

The Second Sunday after Christmas
January 3, 2021
St. John's Church
in Gloucester Massachusetts.



Morning Prayer with Carols

Chalking of the Door of the Church

Chalking the door, especially of the home, is an old European Epiphany custom. The main door is blessed by saying prayers and marking the lintel (the horizontal support over the top of the door) with the date and the initials of the three kings in the following manner: 20 + C + M + B + 21. CMB stands for the legendary names of the three kings: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. It also stands for Christus Mansionem Benedicat, "May Christ bless this house."

Officiant Peace be to this house of the Church

People **And to all who worship here.**

Officiant The Magi came to Bethlehem to honor the Christ, and opening their treasure chests offered precious gifts: Gold to the great Sovereign, Frankincense to the Son of God, and Myrrh to Jesus the Savior.

O God, you used the light of a star to show all nations and peoples your only-begotten Son. Allow us also, who know you by faith, to recognize you in the epiphanies of our life experiences.

People **Amen.**

**Shine forth, O Jerusalem, for your light has come
and the glory of God shines upon you.**

Officiant *The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:*

People ***From this time forth for evermore.***

Officiant Bless, O Lord, this house of the Church and all who worship in it. Make it a shelter of peace and love. Make this place a haven for all and a place of warmth and caring for all who join with us here. Enlighten us with the brilliance of your Epiphany star so that we, continually going forth from this house of the Church, may clearly see our way to you, and know you in all whom we meet.

People **For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Priest marks the door of the church.

The People are sprinkled with water from the font.

1. We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain,
moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King for ever, ceasing never
over us all to reign. (Refrain)

3. Frankincense to offer have I:
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising,
worship him, God Most High. (Refrain)

4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. (Refrain)

5. Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
heaven sings alleluia:
alleluia the earth replies. (Refrain)

Officiant Lord, open our lips.
People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Officiant and People

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be for ever. Amen.
Alleluia.**

Alleluia. To us a child is born: Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

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.*



1. Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye, who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship
worship Christ, the new-born King.

2. Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light:
come and worship, come and worship
worship Christ, the new-born King.

3. Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:
come and worship, come and worship
worship Christ, the new-born King.

4. Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:
come and worship, come and worship
worship Christ, the new-born King.

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;

proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O Lord, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,

among them the blind and the lame, those with child and
those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,

I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;

for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;

say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,

over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;

their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

says the Lord.

Hymn 82

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Divinum mysterium

1 Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!

2 O that birth for ever blessèd,
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race;
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!

3 Let the heights of heaven adore him;
angel hosts, his praises sing;
powers, dominions, bow before him,
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore!

4 Christ, to thee with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,
and unwearied praises be;
honor, glory and dominion,
and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore!

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.



1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?

*This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.*

2. Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading. (Refrain)

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him. (Refrain)

Third Reading

Matthew 2:1-12
Sung by Mark Nelson

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.

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay;
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care;
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

In Memoriam, [Ring out, wild bells] Alfred Lord Tennyson - 1809-1892

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

Hymn 92

On this day Earth shall ring

Divinum Mysterium

1. On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing to the Lord,
Christ our King, who was born to save us; him the Father gave us,

Refrain: Ideo-o-o, ideo-o-o, ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!

Therefore, Glory to God in the highest.

2. His the doom, ours the mirth, when he came to earth, Bethlehem saw his birth,
ox and ass beside him, from the cold would hide him. *Refrain*

3. God's bright star o'er his head, Wise men three to him led; kneel they low by his
bed, lay their gifts before him; praise him and adore him. *Refrain*

4. On this day angels; with their song earth shall ring, praising Christ, heaven's king,
born on earth to save us; peace and love he gave us. *Refrain*

The 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 to the dead.

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.



Welcome to our wondering sight!
 Eternity shut in a span!
 Summer in winter! day in night!
 Heaven in earth! and God in man!
 Great little one, whose glorious birth
 Lifts earth to Heaven, stoops Heaven to earth !

Gloomy night embraced the place
 Where the noble infant lay :
 The babe look'd up, and show'd His face ;
 In spite of darkness it was day.
 Great little one, whose glorious birth
 Lifts earth to Heaven, stoops Heaven to earth !

We saw Thee in Thy balmy nest,
 Bright dawn of our eternal day ;
 We saw Thine eyes break from the East,
 And chase the trembling shades away :
 Great little one, whose glorious birth
 Lifts earth to Heaven, stoops Heaven to earth !

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us 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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. **Govern and uphold them, now and always.**

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. **We praise your Name for ever.**

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. **Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. **For we put our trust in you.**

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;

R. **And we shall never hope in vain.**

The Collect of the Day

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A Collect for Peace

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hymn 109

The First Nowell

1. The first Nowell 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.

Refrain:

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

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. (Refrain)

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. (Refrain)

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. (Refrain)

5. Then entered in those wise men three
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence,
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. (Refrain)

6. Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
that hath made Heaven and earth of nought,
and with His blood our life hath bought. (Refrain)

A General Thanksgiving.

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. *Amen.*

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen. Ephesians 3:20, 21*

Hymn 105

God rest you Merry!

1 God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay,
remember Christ our Savior
was born on Christmas day,
to save us all from Satan's pow'r
when we were gone astray;
Refrain:
*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

2 From God our heav'nly Father,
a blessed angel came;
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same:
how that in Bethlehem was born
the son of God by name, [Refrain]

3 "Fear not, then," said the angel,
"let nothing you affright;
this day is born a Savior
of a pure virgin bright,
to free all those who trust in him
from Satan's pow'r and might." [Refrain]

4 Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you within this place,
and with true love and charity
each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas
doth bring redeeming grace. [Refrain]

Organ

Silent Night

Guy Bovet



Officiant: Mark Nelson, Music Director

Reader: Dori Mottola

Choristers of the Cape Ann Choir School

Maliyah Harnish, Julia Palk & Jordan Palk

The iApp Choir

Sue Lupo, Carol McKenzie, Sarah Larson, Alex Garcia-Mata, Megan Errgong-Weider, Anne Bourne, Gwen Kopka, Katharine Newhouse, Maggie Marshall, Mark Nelson & David Oliver.

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Saint John's Episcopal Church—StJohnsGloucester.org

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Parish Office Hours: Monday – Thursday: 8am-noon during which the Church is open for prayer and meditation.

Alan McIntosh Gates, Bishop of Massachusetts & Gayle E. Harris, Bishop Suffragan

The Rev. Bret Bowie Hays, Rector

Mark Edward Nelson, Music Director

Elizabeth de Veer, Parish Administrator

Marge Bishop, Church Assistant

Staff e-mail: first name+@stjohnsgloucester.org

Binky, Parish Mascot

Wardens: Karen Kasper & Ellen Sibley

Clerk: Joan Gorga

Treasurer: Sue Lupo Ass't. Treasurer: Geoff Pope

VESTRY

2021 – Tom Chmura, Dori Mottola, Bill Melvin

2022 – Patricia Anders, DeeDee Bedford, Errol Smikle

2023 – Katharine Newhouse, Jane Ward, Carol Ann Zapustas