you may leave the bread in your palm for the chalice bearer to dip it into the wine and place it on your tongue. The people's response to receiving the bread and the wine is "Amen." Gluten-free wafers are available. To indicate to the Eucharistic minister that you would like a gluten-free wafer, please present your hands palms down. Those who do not wish to receive Communion are invited to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest.

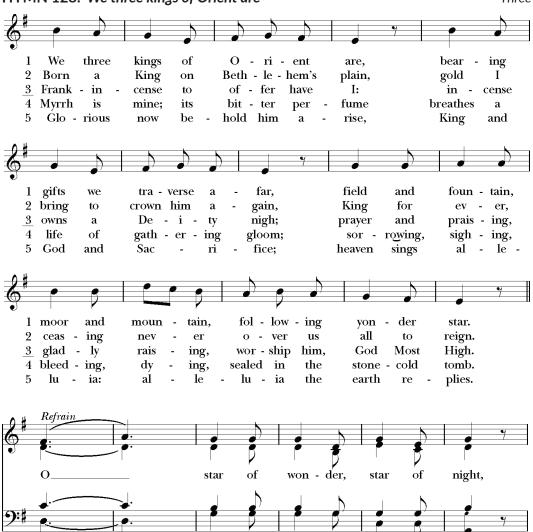
Small wonder the star, small wonder the light, the angels in chorus, the shepherds in fright; but stable and manger for God no small wonder!

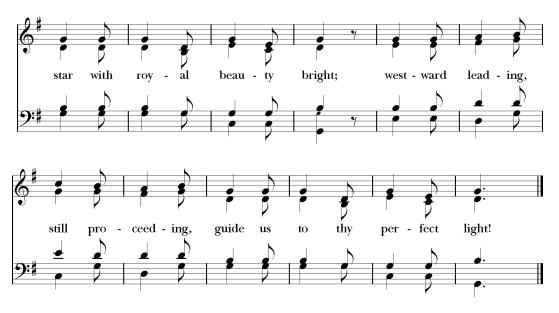
Small wonder the kings, small wonder they bore the gold and the incense, the myrrh, to adore; but God gives his life on a cross no small wonder!

Small wonder the love, small wonder the grace, the power, the glory, the light of his face; but all to redeem my poor heart no small wonder!

### COMMUNION HYMN 128: We three kings of Orient are

Three Kings of Orient





Words and Music: John Henry Hopkins (1820-91)

The people stand as able.

### POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Presider Let us pray.

All

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. Help us so to live out our days that we may be signs of your wonders in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

### THE PROCLAMATION OF EASTER

Know, dear people of Epiphany, that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Savior.

On the fourteenth day of February will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season.

Let us mark in our minds and on our calendars, the Easter Triduum of the Lord. His last supper, known as Maundy Thursday, is March twenty-eighth. His crucifixion and burial, known as Good Friday, is March twenty-ninth. His resurrection is celebrated the evening of thirtieth with the Great Vigil.

On the thirty-first day of March you will celebrate with joy Easter Day, The Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the ninth day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the nineteenth day of May, the feast of Pentecost.

On the first day of December, the First Sunday of the Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Likewise the pilgrim Church proclaims the passover of Christ in the feasts of the holy Mother of God, in the feasts of the Apostles and Saints, and in the commemoration of the faithful departed.

To Jesus Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come, Lord of time and history, be endless praise, for ever and ever. Amen.

### THE EPIPHANY BLESSING

Presider

May Almighty God, who led the Wise Men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light, lead you also, in your pilgrimage, to find the Lord. **Amen.** 

May God, who sent the Holy Spirit to rest upon the Only-begotten at his baptism in the Jordan River, pour out that Spirit on you who have come to the waters of new birth. **Amen.** 

May God, by the power that turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, transform your lives and make glad your hearts. **Amen.** 

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.** 

### HYMN 119: As with gladness men of old

Dix



Words William Chatterton Dix (1837-98) Music: Conrad Kocher (1786-1872)

### **DISMISSAL**

Minister Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia!

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia!

After the procession has led the way out of the church, we invite you to remain for the Voluntary or depart quietly.

**VOLUNTARY:** Epiphania Domini from L'Orgue Mystique

Charles Tournemire (1870-1939)

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THE ALTAR FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Andrew R. Price

FROM HIS FAMILY

# Serving this day

Rector The Reverend Doyt L. Conn, Jr.

Associate Rector The Reverend Lisa Ozaeta

Associate Priest The Reverend Pam Tinsley

Director of Music Zachary Hemenway

Assistant Director of Music Julian Petrallia

Director of Worship Diane Carlisle

Epiphany Choir

Verger Sabrina Reyes

Lector Eun-Gyong Lee-Rossow

Acolytes Nico Balducci, Steve Day, Barb Marshall

Eucharistic Ministers Diana Bender, John Robinson

Ushers Valerie Conn, Dawn Friend, Travis Salisbury, Alec Williamson

Parish Life Minister Amanda Eap

Altar Guild Dawn Friend