



MORNING PRAYER FOR  
***The Feast of the Epiphany (transferred)***  
JANUARY 3, 2021

**Episcopal Church of All Saints and Ascension  
Northwoods, MO**

**OPENING HYMN**

**“THE FIRST NOWELL”**

Sung by Michael Griffin

**OPENING SENTENCE**

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*Officiant* Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. *Isaiah 60:3*

*Officiant* O God, open our lips!

*People* ***And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.***

*All* ***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.***

**CONFESSION OF SIN**

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*Officiant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

***Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.***

*Officiant* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. ***Amen.***

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Officiant* Blessed be the one, true, living God.

*People* ***Blessed be God for ever. Amen.***

### THE PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 84: 1-8

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- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! \*  
***My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.***
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; \*  
***by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,  
my King and my God.***
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! \*  
***they will always be praising you.***
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \*  
***whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.***
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, \*  
***for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.***
- 6 They will climb from height to height, \*  
***and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.***
- 7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; \*  
***hearken, O God of Jacob.***
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; \*  
***and look upon the face of your Anointed.***

### THE FIRST LESSON

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People*      ***Thanks be to God.***

Arise, shine, for your light has come, \*  
**and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.**  
For behold, darkness covers the land; \*  
**deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.**  
But over you the Lord will rise, \*  
**and his glory will appear upon you.**  
Nations will stream to your light, \*  
**and kings to the brightness of your dawning.**  
Your gates will always be open; \*  
**by day or night they will never be shut.**  
They will call you, The City of the Lord, \*  
**The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.**  
Violence will no more be heard in your land, \*  
**ruin or destruction within your borders.**  
You will call your walls, Salvation, \*  
**and all your portals, Praise.**  
The sun will no more be your light by day; \*  
**by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.**  
The Lord will be your everlasting light, \*  
**and your God will be your glory.**

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.**

## THE SECOND LESSON

## 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

**CANTICLE 20**

*Gloria in excelsis*

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*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.*

**THE GOSPEL**

**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 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.

                    The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*          ***Praise to you, O Christ.***

## THE SERMON

The Reverend Renee L. Fenner

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

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***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.*

## THE PRAYERS

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*Officiant* God 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, and the power,  
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.***

## SUFFRAGES A

*Leader* Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
*People* ***And grant us your salvation.***  
*Leader* Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
*People* ***Let your people sing with joy.***  
*Leader* Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
*People* ***For only in you can we live in safety.***  
*Leader* Lord, keep this nation under your care;

<i>People</i>	<b><i>And guide us in the way of justice and truth.</i></b>
<i>Leader</i>	Let your way be known upon earth;
<i>People</i>	<b><i>Your saving health among all nations.</i></b>
<i>Leader</i>	Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
<i>People</i>	<b><i>Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.</i></b>
<i>Leader</i>	Create in us clean hearts, O God;
<i>People</i>	<b><i>And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.</i></b>

## THE COLLECTS

*Officiant*

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.**

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Gracious God who loves us so perfectly, help us to better love you and each other. We weep for the gun violence that kills children and so many others needlessly. Bless us with the wisdom and strength to put down our weapons and may violence cease in the nation and in our world. We ask all this in the Name of Jesus, your Son, and our Redeemer. **Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Form III**

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*The Leader and People pray responsively*

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
***That we all may be one.***

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

***That your Name may be glorified by all people.***

We pray for Michael our Presiding Bishop, Deon our Bishop, and Renee our Priest. We pray for our Diocese of Missouri, and for the people and ministry of the Church of St. Michael & St. George, Clayton. We pray for Andrew, their Rector; Peter and Tom, their Assistant Rectors; and Anne and Steward, their Priest Associates; and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

***That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.***

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

***That there may be justice and peace on the earth.***

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

***That our works may find favor in your sight.***

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

***That they may be delivered from their distress.***

We pray for all who have died especially Charles Creath and Becky Bradley, cousin of Rev. Renee. Give to the departed eternal rest.

***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

***May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.***

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others especially:

Cleo Anderson  
Joey Beeker  
Chazetta Bland  
Juanita Carroll  
Nancy Crouse  
Vivian Fox  
Suzanne Harris  
Ezell Roberts  
Sallie Simmons  
Sharron White

Kimberley Baker  
Rose Marie Bell  
V. Lester Bond  
Lorenzo Carter  
Aubrey Escoffery  
Carman Gayden  
Mary K. Jones  
Marion Robinson  
Mary Stafford

Terry Baker  
Jourice Bishop  
The Bradley Family  
Bessie Clemmons  
Evans Ford  
Antonio Graves  
Johnetta Martin  
Larry Sample  
Catherine Thrope

We pray for all veterans and for those who are currently serving in the military especially:

Sgt. Omar Fernandes (Brantley)-United States Air Force

Sr. Airman Matthew Heeter- United States Air Force

Captain Jovonny Carrion-United States Army

Staff Sgt. Ashley Cole-United States Air Force

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Keshar Miller-United States Army Reserve

O God of all mercy and compassion, hear our prayers in this time of illness and infection, of isolation, fear, and uncertainty. We pray for the sick, and those weighed down by pain, distress, loneliness, and anxiety; and for all who care for them. We pray for those who have responsibility for public health and social order especially all medical staff and hospital workers, medical researchers, social workers, all essential workers, and for the leaders of the nations and their governments around the globe that they may make wise decisions in this time of crisis. We ask all this and more through your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions.*

*The Officiant adds a concluding Collect.*

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

***Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.***

*And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DISMISSAL

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

*Officiant* May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.

*People* ***Amen.***



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